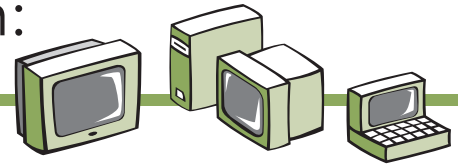


# Electronics Recycling in Washington: A Product Stewardship Solution

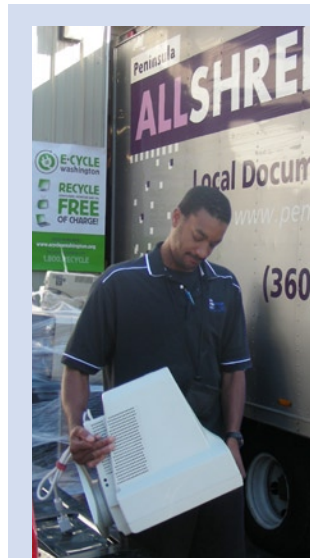


## About E-Cycle Washington

In 2006, Washington State passed landmark legislation requiring that manufacturers of computers, monitors and TVs provide recycling services free of charge to Washington residents, schools, small businesses, small governments, and charities.

This law ensures that these electronic products, which contain toxic materials like lead, cadmium, and mercury, are properly handled and valuable resources are recycled and reused.

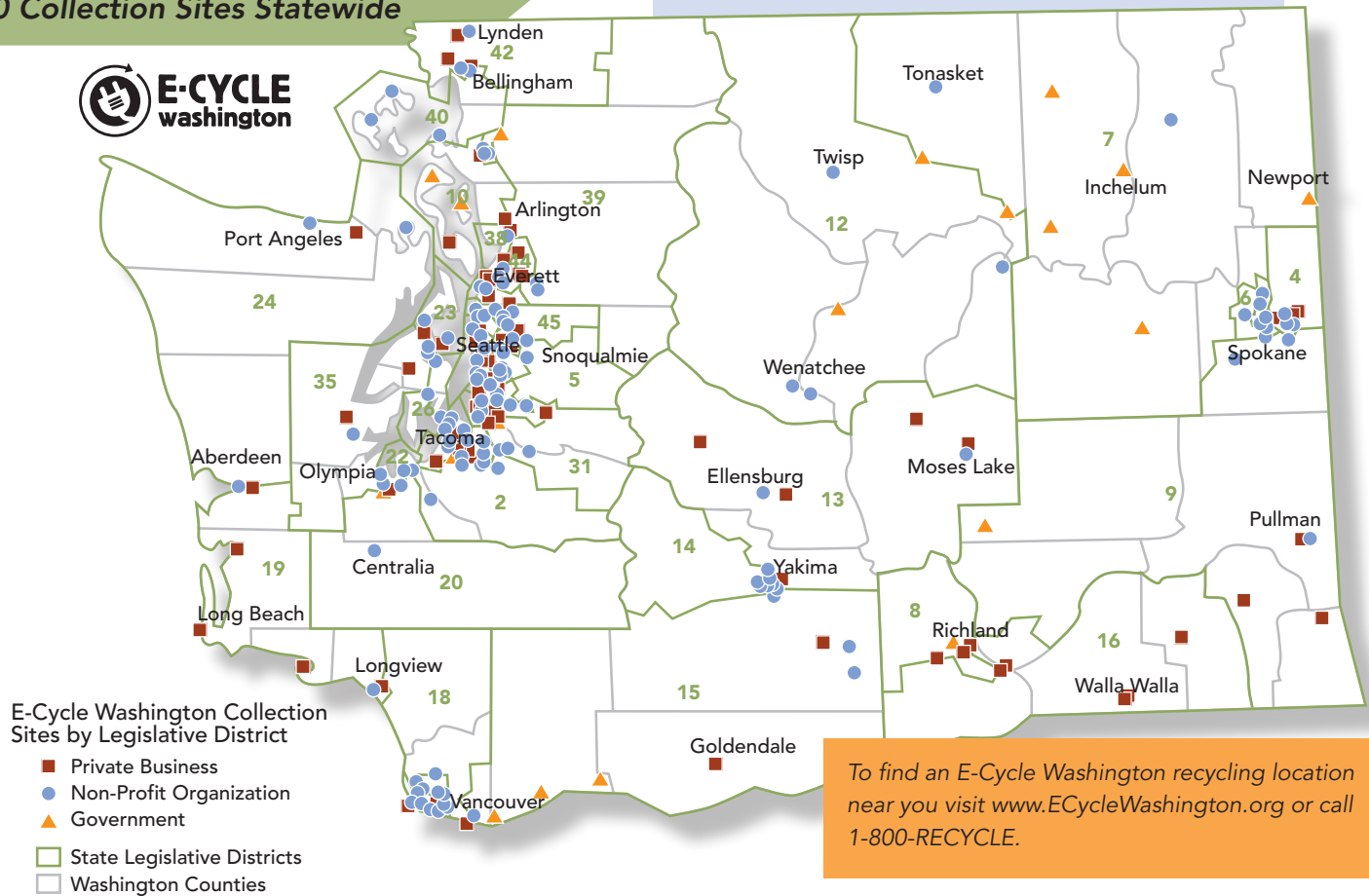
The new E-Cycle Washington program, launched in January 2009, collects approximately 2,200 computers, monitors and TVs each day, keeping these products from being dumped, landfilled, or sent to disreputable recyclers.



