

E-Cycle Wisconsin program updates

Wisconsin Council on Recycling
June 6, 2023

Sarah Murray, E-Cycle Wisconsin program coordinator

Landfill and incinerator bans

- Televisions
- Computers (desktop laptop, netbook, tablet)
- Computer monitors
- Computer accessories (mice, keyboards, external hard drives, etc.)
- Desktop printers & fax machines
- E-readers
- DVD players, VCRs and DVRs
- Cellphones

Which Electronics Are Banned From Wisconsin Landfills?

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Wisconsin's electronics recycling law bans most electronics from landfills and incherators. Electronics contain valuable materials and must be reused or recycled.



- O Computers: desktop, laptop, netbook, notebook
- O TVs and computer monitors
- O Cell phones, tablets and e-readers
- Fax machines and desktop printers, including printers combined with fax machines, scanners and copiers
- Ocmputer accessories, including keyboards, mice, hard drives, scanners, speakers, flash drives and other devices
- O DVD players, VCRs, DVRs and other video players



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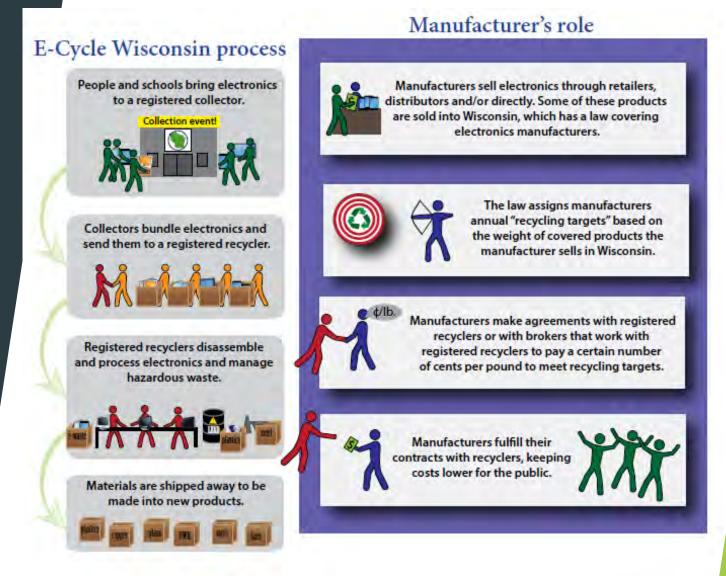
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E-Cycle Wisconsin program basics

- Manufacturers of TVs, computers, monitors and printers must register and meet recycling targets based on weight of covered electronics sold in WI
- Collectors and recyclers can choose to participate; must meet program requirements
- Only weight from registered collectors and recyclers eligible for manufacturer credit



Recent changes for electronics collection & recycling



2021 Wisconsin Act 79 signed in August 2021—first modifications since 2009



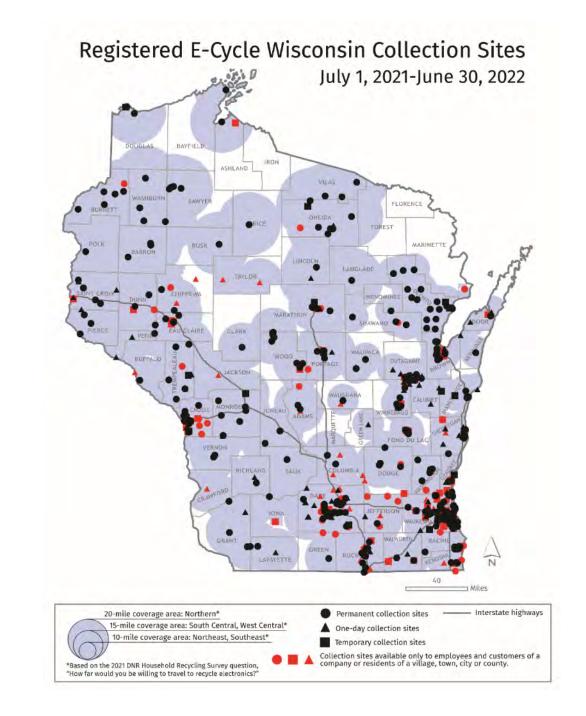
Administrative rules effective July 1, 2023



