

What is E-waste?

E-waste is electronic waste, and consists of items such as:

- ✓ Desktop computers & monitors
- ✓ Laptops/notebooks & tablets
- ✓ Televisions & related power cords & remote controls
- ✓ Mobile phones/telephones
- ✓ Video & DVD players
- ✓ Hi-fi equipment including stereos & speakers
- ✓ Cameras & video cameras
- ✓ Power tools such as drills etc
- ✓ Other components including transformers & resistors
- ✓ Electronic games including computer game consoles
- ✓ Household appliances such as microwaves, toasters, irons, kettles, vacuum cleaners and hairdryers
- ✓ Computer accessories including printers, scanners/photocopiers, mouse, fax machines etc.
- ✓ Most items with a power cord



In 2011, the Australian government established the National Television & Computer Recycling Scheme, to provide households and businesses across Australia the opportunity to recycle their E-waste. The aim was to divert hazardous materials from landfill and conserve valuable resources.

Why is E-waste recycling important?

E-waste makes up a significant portion of waste deposited to landfill each year, and this percentage is growing as electronic device sales are booming, and older technology is being upgraded. This is not only a waste of valuable resources, but E-waste contributes up to 70% of toxic chemicals found in landfills ¹.

Where can I drop off my E-waste for recycling?

E-waste is able to be dropped off for recycling at Alexandra, Kinglake and Yea RRCs.

What happens to my E-waste after it has been processed for recycling?

E-waste is collected from the RRC and transported to PGM refiners in Dandenong. Items are broken down into raw materials, such as metals, plastics, glass, copper, aluminium, steel, iron, gold, platinum and silver. These are returned to the manufacturing process, reducing environmental impacts of mining and extraction.

For more information/references:

¹Clean Up Australia 2009, *E-Waste Fact Sheet*, Royal Exchange NSW, viewed 5th January 2016, <<https://www.cleanup.org.au/PDF/au/clean-up-australia---e-waste-factsheet-final.pdf>>.

<http://www.pgmrefiners.com/index.php>

<https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/national-waste-policy/television-and-computer-recycling-scheme>