Sustainable Communities SA Inc.
ELECTRONIC WASTE – issues paper
updated July 2017

The companies in South Australia that deal with e-waste responsibly are:

E-Cycle Recovery 12-14 Baulderstone Road, Gepps Cross

Electronic Recycling Australia 149 Holbrooks Road, Underdale with Unplug and Drop bins located throughout SA.

What is e-waste?

E-Waste includes all electronic and electrical products at or nearing the end of their useful life. Computers, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, digital cameras, mobile phones, stereos, photocopiers, printers and faxes are all common examples of electronic products that may end up as e-waste.

What is the problem?

Planned obsolescence ensures that electronic equipment is only built to be functional or in-fashion for a short period of time. The volume of e-waste, therefore, continues to increase. Australians are some of the world's highest users of new technology, making e-waste the fastest growing segment of our waste stream and a growing challenge for business, residents and communities.

What impact does e-waste have on the environment?

With good reason, used electronic products are defined as hazardous waste under the Hazardous Waste (regulation of exports and imports) Act 1989.

E-waste contains heavy metals such as lead, phosphorus, mercury, selenium and cadmium. If disposed of improperly, or into landfill, these toxic materials may be released into the environment, posing health and environmental problems. In addition to hazardous materials, e-waste also contains many non-renewable materials such as aluminium, copper, plastic and glass.

Every time e-waste is disposed of improperly and into landfill, valuable resources and materials that could be recovered and reused are lost forever, maintaining our need to mine for new minerals.

What should I do with my e-waste?

We can all save precious resources and minimize waste by:
- Giving to someone who could use it
- Upgrading and repairing rather than replacing

- Recycling responsibly – by taking your items to an e-waste depotIt is now illegal to put e-waste into landfill - DO NOT PLACE IN RECYCLING OR RUBBISH BINS, OR LEAVE ON THE STREET.

Some Councils collect e-waste in their hard rubbish collections. We encourage you to contact your Council to find out about their collections.

These are some of the free drop-off points for e-waste:
- There are 23 **Unplug and Drop Bins** across metropolitan Adelaide
- Beverley Recycling and Waste Centre, 2-6 Toogood Avenue, Beverley (phone 8408 1350). Open Monday to Saturday 8am to 4pm, Sunday 8am to 1pm, closed on public holidays.
- Adelaide Waste and Recycling Centre, 181 Morphett Road, North Plympton (phone 8295 5077)

COMPUTERS - WORKING

Some equipment which still works can be used by charity organisations. Here are some options:

ITShare SA Inc. - www.itshare.org.au

accepts donations of computers and peripherals for refurbishment by volunteers. For a minimal fee these computers are made available to low income groups, individuals and communities. ITShare is situated in Bridgewater Hall (downstairs), Bridgewater. Contact number: 8339 3116 (Mon and Tues, 9am to 4pm).

Unley Computer Share - colleeneddie@gmail.com

accepts desk top and laptop computers which are in working order.
These are then given, without cost, to those who are unable to afford a computer. Contact email: colleeneddie@gmail.com

Additional information

E-Cycle Recovery - www.ecyclerecovery.com.au

Electronic Recycling Australia - www.electronicrecyclingaustralia.com.au/

Zero Waste - www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au

Keep SA Beautiful - www.kesab.asn.au

RecyclingNearYou www.recyclingnearyou.com.au