Changes in program economics because of flipped supply and demand

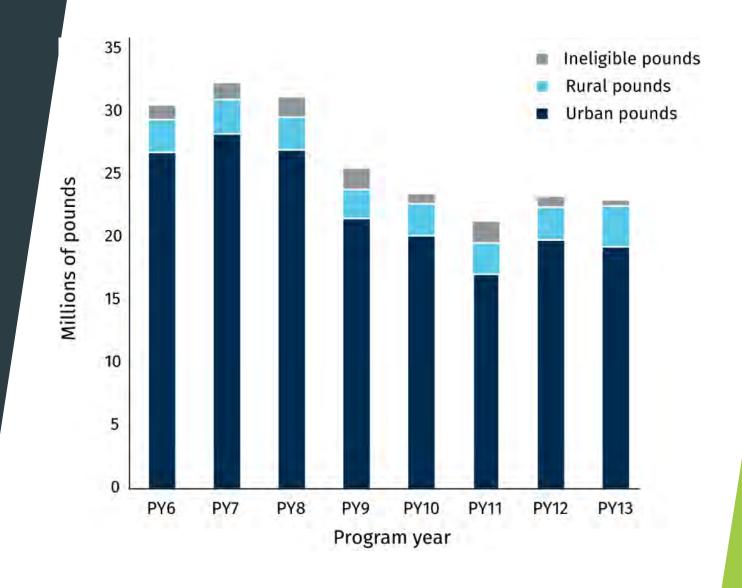
68 of 72 counties had a collection site in PY13

- Collection sites registered during program year 13, with 10-, 15- or 20-mile radius circles showing average distance willing to drive to recycle electronics
- Shaded circles were eliminated or cropped in cases where sites are known to be restricted to municipal/county residents



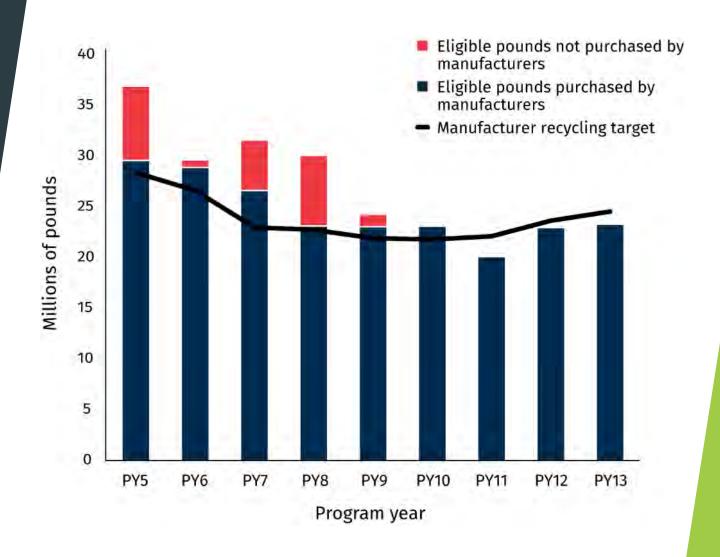
Stable collection weights, except for spring 2020 due to COVID

- PY13 collection was 23.1 million pounds, 4 pounds per capita
- 370 million pounds collected, January 2010-June 2022
- Less "leaking" weight in PY13



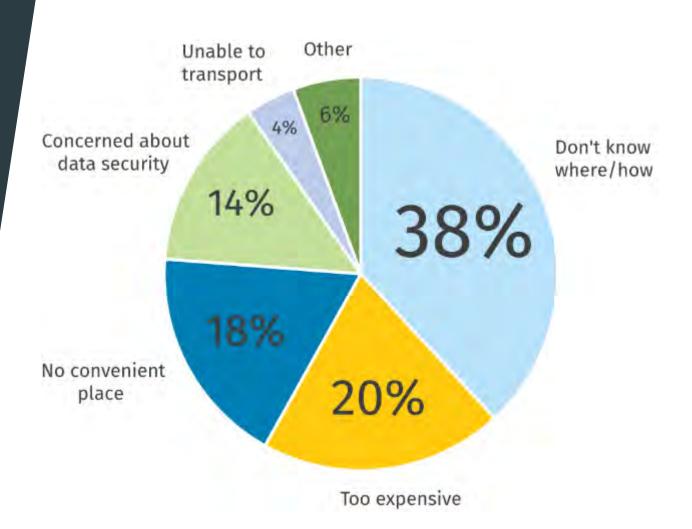
The relationship between pounds recycled and manufacturer targets has changed

- After peaking in 2013 at ~32 million pounds, manufacturer targets declined until 2019, then started rising
 - 43.6 million pounds for current18-month program year
- Program was significantly overcollecting until 2019; undercollected in 2020 and 2021, partly due to pandemic
- ► In 2021-22, pounds recycled ~1.2 million pounds short of target

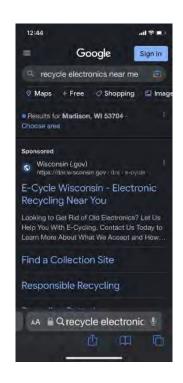


Addressing consumer barriers to e-cycling

- Outreach remains important
- Need to reduce end-of-life fees
- New grant program helping with convenience and cost
- Collection and recycling locations need to address and promote data security









