

National Waste Policy



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities

NATIONAL TELEVISION AND COMPUTER RECYCLING SCHEME



in this issue:

- 1 | Product Stewardship (Televisions and Computers) Regulations 2011
- 2 | Television and Computer Recycling Scheme – what it means for local government and the community
- 3 | Registering an interest in establishing a co-regulatory arrangement
- 4 | Outcomes of the consultation on the draft TV and Computer Regulations
- 4 | Environmental Performance and Occupational Health and Safety
- 5 | Australian and New Zealand e-waste Standard
- 5 | Contact details for proposed co-regulatory arrangements

useful links

National Waste Policy

environment.gov.au/wastepolicy

National Television and Computer
Recycling Scheme

environment.gov.au/ewaste

upcoming events

10 – 11 November 2011 Australasian
Waste & Recycling Expo, Darling
Harbour NSW awre.com.au

National Recycling Week

7 – 13 November 2011

recyclingweek.planetark.org

Information sessions for liable
parties of the Television and
Computer Recycling Scheme

Early December 2011

ewaste@environment.gov.au

contacts

For liable party enquiries:

TV and Computer Regulation Team

1800 332 783

Product Stewardship (Television and Computer) Regulations 2011

A new national scheme for recycling televisions and computers is a step closer with the commencement of the *Product Stewardship (Televisions and Computers) Regulations 2011*, made under the *Product Stewardship Act 2011*, on 8 November 2011.

The Act commenced on 8 August 2011 and is a key element of the National Waste Policy.

The making of the Regulations follows over two years of extensive consultation with industry, waste associations, recyclers, NGOs, consumer groups and local and state governments on a scheme to keep televisions, computers, printers and computer products (such as keyboards, mice and hard drives) out of landfill, to turn this waste into resources and to create job opportunities.

The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme will be funded and implemented by importers and manufacturers of television and computer products and regulated by the Australian Government.

Collection services under the Scheme will be progressively rolled out by the television and computer industry from 2012, expanding across metropolitan, regional and remote areas of Australia by the end of 2013. The Scheme will in time provide Australian householders and small businesses with access to free recycling services for televisions and computers.

More information about the Regulations and the Scheme is available at: environment.gov.au/ewaste

Product Stewardship (Television and Computer) Regulations 2011 - continued

Material recovery target

A material recovery target was included in the exposure draft of the Regulations, with a note indicating that a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) is required for its inclusion. The RIS is currently being finalised for the proposed inclusion of a material recovery target and the Regulations are expected to be amended to include the target as soon as the RIS process has been completed.

A material recovery target sets requirements for the minimum weight of materials that need to be recovered through the recycling process. Consistent with the aims of the Scheme to reduce waste and increase resource recovery, the material recovery target is intended to complement the recycling targets in the Regulations by limiting the material sent to landfill.

The final target will take into account the cost/benefit analysis undertaken in the RIS and feedback received from stakeholders during the consultation process on the exposure draft of the Regulations which indicated that a 75 per cent target was too low.

Television and Computer Recycling Scheme – what it means for local government and the community

Local government

As a frequent first point of contact for householders wanting to recycle televisions and computers, local government is likely to be contacted about access to recycling opportunities under the new Scheme. Given this, it is important local government has information on the Scheme and how it can be involved.

The Scheme will not regulate local government; however it may provide opportunities for local governments to negotiate partnerships and commercial arrangements with approved television and computer industry recycling arrangements (known as co-regulatory arrangements in the Act).

For more information on the Scheme and what it means for local government, please visit: www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/publications/index.html

Community and Small Business

While the Regulations that underpin the Scheme commenced on 8 November 2011, it will take time for services to be approved and established. The first collection services provided by the television and computer industry under the Scheme are anticipated to be in operation in 2012, expanding across metropolitan, regional and remote Australia by the end of 2013.

The Scheme will accept televisions, computers, printers and computer products for recycling, regardless of brand and how old they are. Householders and small businesses will be able to drop-off these items for free at designated access points, which may include permanent collection sites, take-back events or through a mail-back option.

