

What Happens To Electronic Waste?

Electronic waste is full of both valuable and hazardous materials making it critical that these items are properly handled to ensure the valuable materials are recycle for reuse and hazardous materials are managed properly and kept out of our land fills.

The recycling of electronics involves processing to recover raw materials such as metal, glass and plastics giving them a second life and ensuring they do not end up in land fill sites. Every day Greentec receives thousands of pounds of electronic waste to be sorted and safely recycled. All materials that arrive at the Greentec facility undergo a qualifying process to determine if they are suitable for reuse. Reuse is the preferred method in the hierarchy of the recycling process as it is a much more viable and less resource demanding solution. Many of the items contain components that can be harvested, refurbished and then remarketed. Items that contain personal and corporate data undergo stringent data destruction processes. Once evaluated at the processing facility, the items are:

1. Inspected and Weighed – At the consolidation facility, the items are inspected and weighed.
2. Safely Dismantled and Separated – Greentec associates carefully dismantle the items and separate them into individual components by commodity, such as metal, glass and plastics. It is this process in which Greentec excels: proper dismantling is critical to ensure potentially harmful components such as batteries, mercury, lead, inks and toners are safely separated and kept out of landfill. Greentec is an ISO 14001 registered; Ministry of the Environment approved processors based in Cambridge, Ontario and operates under safe and controlled working conditions governed by strict OES standards.
3. Shredded and Smelted – Once the components are safely dismantled and separated, valuable commodities such as steel, aluminum, copper, glass and plastic are shredded, smelted or processed as raw materials for future production. Clean recycled materials are reutilized world wide in the production of new goods. Any materials that could be considered hazardous stay in OECD countries for responsible handling and appropriate disposal - never being shipped to developing counties.

Greentec values ecological sustainability first and foremost and strives to provide the most environmentally responsible electronics recycling solutions available. Greentec has invested considerable resources into perfecting its processes and improving its technologies, becoming an industry leading recovery and recycling solutions provider. Greentec is committed to continuous improvements in environmental performance, and ensure a zero landfill policy. Greentec deems their client's privacy of the utmost importance, with security processes exceeding US Department of Defense standards ensuring that all items containing sensitive data received at the facility are dealt with professionally and all data destroyed. Greentec performs regular compliance audits on all of their downstream vendors and clients in compliance with EPSC and e-Steward standards.

To find the closest Greentec electronic waste drop-off location, visit www.greentec.com/dropoff. For more information about OES, visit www.ontarioelectronicstewardship.ca

