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The Issues With Electronics?

In today's world, electronic devices are sold by the billions and when they break, become obsolete or are otherwise unwanted or unusable, the majority ends up in landfills.

Hazardous Chemicals

The hazardous chemicals found in electronic waste is a big concern and include polyvinyl chlorides, mercury, cadmium, chromium, and lead. When e-waste byproducts leach into ground water, are burned, or get mishandled during recycling, bad things can happen to people and our planet.

Costs

The EPA estimates that only 15% to 20% of e-waste gets recycled because recycling electronics is difficult and costly. In order to get recycled, the majority of e-waste is manually separated and dismantled then shredded for additional processing. Equipment such as optical sorters and magnets help to further separate the electronic components by material type. While the plastics, precious metals, steel and aluminum can be recycled, the expense of the labor involved can become cost-prohibitive.

The issue becomes one of theoretical recyclability (the materials themselves can be reclaimed and reused) versus the economic recyclability (the actual cost involved in the recycling process). So the question becomes who should bear the cost of the responsible recycling of electronics, the manufacturer or the consumer?

Residents in Grand Traverse County are fortunate enough to have places nearby to take back some of their old electronics for recycling. Visit the [RecycleSmart Take It Back Directory](#) for more information.

To learn more about green design and responsible recycling in the electronics industry, visit the [Electronics TakeBack Coalition](#) website.



In the U.S. we throw away over 3 million tons of e-waste annually. Only 15% is recycled.

Recycle Right! *Because Good Intentions Aren't Enough.*

Even the most avid recyclers don't always know



exactly what can be recycled and many people don't always understand what happens to recyclables after they are placed in the recycling bins. This can lead to guessing about what can and cannot be recycled and other guidelines that affect the success of recycling programs.

Here are some tips on recycling at Grand Traverse County's drop-off sites:

Please Do This:	It Is Important Because:
Empty recyclables from bags directly into the recycling drop-off containers.	This will help the material settle, maximizing the space in the recycling drop-off containers.
After emptying recyclables from plastic shopping bags, put them together into one bag and place bags inside the container.	This helps to keep the bags from blowing out of the recycling containers and onto neighboring property.
Do NOT leave any material on the ground in the containers are full.	This keeps the area around the recycling containers clean and litter free.
Do NOT put foam products into the recycling containers, even if it is marked with a #6.	Foam products are NOT recyclable with the Grand Traverse County program.
Follow the guidelines linked here on what is acceptable for recycling at the Grand Traverse County recycling drop-off sites.	Putting non-acceptable and non-recyclable items into the bins makes the program less efficient and reduces the value of the recyclable material. <i>When in doubt, throw it out.</i>

Find the locations of the recycling drop-off sites in Grand Traverse County [here](#).

Clean Up Green Up
Sunday November 6, 2016



A free community-wide recycle, re-purpose and reuse event put on by Michigan Green Consortium in Traverse City, twice a year.

Clean Up Green Up encourages residents to bring difficult-to-recycle items or items that can be re-purposed or reused to one central location for collection, at no charge to the public.

[For more information and a list of acceptable items, click here.](#)