

## Electronics Recycling

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On July 1, 2011, the state of North Carolina banned electronics from disposal. General Assembly Session Law 2010-67 banned such electronics as computer equipment and televisions from disposal. In order to comply with the new bans and to aid electronics recycling programs, the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources distributed funds in February to several counties and municipalities based on population through the North Carolina Electronics Management Fund. The Electronics Management Fund is maintained by taxes obtained from television and electronics manufacturers each year. Municipalities and counties who qualified for the funding were required to have a solid waste management plan which included information on their electronics recycling program. From the Electronics Management Fund, Henderson County received \$7,578.15 towards its existing electronics recycling program.

While many are aware that Henderson County has an electronics recycling program at the Stoney Mountain Transfer Station, the State Electronics Ban has caused an influx of phone calls at the Solid Waste Division as many residents were confused by recent media reports that may have failed to mention that Henderson County has had an Electronics recycling program for nearly two years. It has also been misconstrued that the electronics ban prevents citizens from emptying their homes of useless electronics. Rather through this ban, the State is encouraging North Carolina residents to recycle their electronics so that recycling jobs can be created, valuable resources from components, such as gold and silver, can be reclaimed, and toxicity is reduced in the water and soil from lead, cadmium, and mercury contained in many common electronics.

In our efforts to encourage recycling, the Henderson County Solid Waste Division has a permanent electronics collection open every Wednesday from 9am to 12pm. As of July 1, 2011, all electronics may be brought in free of charge, including all televisions. Acceptable electronics falls within the category of office and entertainment equipment. Microwaves are also accepted, but no other kitchen electronics may be recycled at the Henderson County Facility. If you are a resident in another county, please call your local recycling center or electronics dealers to see where you can recycle your equipment. It is easier and cheaper than you think.

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