

## Care for Creation

### Don't throw your E-Waste out!!

The Christmas and New Year holidays can create a lot of waste! Some of it can be recycled! If you are exchanging an old computer, tablet, cell phone, or any other electronic device for a new one, you can properly recycle them in a safe and environmentally conscious way.

Each year, typically in early summer, St. John's has offered us the opportunity to recycle our e-waste using PAR Recycle Works.



E-Waste, short for electronic waste, can be any outdated or obsolete (small) appliance or electronic device found in offices, homes and pants pockets per PAR Recycle works. Wires are also accepted. That includes our broken Christmas lights and the charging cords for our devices.

### Why is it so important to recycle e-waste?

Many of the materials required to make electronic devices work are toxic and hazardous and need proper disposal to ensure they don't pose a risk to people's health and the environment. With the proliferation of electronic devices, e-waste has become a serious environmental and health problem facing the world.

### E-waste can affect the environment in 3 major ways:

- **Air contamination** – dismantling, shredding, or melting e-waste materials releases dust particles into the air that cause increased pollution and respiratory damage.
- **Soil Contamination** – improperly disposing of e-waste in landfills allows heavy metals and flame retardants to seep directly into the soil.
- **Water Contamination** – Once in the soil, heavy metals can leak into the groundwater, causing more damage through acidification and toxification.

E-waste also damages the environment by releasing greenhouse gases, harming wildlife and their habitats, and negatively affecting human health.

Here are a few interesting statistics from Earth 911 on electronic waste.

1. The United States generated 6.92 million tons of e-waste, about 46 pounds per person, in 2019. It recycled only 15% of the material.
2. The value of the raw materials contained in the e-waste produced in the U.S. during 2019 was \$7.49 billion. That's right. We threw away billions of dollars worth of materials that could be used again.
3. Recycling 1 million laptops saves the energy equivalent to the electricity used by 3,657 U.S. homes in a year, according to the **EPA**.
4. Recycling circuit boards can be more valuable than mining for ore! One ton of circuit boards is estimated to contain **40 to 800 times more** gold than one metric ton of ore. There is 30 to 40 times more copper in a ton of circuit boards that can be mined from one metric ton of ore.
5. It takes 500 pounds of fossil fuel, 50 pounds of chemicals, and 1.5 tons of water to manufacture one computer and monitor, **according to the American Association for the Advancement of Science**.

For more facts, see <https://earth911.com/eco-tech/20-e-waste-facts/>



Please set your e-waste from your home and office aside until you can safely recycle it.