Electronic Waste Management: A Guide for Businesses in South Dakota

South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Waste Management Program

Issues

- Electronic waste (e-waste) includes televisions, computer monitors, computer peripherals, audio and stereo equipment, video recorders and players, cameras, telephones, fax and copy machines, cellular phones, wireless devices and video game consoles.
- Because these devices can contain circuit boards, batteries, mercury lamps, and cathode ray tubes (CRTs), when they become wastes they could become sources of heavy metal contaminants such as lead, mercury and chromium.
- Leaded glass is used in CRT computer monitors and televisions to shield the user from the unit's x-rays. Reports indicate two to eight pounds of lead may be incorporated into the glass, making up an average of about 20 percent of the weight of the CRT glass.
- Concerns have been expressed nationwide regarding the potential release of lead and other heavy metals when e-wastes are disposed in solid waste landfills.

E-Waste Regulation in South Dakota

CRTs

- Hazardous waste analyses indicate CRTs, when analyzed alone, are a hazardous waste due to the level of lead.
- If a business ***recycles*** their used CRTs, those units ***should not be included*** in determining their hazardous waste generator category (see ARSD 74:28:22:01, adopting 40 CFR 261.4(a)(22)).
- If a business ***disposes*** of their used CRTs, those units ***must be included*** in determining their hazardous waste generator category, ***and must be managed and disposed as a hazardous waste***.

Non-CRT E-waste

- Tests performed on other electronic devices indicate non-CRT electronics are not typically a hazardous waste when disposed.
- The state encourages all businesses to recycle their e-waste. Recycling operations available to assist South Dakota companies can be found on the Department's website: https://danr.sd.gov/Environment/WasteManagement/Recycling/Guide.aspx

Note: individual electronic items from homeowners are not regulated as hazardous waste, but the state encourages recycling those items.

For clarifications regarding the proper management of e-waste in South Dakota, please contact Waste Management Program staff at 605-773-3153.