



1.888.646.1820

www.ontarioelectronicstewardship.ca

## Media Backgrounder

### Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Program

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) program is a waste diversion plan to channel unwanted electronic equipment such as computers and televisions into reuse and recycling programs to keep them out of landfill sites. Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) developed the program with stakeholder input and began implementing Phase 1 on April 1, 2009. Phase 2 of the program will take effect April 1, 2010 bringing the list of WEEE that can be diverted from landfill to 44 items.

#### ***How did this program get started?***

Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) is the non-crown corporation created under the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002* to oversee development, implementation and operation of programs to increase diversion of materials designated under the Act including blue box recyclables, municipal hazardous or special waste, used tires as well as electrical and electronic equipment waste.

In June 2007, the Minister of the Environment directed WDO to develop a WEEE program in phases, to establish an industry funding organization, and to submit a Phase 1 WEEE plan by February 2008. As requested, OES developed the Phase 1 program plan, which was approved by the Minister in July 2008 and launched on April 1, 2009.

Websites: [www.ontarioelectronicstewardship.ca](http://www.ontarioelectronicstewardship.ca) and [www.wdo.ca](http://www.wdo.ca)

#### ***Who is Ontario Electronic Stewardship?***

OES is a not-for-profit organization formed by leading retail, information technology and consumer electronic companies to develop the WEEE Program Plan under the *Waste Diversion Act*, and is responsible for implementing the WEEE Program, in co-operation with Waste Diversion Ontario. The plan requires brand owners, first importers and assemblers to pay fees on designated electrical and electronic equipment supplied into the Ontario market. These fees pay for collection, transportation, reuse and recycling of the collected WEEE as well as research and development, consumer education and program administration.

Help keep  
unwanted  
electronics  
out of  
landfill

DO WHAT YOU

CAN 

Find out where to take unwanted electronics...  
Go to [www.dowhatyoucan.ca](http://www.dowhatyoucan.ca) and find out.

***What electrical and electronic equipment is included in the program?***

The program is being implemented in phases. The first two phases include\*:

- Computers - desktop and laptop
- Computer peripherals such as mice, keyboards, disk drives
- Monitors
- Printer devices (desktop)
- Fax machines
- Televisions
- Copiers
- Scanners
- Telephones
- Cameras
- Audio-visual equipment

\* complete list attached

***What are the objectives of the WEEE program?***

The WEEE program, comprised of phases one and two, maps out a plan to collect over 46,000 tonnes of WEEE in the 2010 fiscal year rising to 84,700 tonnes annually in year five.

The overall priority of the program is to promote reuse and recycling of unwanted electronics and to encourage consumers and industrial, commercial and industrial users to take electronics to OES approved collection sites. Consumers may choose to direct electronic equipment that is still working and usable to reuse programs. Electronics that are at the end of their useful life will be directed to processing facilities where many of the components, e.g., steel, glass, copper, aluminum, plastics and precious metals, can be recovered and recycled.

***How does the WEEE program work?***

The stewards, i.e. the brand owners, first importers into Ontario and the companies that assemble electronic equipment, want to ensure their products are handled properly from the beginning to the end of their life cycle. In April 2009, these companies began reporting and paying fees to OES based on the amount and type of electrical and electronic products they supply into the Ontario marketplace. OES is responsible for ensuring obligated industries participate in the program as well as overseeing and paying costs associated with collection, transportation, processing and recycling of the materials.

The money raised from industry is used to:

- Increase the number of collection locations and opportunities for consumers to drop off their unwanted electrical and electronic equipment for reuse or recycling
- Manage the materials collected in an environmentally-responsible manner and reduce the amount going to landfill or going to countries where health and environmental standards are lower than in Ontario
- Support research and development activities
- Implement consumer information and education programs

### **How is WEEE collected and handled?**

The WEEE program provides for a province-wide network of approved collection sites where consumers can take unwanted electronics. These include municipalities and private and non-profit organizations (e.g., retailers, existing second-hand material collection organizations, waste management and recycling companies). OES approves collection locations on an ongoing basis. Under the OES program collectors receive an incentive fee of \$165/tonne for their collection services.

WEEE collected under the program will be reused, refurbished for reuse, or recycled to recover valuable scrap materials. The exact destination for collected WEEE depends largely on where consumers choose to send their unwanted electronics. WEEE sent to a reuse or refurbishment organization may be reused for a second life with a new consumer. WEEE that is damaged or that doesn't have any reuse value will go to an end-of-life processor to ensure that any valuable material components are captured for recycling. The small amount of non-value scrap materials remaining will be disposed of properly.

### **How do consumers find collection sites for waste electrical and electronic equipment?**

Consumers can find the closest location to take unwanted WEEE, including collection sites operated by municipalities and private sector and community service organizations by logging on to [www.dowhatyoucan.ca](http://www.dowhatyoucan.ca) (and choosing "electronics").