DNR social media, digital advertising and other outreach efforts

- Spanish language resources
- Paid search
- News releases and media briefings

Manufacturers and grants now providing more free events and drop-off sites

- Counties with spring 2023 free events (* = DNR grant)
 - Adams
 - Green
 - ▶ Iron*
 - Jefferson
 - Kenosha
 - Kewaunee*
 - Milwaukee
 - ► Richland*
 - ► Taylor*

- Free permanent drop-off sites
 - Brookfield
 - Janesville
 - Madison (residents only)
 - New Berlin
 - Sheboygan



- Change or replace manufacturer target formula
- Change or replace method of encouraging rural collection
- Allow recyclers to carry over credits
- Update and clarify device definitions to address new products and concerns



Policy recommendations & future challenges

Rulemaking goals

Protect human health and the environment by providing more consistent oversight of electronics recycling operations in Wisconsin.

Ensure the electronics recycling program created by s. 287.17, Wis. Stats., continues to function well, including maintaining streamlined registration and reporting practices and preserving a level playing field among program participants.

What will not change under the new rule

E-Cycle WI does not cover:

- ► Non-eligible devices
- Devices from businesses, higher education, government and institutions
- Collectors and recyclers not working on behalf of manufacturers

Other regulations

- Hazardous waste requirements for management of cathode ray tubes, circuit boards and other hazardous components
- Universal waste requirements for batteries, lamps and mercury equipment removed from electronics

Significant changes for Wisconsin facilities and transporters

- Electronic devices no longer qualify for "salvageable material" exemptions throughout solid waste regulations
- Collection sites need to meet specific requirements for proper management
- Most Wisconsin electronics processing facilities will need solid waste approval and license from the DNR by July 1, 2024





Defining electronics processing

Electronics processing means processing electronic devices for use in manufacturing processes or for recovery of usable materials and includes processing electronic devices or components by **disassembling, baling, crushing, grinding, and shredding**.

Electronics processing does **not** include any of the following:

- Destruction by incineration or other processes.
- Land disposal of recyclable materials.
- Reuse, repair, or any other process through which electronic devices are returned for use in their original form.
- Removal of an electronic device from another device, such as from a major appliance or motor vehicle.
- Hand disassembly of electronic devices in an educational setting for educational purposes.
- Hand disassembly of a waste electronic device generated by a household on the property where it is generated.

Significant changes for E-Cycle WI participants

- More devices eligible to count toward manufacturer recycling targets.
- Manufacturers of video game system consoles or other components that meet computer definition must register these devices.
- Collectors must independently track loads they send to other collectors or recyclers
- Recyclers must use bills of lading for transporting eligible electronics and components to and from their facilities
- \$ Out-of-state recyclers may need to update owner financial responsibility

New covered and eligible devices

Video game components that meet "consumer computer" definition now covered and eligible devices



► Three new categories of devices now eligible electronics because of batteries

- ► Telephones with video display
- ▶ Phone accessories with batteries













Next steps

- Rule submitted for publication; anticipated June 26
- DNR developing guidance and forms
- Workshops and one-on-one technical assistance
- ► Effective July 1, 2023
- Existing electronics processing facilities have until July 1, 2024, to receive approval and license

Grant program overview

Expand electronics recycling and recovery programs in underserved areas of the state

Can be for permanent collection site(s) or one-day event(s)

Local governments, businesses, non-profits, tribal governments all eligible

Grant recipient must provide matching funds equal to at least 20% of project cost

Uses existing funds (manufacturer shortfall and registration fees)

All eligible electronics must go to registered recycler

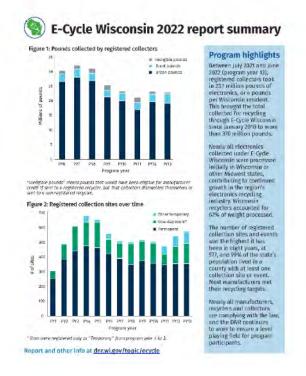
E-Cycle WI Electronics Collection Grant

- Awarded \$87,772 to 15 projects in 13 counties, June 2022
- Awarded \$50,648 to 13 collection events in 10 counties, March 2023
- 3 permanent collection sites (Riverview Transfer in Kewaunee County and 2 sites in Pepin County)

- Events in:
 - Crawford County
 - ► Florence County
 - Forest County
 - Green Lake County
 - Iron County
 - Jackson County
 - ▶ Jefferson County
 - Kewaunee County
 - Marinette County
 - Marquette County
 - Paddock Lake (Kenosha Co.)

- Ridgeway (Iowa County)
- Polk County
- Richland County
- Sheboygan County
- Taylor County
- Washington County





Full report available online

DNR website: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ecycle

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