



E-Cycle Wisconsin Guidance on Reporting Eligible Electronic Devices Collected and Recycled over Program Year Transitions

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Purpose

This guidance clarifies how electronics should be reported under s. 287.17, Wis. Stats., Wisconsin's electronics recycling law, when they are collected or recycled near the end or beginning of a program year.

Background

A person wishing to operate as an electronics recycler or collector under the E-Cycle Wisconsin program must register and report annually with the Department of Natural Resources. As part of the annual report, collectors and recyclers must provide the weight of eligible electronic devices collected or recycled during the previous program year.

Beginning in 2024, E-Cycle Wisconsin program years run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Each electronics manufacturer registered with the program has a specific recycling target to meet during that program year. If the manufacturer recycles more than that target, it can receive credits to carry over into future years. If it falls short of its target, it must pay a shortfall fee. Therefore, it is very important that everyone involved use an accurate and consistent method to track the number of pounds of eligible electronics recycled statewide on behalf of manufacturers during a given program year.

E-Cycle Wisconsin Definitions

For a full list of **eligible electronic devices**, refer to [Guidance on Definitions of Covered Devices \(WA-1474\)](#).

A **collector** accepts eligible electronic devices from Wisconsin households or K-12 schools and delivers or arranges for the delivery of the electronics to a recycler.

A **recycler** accepts eligible electronic devices from Wisconsin households, covered schools or collectors for the purpose of recycling.

Recycling means preparing eligible electronics for use in manufacturing processes or for recovery of useable materials and delivering the materials for use.

For complete definitions, refer to s. 287.17(1), Wis. Stats.

Reporting Collected Eligible Electronic Devices

Eligible electronic devices collected from Wisconsin households and K-12 schools must be reported for the **program year in which they were collected**. That is, any eligible electronics received from a household or covered school—either at a collection site or through direct pick-up—during a calendar year should be reported for that program year, even if the devices are not delivered to a registered recycler until after Jan. 1 of the next year.

Reporting Recycled Eligible Electronic Devices

Recyclers should report weights of eligible electronic devices based on the **program year in which they received (took possession of) the electronics**. That is, if a recycler picked up a load from a collector by Dec. 31 of program year X, the weight of those eligible electronics should be counted in the program year X totals. If a recycler picked up a load of electronics on or after Jan. 1 of program year Y, it should count the weight of those eligible electronics toward the program year Y total.

This may mean that a collector counts the weight of a TV under program year X, while the recycler counts the weight of the same TV under program year Y. Since a manufacturer's recycling target is based on what is actually recycled during a given program year, the weight of that TV would count toward the manufacturer's program year Y target.

Recyclers should keep in mind that their report for the previous program year is due by Feb. 1 for example, the report for program year 14, which ended Dec. 31, 2023, is due Feb. 1, 2024). Therefore, it is important that recyclers process eligible electronics received through Dec. 31 quickly so they can include accurate totals in the report.

More information

For more information on E-Cycle Wisconsin, visit dnr.wi.gov and search “ecycle.”



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