On this site – named **Do What You Can** to recognize that we can all do more to help improve the environment through the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) – people can search by municipality, by postal code and by product.

The **Do What You Can** website also has a section that provides collection locations for household hazardous or special waste such as paint, oil filters, automotive antifreeze, non-rechargeable batteries and empty propane cylinders.

**Other WEEE partners: collectors, transporters and processors.**

There are currently 262 collection points in Ontario to handle WEEE. Collectors include private business, for profit and non-profit organizations, and municipalities. OES has certified 42 Ontario municipalities serving nearly 66% of the households in Ontario in year one. Many municipalities have collected waste electronics for years.

Forty-two Salvation Army Thrift Stores in Toronto, the GTA, Southwestern, North Central and Eastern Ontario have joined the OES program to accept WEEE. Because OES pays for transportation and recycling costs and pays an incentive of \$165/tonne for collection services, the Salvation Army will be able to direct more of its revenues to community services such as women's shelters and addiction rehabilitation programs.

Staples Canada continues to pilot a take-back program in 19 stores across southwest Ontario that began during the launch of Phase 1 earlier this year.

**More about the 3Rs.**

The WEEE program promotes reuse of electronics and consumers are encouraged to pass along electronics that still work to friends, family members and neighbours. Some charities are also happy to accept working equipment.

Just because the equipment is no longer usable does not mean it is not useful as many of the components such as steel, glass, copper, aluminum, plastics and precious metals can be recovered and recycled.

**What you should do before you drop off your computer.**

All data should be backed up and drives wiped clean before passing on computer equipment. Data wiping protects your data and can minimize opportunities for identity theft. While there are organizations that will provide this service for a fee, information is available online if you wish to wipe your hard drives. The following websites are examples:

[www.microsoft.com/australia/smallbusiness/issues/technology/protect/harddrive.mspx](http://www.microsoft.com/australia/smallbusiness/issues/technology/protect/harddrive.mspx)

[www.eraseyourharddrive.com](http://www.eraseyourharddrive.com) (a free download eraser tool recommended by PC Magazine)

[http://pcs.suite101.com/article.cfm/wiping\\_your\\_computer\\_hard\\_drive](http://pcs.suite101.com/article.cfm/wiping_your_computer_hard_drive)

<http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/software/page5724.cfm>

***For more information:***

Visit [www.ontarioelectronicstewardship.ca](http://www.ontarioelectronicstewardship.ca)

Or, contact Ontario Electronic Stewardship customer service at [customerservice@ontarioelectronicstewardship.ca](mailto:customerservice@ontarioelectronicstewardship.ca) or by phone at 1-888-646-1820.

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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## Materials Obligated under the Revised Phase 1 and 2 WEEE Program

Program Plan Material Categories	Phase 1 and 2 Materials included Ontario Regulation 393/04
<b>Display Devices</b>	<u>Schedule 2</u> 15. Monitor (CRT) 16. Monitor (LCD) 17. Monitor (Plasma) <u>Schedule 4</u> 15. Television (CRT) 16. Television (LCD) 17. Television (Plasma) 18. Television (Rear Projection)
<b>Desktop Computers</b>	<u>Schedule 2</u> 9. Computer terminal 13. Microcomputer 14. Minicomputer 18. Personal computer (Desktop)
<b>Portable Computers</b>	<u>Schedule 2</u> 20. Personal computer (Laptop) 21. Personal computer (Notebook) 22. Personal computer (Notepad)
<b>Computer Peripherals</b>	<u>Schedule 2</u> 5. CD-ROM drive 6. Computer disk drive 7. Computer keyboard 8. Computer mouse <u>Schedule 3</u> 11. Modem
<b>Printing, Copying and Multi-Function Devices</b>	<u>Schedule 2</u> 10. Copier 25. Printer 27. Computer flatbed scanner 29. Typewriter <u>Schedule 3</u> 6. Fax machine
<b>Telephones and Telephone Answering Machines</b>	<u>Schedule 3</u> 17. Telephone (Cordless) 18. Telephone (Wire line) 20. Telephone Answering Machine
<b>Cellular Devices and Pagers</b>	<u>Schedule 2</u> 23. Personal Digital Assistant (cell-enabled) <u>Schedule 3</u> 12. Pager 16. Telephone (Cellular)
<b>Image, Audio and Video Devices</b>	<u>Schedule 2</u> 19. Personal Handheld Computer 23. Personal Digital Assistant (Non-cell-enabled) <u>Schedule 4</u> 1. Amplifier 2. Audio Player (tape, disk, digital) 3. Audio Recorder (tape, disk, digital) 4. Camera (film, tape, disk, digital) 5. Equalizer 10. Preamplifier 12. Radio 13. Receiver 14. Speaker 19. Tuner 20. Turntable 21. Video player or projector (tape, disk, digital) 22. Video recorder (tape, disk, digital)