

## Q & A about e.Scrap and how it should be managed in Indiana

### What is e.Scrap?

Electronic scrap or e.Scrap is virtually anything with a circuit board that has lived its useful life, but most commonly refers to computer monitors, laptop computers and televisions.

### What is the concern with e.Scrap?

e.Scrap contains a wide variety of toxic materials, including lead and mercury. It is critical to public health and the environment that e.Scrap be managed properly and responsibly when it is no longer useful. Electronics is the fastest single portion of the municipal solid waste stream and obsolete technology, such as analog televisions, results in millions upon millions of e.Scrap items being thrown in the trash if there isn't a cost-effective alternative.

### What is the responsible management alternative for e.Scrap?

Reusing and recycling through legitimate organizations and companies are the most responsible means of managing electronic devices at end of life. Programs for recycling are available all across Indiana, but at a significant cost to local government budgets that foot the bill for expensive programs to collect and recycle e.Scrap.

### What is being done to relieve tax payers of the costs of e.Scrap management?

Many states have turned to computer and television manufacturers to bear some or all of the cost for responsible e.Scrap recycling by absorbing those costs as another cost of doing business. A group of Midwestern states have joined together in an effort to create a set of legislative principals that would:

- Relieve taxpayers through their local taxes from having to pay the high cost of proper disposal and recycling;
- Provide easy and free access to Hoosier households\* for the disposal of common electronic devices;
- Create common regulations for manufacturers from state to state; and
- Allow e.Scrap recyclers to work beyond a state's border without having a great deal of bureaucratic hurdles (many e.Scrap recyclers are small businesses, creating jobs and investing in Indiana).

### What can you do to help?

Join an alliance made up of local businesses, recyclers, waste haulers, local government, and non-profit organizations who want to pass legislation in Indiana that will meet the legislative principals set forth by the Midwest Regional Electronics Policy Initiative. Minnesota has passed a law, and compatible legislation is under consideration in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. Many states of the west and east coasts have already passed comprehensive producer responsibility legislation over the past three years. Help Indiana:

- Support the electronic recycling businesses and protect Indiana jobs;
- Reduce Hoosier taxpayer burden; and
- Protect public health and the environment from toxic releases of lead, mercury and hazards.

Visit [www.eScrapIndiana.org](http://www.eScrapIndiana.org) for more information.

*\*The proposed principals focus on e.Scrap recycling solutions for households only – not businesses.*