

## 2022 Oregon E-Cycles Collection Site Changes

### What changes are happening in March 2022?

Beginning March 1, 2022, the National Center for Electronics Recycling (NCER), one of the Oregon E-Cycles program Producer Responsibility Organizations, is making changes to its collection site network, which provides safe, free ways to dispose of electronics without harming the environment. This change impacts six collection sites that will no longer be part of the Oregon E-Cycles program.

### What collection sites are impacted by these changes?

- Dahl Disposal (Toledo) – Lincoln County
- Dahl Disposal (Waldport) – Lincoln County
- Don Averill Recycling Center (Tillamook) – Tillamook County (This site still plans to collect electronics.)
- Far West Recycling (Hillsboro) - Washington County
- Far West Fibers (Portland) – Multnomah County
- Rogue Disposal and Recycling (White City) – Jackson County

### What is the Oregon E-Cycles Program?

Oregon E-Cycles is a statewide program that requires electronics manufacturers to provide responsible recycling for computers, monitors, TVs, printers and computer peripherals (keyboard and mice). The program is an example of product stewardship, which directs everyone involved in the life cycle of a product to take shared responsibility for the impacts to our health and environment that result from the production, use, and end-of-life management of the product. The Oregon E-Cycles program was created in 2007 by Oregon's Electronics Recycling Law, and Oregon was among the first states to pass electronics recycling product stewardship legislation.

Oregon E-Cycles launched in 2009 and the following year the state passed a law that made

throwing TVs, monitors and computers in the trash illegal. In 2011, the Oregon legislature added printers and computer peripherals, such as keyboards and mice, to the mandate.

Since its inception, Oregon E-Cycles has significantly expanded opportunities for Oregon residents to recycle electronic wastes, preventing toxins from entering Oregon's landfills, and recovering precious and rare earth metals for new electronics that can reduce the need for mining more resources from the earth. In 2019 alone, more than 46,000 electronic devices were collected for reuse and over 18 million pounds of electronic devices were collected for recycling.

### How does the program work?

Oregon's Electronics Recycling Law requires electronics manufacturers to provide free, convenient, statewide recycling for covered devices that are sold in or into Oregon. Manufacturers must register their brands with DEQ and join either the state contractor recycling program or a private manufacturer-run recycling program, referred to as a Producer Responsibility Organization, or PRO. These programs are funded by manufacturers (not a "recycling fee" paid at the time of purchase).

By law, PROs must provide collection service or at least one collection site in every county. They also must include at least one collection site in every city with a population of at least 10,000 people.

Anyone can take seven or fewer computers at a time to participating Oregon E-Cycles collection sites for free recycling.



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Computer peripherals are also accepted free of charge.

### **Why have collection sites been removed from the program?**

Once per year, DEQ determines a collection goal. For the past three years, the program's two PROs (National Center for Electronics Recycling and Electronic Manufacturers Recycling Management) have collectively exceeded the set goal (104% of their collection obligation in 2020 and 110% in 2021). NCER, which is a smaller program, collected 120% of their obligation in 2020, and collected 135% of their obligation in 2021. In November 2022, NCER-announced plans to cancel contracts with several sites to align the volume it collects with its obligation under the program.

### **How does DEQ determine the amount of materials the PROs are obligated to collect?**

Every year, DEQ consults with interested parties to determine the total weight of devices to be collected among participating manufacturers as their respective return shares by weight. Recycling programs are responsible for recycling, at a minimum, the total return share weight of their participating manufacturers during 2022.

To make collection determinations, DEQ generated collection values for 2022 from six different statistical models and calculated additional values using historic collection data from Oregon and Washington. In addition to the calculated collection values, DEQ considered other factors known to influence returns such as lightweighting, consumer purchasing and ownership behaviors, public awareness and COVID-19.

More detailed information on how the goal was set is available [here](#).

### **Can DEQ adjust the collection goal to keep these six collection sites in the Oregon E-Cycles Program?**

Collection goals are established for the next calendar year according to timelines set in state law, and DEQ cannot adjust this estimate mid-year. However, DEQ is closely monitoring

impacts of these changes and will be working with the PROs to ensure that:

- collection sites with increased volume meet environmental standards; and
- sites with limited storage are picked up more frequently as needed.

[House Bill 4158](#) has been introduced in the 2022 Oregon Legislative session to address proposed changes to the Oregon E-cycles collection network. The bill would increase the collection goal for the remainder of the calendar year and require program operators to use willing local collection infrastructure.

### **How does this impact the public?**

It's still free and easy to safely recycle TVs, computers, laptops, printers, monitors, tablets, keyboards and mice at one of more than 200 collection sites that are part of the Oregon E-Cycles Program. In counties that have lost sites, there are other drop off locations. To find your nearest site, visit [oregonecycles.org](http://oregonecycles.org) or call the Oregon E-Cycles Hotline at 1-888-532-9253.

State law prohibits disposing of electronic waste in landfills.

### **Need more information?**

For more information on Oregon E-Cycles, visit [www.oregonecycles.org](http://www.oregonecycles.org). For questions, email [ecycle.info@deq.state.or.us](mailto:ecycle.info@deq.state.or.us) or call 503-229-5830.

### **Alternative formats**

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).