For more information on the Scheme and what it means to the community and small business please visit: www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/publications/index.html

Registering interest in joining or establishing a co-regulatory arrangement

Under the Regulations, importers and local manufactures of televisions, computers, printers and computer products are identified as 'liable parties'. Liability in a financial year is determined by the number of products imported or manufactured in the previous financial year.

Under section 18 of the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* liable parties must become a member of an approved co-regulatory arrangement (approved arrangement).

An approved arrangement is a set of activities or measures designed to achieve the annual recycling targets and other outcomes set out in the Regulations. For an arrangement to be approved under the Regulations, it must have at least one member who is a liable party.

For more information on liable parties please view the factsheet at:

environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/publications/index.html

Liable parties will shortly receive a letter from the department about their responsibilities. If you have a liable party enquiry, please contact 1800 332 783 to speak with the TV and Computer Regulation Team.

The entity responsible for administering the approved arrangement on behalf of liable parties is known as an arrangement administrator. The arrangement administrator must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the outcomes specified in the Regulations are met, including achieving their liable party members' share of the Scheme recycling target and meeting reasonable access requirements across Australia by December 2013; reasonable access is defined by a set of metrics in the regulations.

The arrangement administrator must apply to the Minister or his delegate for approval of a co-regulatory arrangement.

For more information on approved arrangements, a factsheet is located at:

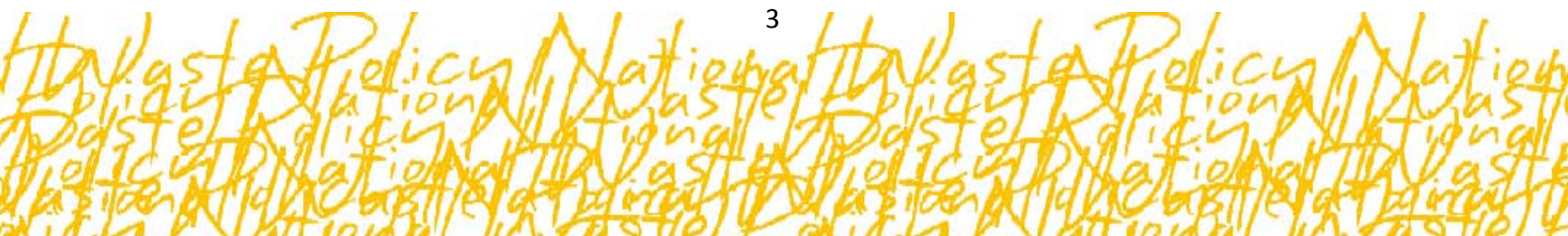
environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/publications/index.html

Anyone with an interest in seeking approval to establish an approved arrangement should contact the Product Stewardship E-Waste Team at ewaste@environment.gov.au.

An application form and guidelines for applying to become an approved co-regulatory arrangement can be viewed and downloaded from here: environment.gov.au/ewaste

Information Sessions for Liable Parties

A series of information sessions for liable parties and proposed arrangement administrators will be scheduled in early December 2011 for Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. The information sessions will consist of a short presentation, followed by a question and answer session and will provide the opportunity for liable parties to gain a full understanding of the proposed administration of the program, an understanding of the Scheme and their involvement in it.



Information Sessions for Liable Parties – continued

A limited opportunity to have a dedicated bilateral meeting with the TV and Computer Regulation Team will be made available on a booking basis – these will be on a half-hour block basis. RSVPs and registration will be required to attend all information sessions.

More information including the proposed dates and venue for the information sessions will be advertised on the department's website, along with all state/ territory newspapers in the coming weeks.

If you are interested in registering to attend an information session, please send your expression of interest to ewaste@environment.gov.au

Outcome of the consultation process on the Product Stewardship (Televisions and Computers) Regulations 2011

On 12 September 2011 the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities released an exposure draft of the *Product Stewardship (Television and Computer) Regulations 2011*.

