Electronics Recycling

This handout references the video “Electronics Recycling” that can be found at YouTube.com/TakeCareOfTexas. While watching the video, complete the Fill-in-the-Blank section of the handout. Once the video is finished, work in groups of 2-3 to complete the Discussion section.

Fill in the blank
The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) monitors the environment for _________________, _________________, and _________________ pollution.

The Texas Recycles _________________ and _________________ Programs provide great resources for Texans looking to properly dispose of their electronics!

Electronics, which basically include any item with an _________________ _________________, or that is powered by batteries, can't go in your standard recycling bin, since standard recycling facilities are not set up to process _________________ technology like phones and computers.

E-Waste in Texas
In 2018, Texas created _________________ tons of electronic waste. That's the weight of... like... almost a quarter of a million elephants!

This is a problem, since underneath the plastic and _________________ casings of our devices are a variety of toxic elements, such as lead and mercury. When electronics that reach the end of their life are not properly disposed of, the _________________ elements found in electronics have the potential to harm the environment in all kinds of ways.

How You Can Help
____________________________ your waste. Acquiring the newest model of everything sure can be
tempting, but consider hanging on to your device for a little longer before tossin’ the old one out just to buy a new one. Less consumption means less to throw away. It’s that simple.

Whenever possible. Believe it or not, hand-me-downs work great for electronics too. If you know someone who’ll let you use their unused or unwanted devices, go for it! And if you’re worried about loading speed and efficiency, look into ways that you can adapt your device. Purchasing refurbished items is a great idea too.

Conduct an internet search for your local electronics recyclers. You can drop off your electronics at the facility and they’ll ensure that your electronics are recycled responsibly.

**Benefits of Going Green with Electronics**

When you reduce, reuse, and recycle, tons of great things happen!

- The __________________________ of excess waste out of our landfills means we can use the same landfills for longer.
- Less energy and ________________________ are used. For example, removing precious metals from old devices and re-using them in new ones, rather than _________________________ new natural resources from the earth.
- There are __________________________ benefits too! According to the 2017 Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling report, the Texas electronics recycling industry directly contributes over __________________________ to the Texas economy.

**More Helpful Tips**

- Utilize the TCEQ __________________________ for recycling information specific to your device’s manufacturer at [TexasRecyclesTVs.org](http://TexasRecyclesTVs.org) or [TexasRecyclesComputers.org](http://TexasRecyclesComputers.org).
- Contact the retailer or the __________________________ that you purchased your device from. Some retailers have takeback programs where they’ll collect your electronics for you, in-store.
- And… if your electronic device is in good working condition, please consider ________________________ to a local charity, school, or non-profit organization. An online search using your zip code should yield contact information.

**Conclusion**

What do you do with that old phone, gaming console, or computer that’s fried or way out of date?

- The three R’s: __________________________, __________________________, and __________________________.
- Go online and check out the Texas Recycles TVs and Computers Programs which, by the way, have reported more than __________________________ pounds of electronics collected from consumers in 2020!
- Teach your friends and family about how they can properly dispose of their old electronics.

Thank you for doing your part to Take Care of Texas!
Discussion Questions

1. Why can’t you recycle your old electronics with your regular, single-stream recycling system?

2. What are some of the dangers of improperly disposing of e-waste?

3. What are some small-scale ways that individuals can promote proper disposal of e-waste?

4. What are some larger-scale ways for organizations/communities to promote proper disposal of e-waste?