



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 50
[2009 Senate Bill 107]

**Electronic Waste
Recycling and Disposal**

2009 Wisconsin Act 50 assigns manufacturers of specified household and school electronic devices sold in the state the responsibility for recycling those devices either directly or through collectors and recyclers registered under the electronic waste recycling program created by the Act. These “covered electronic devices” include television and computer monitors with a tube or screen at least seven inches at its longest diagonal measurement, computers, and printers.

The amount of covered electronic devices that a manufacturer is responsible for recycling is based upon the manufacturer’s sales of those devices in the state. A manufacturer may count towards its recycling obligation the recycling of a broader group of electronic devices identified as “eligible electronic devices.” These devices include “covered electronic devices” identified above, plus the following devices used by a household primarily for personal use or a school: computer peripherals (e.g., a keyboard), facsimile machines, digital video disc players and videocassette recorders (including those players and recorders that do not use a disc or cassette and that are not a camera), and other electronic devices identified by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by rule.

Manufacturer’s recycling responsibilities are enforced through restrictions on the sale of its covered electronic devices in the state and the assessment of shortfall fees when a manufacturer recycles less than its target amount.

If a manufacturer recycles more than its target amount, the manufacturer may earn recycling credits which the manufacturer can use to meet future recycling obligations or sell to another manufacturer for that manufacturer to meet its recycling obligations.

The DNR administers the manufacturer, collector, and recycler registration programs and ensures compliance with the electronic waste recycling program. Local units of government may, but are not required to, register as a collector or recycler, or both.

The Act also establishes bans on the landfilling and incineration of eligible electronic devices. Landfill and incinerator operators are, in general, required to make a reasonable effort to manually

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

separate, and arrange to recycle, televisions and computer monitors that are readily observable in the solid waste that is delivered to the facility for disposal or burning.

A detailed summary of Act 50 is provided in Legislative Council Information Memorandum, IM-2010-01, *Electronic Waste Recycling and Disposal*, " dated February 24, 2010.

Effective date: Act 50 took effect on October 27, 2009.

Prepared by: John Stolzenberg, Chief of Research Services

February 23, 2010