



Friend,

Do you know what makes up the fastest-growing portion of municipal waste? Electronics.

Phones, TVs, computers -- these electronic devices aren't just filling our landfills. They also contain heavy metals like lead and other toxic materials, which can seep into the air and groundwater, threatening wildlife and humans alike.¹

It might feel daunting to figure out how to deal with your own e-waste sustainably, but we're here to make it simple. **These are our top tips for reusing, salvaging and recycling old electronics for the good of the planet.**



Many manufacturers and phone makers -- such as Amazon, Best Buy or Samsung -- have refurbishing programs that might pay you a small sum to buy your older electronics. You can also donate electronics to programs like the World Computer Exchange or Cell Phones for Soldiers.

Whether you're selling or donating, just make sure you wipe all personal data from the device by doing a factory reset before you pass it on.

TIP #2

If the device doesn't work, reuse parts

Even if your device doesn't work, it may still have valuable components inside of it. Ask your local donation center whether they accept old electronic parts.

Reusing even just a few components can help reduce the environmental impact of your device's lifespan, limiting the amount of energy used to create new parts *and* keeping more e-waste out of our landfills.

TIP #3

Find an e-waste recycler



(The wheelie bin means it shouldn't go in the trash)

When electronics containing batteries end up in a landfill, they can corrode, releasing dangerous chemicals into the environment and sometimes even causing fires.²

If there's a "wheelie bin" icon with an X (see above) on your device, that means it shouldn't be put into the regular trash and should instead be recycled at an e-waste facility.

Every city and town has a different recycling system, so check their website to find out your local protocol. Some companies like Best Buy and Staples will also recycle broken electronics for you.

The bottom line? It should be easier to deal with e-waste sustainably.

As always, it's good to think twice about whether you need a new product before you buy it, but these tips can help reduce the impact your electronics have on the environment if you need to dispose of them.

It's time to reimagine our waste systems. From phasing out the worst forms of single-use plastic to calling on fast fashion retailers to stop trashing their overstock, we're working to reduce the amount of stuff we use in the first place, so less of it ends up in the landfill -- for the good of people's health and our planet.

Thank you for being part of that work,

David Masur
Executive Director

P.S. We're able to run these campaigns thanks to grassroots support from environmental advocates like you. Will you make a donation today to keep our zero waste campaigns going strong?

1. Nathan Proctor, "[What do you do with e-waste?](#)," PIRG, August 15, 2024.
2. Nathan Proctor, "[Despite battery fire risks, manufacturers withhold critical product information](#)," PIRG, September 11, 2018.

Your donation will be used to support all of our campaigns to protect the environment, from saving the bees and protecting public lands, to standing up for clean water and fighting climate change. None of our work would be possible without supporters like you.

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