

## **Landfill and Incineration Bans of Electronics**

Computers, computer accessories, TVs, cell phones and other electronics contain harmful materials including lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium, other heavy metals and chemical flame retardants. When landfilled, incinerated or illegally dumped, these chemicals can leach into the environment, where they may affect human and environmental health. Improperly handled discarded electronics may also pose health risks to workers from companies that manage the electronics.

It is also important to recycle electronics because of the valuable reusable materials they contain, including plastics, metals, circuit boards and others. Recycling or reusing these materials reduces environmental impacts and economic costs by reducing the need for virgin materials in new electronics.

The new electronics recycling law, 2009 Wisconsin Act 50 bans the landfilling and incineration of electronic devices, and cell phones or other phones with a video display as of September 1, 2010. These bans apply no matter where the devices are from or who used them--including households, schools, businesses, governments and institutions. Specifically, the bans include:

- consumer computers;
- consumer printers;
- consumer video display devices;
- computer peripherals;
- fax machines;
- DVD players, VCRs and other video players (i.e., DVRs); and
- phones with video displays (i.e., cell phones).

Beginning September 1, 2010 the items listed above will no longer be collected curbside with the garbage – recycling program. There are many locations that accept electronic devices at little or no charge.