*"E-Cycle Washington has helped us expand our business, build awareness of our commitment to recycling, and provide jobs for adults with severe disabilities. It has driven new customers to our facility and has been a profitable revenue stream."*

*—Keith Justice,  
Peninsula Services'  
All Shred Operations  
Manager*

### E-Cycle Washington is Convenient: 240 Collection Sites Statewide



To find an E-Cycle Washington recycling location near you visit [www.ECycleWashington.org](http://www.ECycleWashington.org) or call 1-800-RECYCLE.



## E-Cycle Washington is:

**Convenient:** There are 240 collection sites across the state, most are operated by small businesses and charities. 92% of Washington residents now have a convenient collection site within 10 miles of their home.

**Free of Charge:** Washington residents, schools, small businesses, small governments, and charities can recycle their computers, monitors and TVs at no cost.

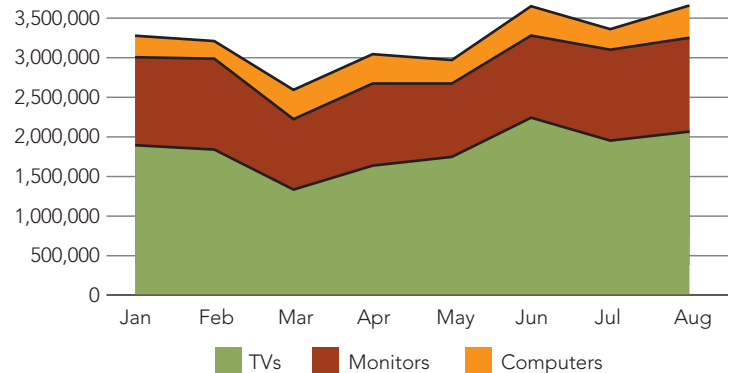
**Effective:** 2,200 units on average collected each day. *Nearly 26 million pounds recycled from January to August 2009.*

**Good for the Environment:** More than *1.7 million pounds of lead* is kept out of landfills and incinerators<sup>1</sup> and illegal dumping has declined.

**Good for Businesses:** Many local businesses are expanding to accept electronics and adding additional green jobs.



### E-CYCLE Pounds Collected washington January-August 2009



<sup>1</sup> Amount of lead safely collected is based on assumption that 90% of monitors and TVs have cathode ray tubes containing 4lbs of lead each. Conversion rates for TVs = 60 lbs/unit, monitors = 35 lbs/unit. (Personal communication, John Friedrich, Executive Director, Washington Materials Management and Financing Authority).

## Producer Financed, Shared Responsibility

E-Cycle Washington is an example of “product stewardship” where all stakeholders contribute to a successful program:

**Manufacturers (product producers)** work together in groups or independently to provide convenient recycling programs and to pay for the collection and recycling of computers, monitors and TVs. Manufacturers may internalize the costs of recycling into their products which is an incentive to keep the costs of the recycling program low.

**Government agencies** help advertise the program and the Washington Department of Ecology ensures environmentally sound recycling.

**Collectors** provide convenient collection services and include retail stores, businesses, local governments, thrift stores and curbside collectors. There are 82 private companies and 141 charities, including 96 Goodwill sites, that collect electronics and save money by participating in E-Cycle Washington.

**Consumers** do their part by bringing unwanted products to collection sites for recycling.



*“E-Cycle Washington has allowed Goodwill to expand our business and hire additional employees. Revenues and volumes have increased, and we have saved as much as \$28,000 from January to June because people no longer dump their unwanted electronics on our doorsteps. Now we’re being paid to recycle electronics instead.”*

*—John Stine, Transportation Manager, Goodwill, Spokane*

For more information about how you can support product stewardship initiatives, contact the Northwest Product Stewardship Council coordinator at (206) 723-0582 or via email at: [info@productstewardship.net](mailto:info@productstewardship.net)

