

Radio PSA Script

E-Scrap

This is <name> with <affiliation>. Did you know that each year approximately forty to eighty thousand tons of electronics are disposed of in Kentucky? As newer and more hi-tech electronics hit the market, old models are being replaced, resulting in electronics becoming one of the fastest growing waste categories in America. Electronic waste, also known as e-scrap, creates a new environmental challenge as landfills are becoming increasingly full. In addition, many electronics contain hazardous substances that pose a health threat to humans and the environment. For example, the glass picture tubes found in computer monitors and television screens contain between five and eight pounds of lead. Other hazardous materials found in electronics include chromium, cadmium, mercury and nickel. In a landfill, under certain conditions, these hazardous substances can dissolve and leak into groundwater. To reduce e-scrap Kentuckians can:

- Fix or upgrade electronics so they can continued to be used
- Donate electronics to a school, church, or local charity group or
- Recycle electronics at local recycling programs.

For more information on reducing or disposing of e-scrap contact your local Solid Waste Coordinator or Extension Service Office or visit www.earth911.org.

Written by Ashley Osborne, University of Kentucky Extension Associate for Environmental and Natural Resource Issues, October 2006.