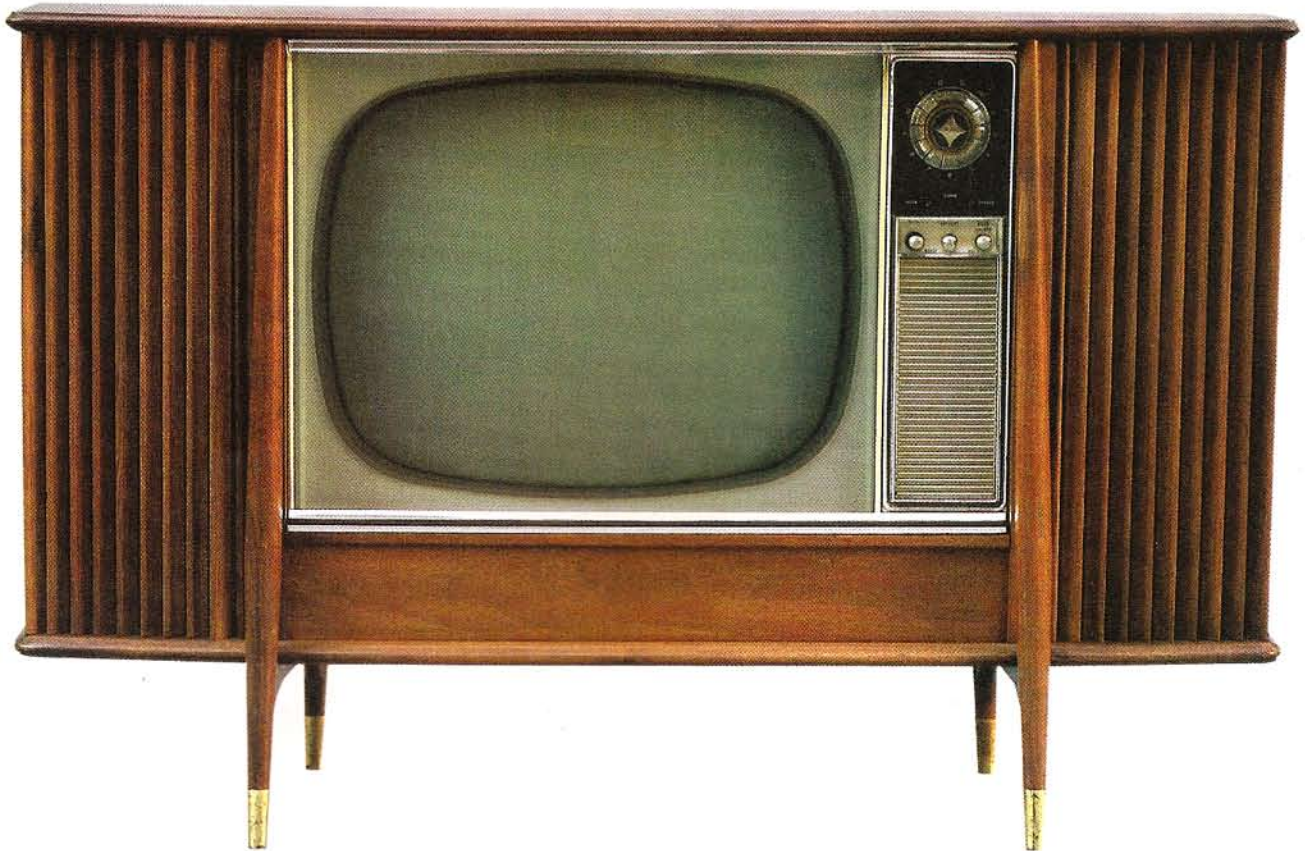


E-Waste 101

by Jennifer Carr

Help the earth (and even your bottom line) with our no-hassle guide to recycling electronics



TOXIC TUBE
Keep chemicals out of the environment by recycling your old TVs.

You unwrapped the latest gadget over the holidays with a yelp of joy—a new TV, the latest phone! But what about the model you already owned? Americans toss about 2 million tons of “e-waste” each year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. That includes nearly 130,000 computers. Those heaps of electronics won’t biodegrade anytime soon, nor do they sit idly in landfills. Rather, they’re busy leaching lead, arsenic, mercury, cadmium, and other toxic elements into the environment, putting us at risk for nervous system and reproductive diseases.

