



TAKE CARE OF TEXAS: EDUCATOR MATERIALS

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP HANDOUT

Electronics Recycling

This handout references the video “Electronics Recycling” that can be found at [YouTube.com/TakeCareOfTexas](https://www.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.

Name: _____

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 or 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?



VFT- 5a (5/24)

How is our customer service? www.tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey

The TCEQ is an equal opportunity employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or veteran status.

Answer Key

Fill in the blank

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) monitors the environment for air, water, and waste pollution.

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

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

E-Waste in Texas

In 2018, Texas created 884,000 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 aluminum 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 toxic elements found in electronics have the potential to harm the environment in all kinds of ways.

How You Can Help

Reduce 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.

Reuse 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.

Recycle. 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 diversion of excess waste out of our landfills means we can use the same landfills for longer.
- Less energy and resources are used. For example, removing precious metals from old devices and re-using them in new ones, rather than mining new natural resources from the earth.
- There are economic benefits too! According to the 2017 Study on the Economic Impacts of Recycling report, the Texas electronics recycling industry directly contributes over \$125 million to the Texas economy.

More Helpful Tips

- Utilize the TCEQ website for recycling information specific to your device's manufacturer at TexasRecyclesTVs.org or TexasRecyclesComputers.org.
- Contact the retailer or the store 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 donating to a local charity, school, or non-profit organization. An online search using your zip code should yield contact information.



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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: **Reduce**, **Reuse**, and **Recycle**.
- Go online and check out the Texas Recycles TVs and Computers Programs which, by the way, have reported more than **18 million** 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!



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