

National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme - Guide for Local Government

This fact sheet provides local government with essential information about the new Television and Computer Recycling Scheme.

ABOUT THE SCHEME

The National Computer and Television Recycling Scheme will provide Australian householders and small business with access to free collection and recycling services for televisions and computers. The Scheme will recycle televisions, computers, printers and computer products (such as keyboards, mice, and hard drives), regardless of their brand or age. The first collections under the Scheme will start in mid-2012, expanding across metropolitan, regional and remote areas of Australia by the end of 2013. Information about local activities will be provided to local governments as the Scheme rolls out.

The Scheme will be funded and run by the television and computer industry, and regulated by the Australian Government under the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* and the *Product Stewardship (Televisions and Computers) Regulations 2011*. State and territory governments retain responsibility for regulating waste.

WHAT WILL IT ACHIEVE?

The Scheme aims to lift television and computer recycling from the current low rate of around 17 per cent to 80 per cent by 2021-22, diverting this waste from landfill, reducing dumping and recovering resources. As it rolls out, the Scheme will provide people with greater choice for recycling when

disposing of televisions and computers, while helping Australia's recycling industry to grow. Over time it is likely the Scheme will replace existing collection services, including those provided by state and local governments – which will reduce costs for government and, through them, the community.

HOW WILL THE SCHEME WORK?

Regulations came into effect 8 November 2011 that require television and computer importers and manufacturers to become members of an approved arrangement (known as Approved Co Regulatory Arrangements in the Act), that will collect and recycle televisions, computers, printers and computer products on their behalf. An approved arrangement will need to meet recycling targets that increase each year and a range of other requirements. It is expected that approved arrangements will set in place a range of agreements and contracts to deliver both collection and recycling services.

- The industry-run recycling arrangements (i.e. approved arrangements) must be approved by the Australian Government to ensure they are able to meet the requirements of the regulations such as the recycling targets and give a commitment to meet appropriate standards for safety and good environmental practice.

- Local government is will be provided with information that can be passed on directly to householders as well as tailored for local needs. This will include a printed brochure explaining the Scheme and answering likely questions.

As the Scheme progresses and targets increase, approved arrangements will provide additional collection and recycling options for the community and business. They will be required to provide householders and local governments with advice about the details and timing of the delivery of these services. A website will also be developed to inform people about how they can access services.

The first approved arrangements are likely to be approved by early 2012. In the meantime, local government may wish to contact or may be contacted by organisations that intend to apply for approval of a recycling arrangement to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Please contact the Department at ewaste@environment.gov.au for contact details of proposed arrangement administrators.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information please contact ewaste@environment.gov.au or visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/ewaste>

INDICATIVE SCHEME COMMENCEMENT TIMELINE

8 November 2011	Product Stewardship (Computer and Television) Regulations commenced
November 2011	Liabe parties advised of their responsibilities
From November 2011	Industry recycling arrangements may apply for approval and are likely to commence discussions with service delivers and key stakeholders
By 1 April 2012	Liabe parties must be members of approved arrangements
April – July 2012	Progressive roll out of services nationally expected to start
June 2013	First target period of 30% of end of life Televisions and computers must be recycled
By December 2013	Reasonable access to collection services provided across Australia

Factsheet last updated on 8 November 2011

