



Electronics Product
Stewardship Canada

www.epsc.ca

Recyclage des produits
électroniques Canada

www.rpec.ca

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Background Information

An Industry-led Solution

The founding companies and associations of Electronics Product Stewardship Canada want to see Canada's electronic waste properly managed. These industry leaders are aware of both the pressures on municipalities for landfill management and the environmental necessity to handle the potentially hazardous content of electronics products. EPS Canada was created to work with both industry and government to develop a solution.

There have been incidents of obsolete Canadian electronics products being found in shipments exported to Asia for improper disposal. This solution to electronics waste management is **not supported** by the industry. With the global movement towards product stewardship, one of the goals in establishing Electronics Product Stewardship Canada is to prevent these types of incidents. The industry wants to work with all levels of government to create a national program to ensure Canada manages this issue effectively and responsibly.

EPS Canada members have agreed that industry will step up to the challenge of electronics waste management and develop a solution through a consultative process with provincial governments, municipalities, recyclers and other stakeholders. The initial program will focus on:

- personal computers;
- monitors;
- television sets;
- laptop computers;
- printers.

Additional electronic products will be added as the program evolves.

Scope of the Electronic Waste Issue

According to a survey conducted by Environment Canada in 2000, Canadians disposed of an estimated 34,000 tons of Information Technology waste in 1999. Over the next five years this amount is projected to double to approximately 67,000 tons in 2005.

Under normal usage electronics equipment poses absolutely no hazard to the environment, however it does contain small amounts of materials commonly defined as hazardous waste. For example, in 1999 personal computers and monitors recycled in Canada were estimated to contain:

- 1.356 tons of lead
- 2.0 tons of cadmium
- .5 tons of mercury

Source: Environment Canada, 2000



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Sales Figures

- In 2001, approximately 3 million computers were sold in Canada.
- Over 2.2 million television sets were purchased.

Sources: Computers: IDC Canada
 Televisions: Consumer Electronics Marketers of Canada (CEMC)

Current Industry Initiatives

A number of leading electronics companies in Canada offer a variety of recycling and end-of-life management programs for their products.

International Legislation

Europe is the leader in developing shared responsibility programs between government and industry. The European Union has passed laws requiring all member states to introduce electronics waste management programs. Five European countries already have programs underway and activity in this area is growing significantly.

Canadian Legislation

Although Canada currently has no similar legislation in place, at least six Canadian provinces either have product stewardship regulation in place, or are working towards it.

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