Is there an alternative to tossing your unwanted electronics, other than letting them pile up in the attic? Yes. Bring that old computer back from the curb and clear out your closets. No gadget is too outdated to recycle.

computers

If your computer is less than five years old and in working condition, consider donating it (and any peripherals) to a nonprofit organization. The National Cristina Foundation, for example, refurbishes computers for disadvantaged or disabled individuals. Fill out a form



Join the Sisters of Providence in furthering Saint Mother Theodore's legacy

Whether it's a special relationship you have formed with a Sister of Providence or just the feeling of peace as you enter the grounds, there's something memorable about Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Embrace Saint Mother Theodore's legacy and connect anew as a:

- guest at Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy
- tourist/pilgrim to Saint Mother Theodore's shrine
- Providence Volunteer Minister
- Providence Associate
- vowed member of the Congregation
- donor in support of our life and mission



Sisters of Providence
OF SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS
Breaking boundaries, creating hope®

www.SistersofProvidence.org
812-535-2800
e-mail: oca@spsmw.org

at cristina.org, and you'll get matched with a local affiliate that picks up your used equipment, or you can arrange to drop it off yourself.

If you'd rather make some money toward a new computer, try a program that offers a store credit for used equipment, such as the one at Staples. An outdated Apple laptop in decent condition, for example, could garner a voucher for about \$100.

In the case of a decrepit or aging computer, call the store where you plan to purchase an upgrade. Many manufacturers, such as Dell and Apple, recycle their own brands gratis, and some recycle any computer for free when you buy a new one.

For guaranteed e-cycling, Staples recycles any computer or printer, no matter how broken or ancient, for \$10.

cell phones

Whether or not your old phone works, consider donating it (and the charger) to the Wireless Foundation's Call to Protect program, which refurbishes phones for survivors of domestic violence. Log on to wirelessfoundation.org/calltoprotect to find drop locations, such as The Body Shop and many cell phone stores.

If your phone powers up and the outside is intact, GreenPhone will pay you for it. Visit greenphone.com and find your model to see how much you'll get—usually between \$1 and \$10. Fill out a form online, print a prepaid shipping label, and send it. You'll receive a check in about three weeks. GreenPhone also plants a tree for every phone it buys and recycles broken models free of charge.

Two Web sites provide drop locations in your area when you plug in a zip code: earth911.org and [Call2Recycle's site, rbrc.org](http://Call2Recycle.org). I pulled up 10 locations within five miles of my home in Webster, New York, including the local Target, RadioShack, Verizon Wireless, Lowe's, AT&T retail stores, and Sears. Now that puts the "e" in easy!

small devices

Ever-more-powerful MP3 players and cameras can prove hard to resist. Staples' online trade-in program takes your smaller unwanted electronics, including your camcorder, PDA, iPod, and even your defunct game station. Fill out a questionnaire at staples.greensight.com, and, if you agree to the trade-in price, you'll get a coupon for that amount to use on anything Staples sells. Print a prepaid UPS label, slap it on your packaged electronics, and drop them at any UPS store.

Alternatively, bring your old iPod to Apple for recycling, and you'll receive 10 percent off a new one. If it's an old digital camera you want to unload, Kodak purchases your outdated but still functional ones—regardless of brand—when you buy a new one from the company. Fill out a form at kodak.cztradein.com to determine the camera's worth, print the prepaid postage label, and mail it, along with the receipt from your new item, within 30 days. Kodak will send you a check for the agreed-on trade-in value.

televisions

You may not get cash for your old TV, but you can recycle it. Sony will recycle any of its own televisions if you drop them at a designated site (check sonystyle.com for locations). Best Buy will haul away and recycle your old model, even big screens, if you purchase a new TV for home delivery at the store. When you buy one of Office Depot's "Tech Recycling Boxes" for \$5, \$10, or \$15, the company recycles whatever you can fit inside (including televisions). A few charities, such as Goodwill, take any television as long as it works. Visit earth911.org to locate one near you that accepts TVs.

Many cities offer either a drop-off center or a curbside program for TV collection. Contact local offices for instructions and schedules. You'll start the new year with both a cleaner conscience and a cleaner earth. +