Between 13 and 21 September 2011 the department hosted public and bilateral meetings in all capital cities. The meetings provided stakeholders with an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the draft Regulations, how the Scheme might affect them and helped to inform their submissions on the exposure draft.

Key stakeholder groups were represented at public meetings, with local government, recyclers and potential liable parties making up the majority of attendees. A total of 223 people attended public meetings.

Written submissions on matters relating to the Regulations and the Scheme were invited by 10 October 2011. A total of 29 submissions were received. The department will place non-confidential submissions on their website over the coming weeks.

Feedback from the submissions informed the final Regulations.

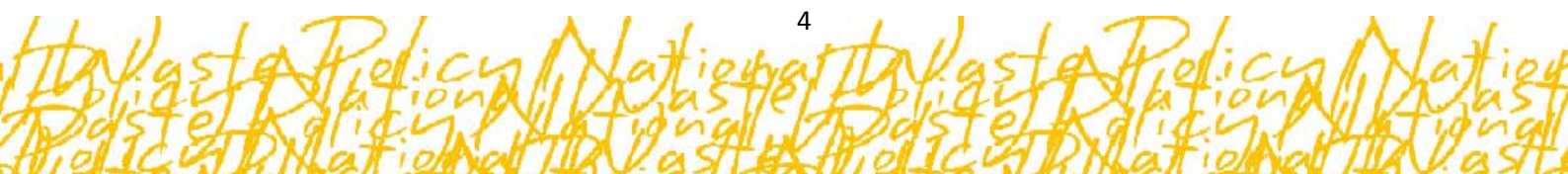
A copy of the public consultation presentation is available on the department's website at: environment.gov.au/ewaste. A copy of the exposure draft and commentary documentation is also available.

Environmental Performance and Occupational Health and Safety

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has submitted a proposal to Safe Work Australia seeking development of a Work Health and Safety Code of Practice (Code) for the e-waste recycling sector. The purpose of the Code would be to:

- ensure the Australia-wide adoption of work health and safety compliance requirements by the e-waste recycling industry; and
- set out the occupational health and safety compliance requirements, and provide guidance on practical risk control and hazard identification.

Further details will be provided through this e-bulletin as they become available.



ANZ Standard for used electrical and electronic equipment

Government and the television and computer industry are actively supporting the development of an Australian and New Zealand standard for the collection, storage, transport and treatment of used electrical and electronic equipment. Standards Australia established a technical working committee in late 2010 which has had a number of meetings in 2011. It is expected the Standard will provide a nationally consistent framework for manufacturers, importers, government and recyclers to establish appropriate systems and processes for the collection and management of e-waste, with the objective of increasing the amount of material recovered, minimising negative safety and environmental impacts and appropriately managing the hazardous materials present in e-waste. The Standard will be developed and adopted by agreement and does not have legislative effect, with the exception of where it is referred to in legislation.

It is anticipated the Australian and New Zealand Standard, once finalised, will be used by the television and computer industry as a benchmark when assessing the adequacy of recycling and other service providers' environmental, health and safety policies and practices.

Standards Australia will release the draft Standard for a nine week public consultation process in early 2012. It is expected that the Standard will be finalised in late 2012.

Contact details for proposed co-regulator arrangements

Two organisations have publicly announced they are interested in establishing a co-regulatory arrangement. Anyone wishing to contact potential co-regulatory arrangements for information about how on-ground operations may work should contact:

DHL Supply Chain

Mark Phillips
Account Manager -
Special Projects
Mark.Phillips2@dhl.com
Phone: 02 8759 7148
Mobile: 0419 474 348

TV and Computer Industry PSO (formerly AIIA/ PSA)

Carmel Dollisson
General Manager -
PSO Project Office
C.Dollisson@aiaa.com.au
Phone: 03 9412 5115
Mobile: 0418 360 057

The department will make available contact details of other organisations that have registered interest in establishing a co-regulatory arrangement as they become available.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at:

ewaste@environment.gov.au