

# Illinois Electronics Recycling Program

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Illinois Environmental  
Protection Agency

# Introduction

The Illinois Statewide Electronics Recycling Program began on January 1, 2012 under the Electronics Products Recycling & Reuse Act (EPRRA). On January 1, 2019, the Consumer Electronics Recycling Act (CERA) replaced EPRRA as the statutory framework for the statewide electronics recycling program. CERA incorporated many of the lessons learned from the historic program administration, including replacing numerical annual collection goals with minimum collection site requirements for participating Illinois counties.

The statewide program offers an environmentally sound outlet for residential electronics and reduces the occurrence of open dumping which can be an environmental and economic burden for Illinois taxpayers. CERA requires manufacturers of covered electronic devices (CEDs), listed in Table 1, to register with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) the brands they offer for sale at retail to Illinois residents. These manufacturers are required to fund packaging, transportation, and the subsequent recycling of CEDs collected at participating collection locations. The list of registered manufacturers can be found on the Agency's [website](#).

**Table 1. List of Covered Electronic Devices**

- Computers
- Computer Monitors
- Keyboards & Mice
- Printers
- Scanners
- Fax Machines
- Small-Scale Servers
- Televisions
- DVD Players|
- DVD Recorders
- VCRs
- Cable Receivers
- Satellite Receivers
- Digital Converter Boxes
- Video Game Consoles
- Portable Music Players (with memory capabilities)

## Program Participation

Illinois county participation plays an important role in program success. In total, 52 counties opted into the 2020 statewide program. Of those counties, 42 were able to run collection sites or hold collection events despite many of the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Figure 1 displays a visual depiction of county participation. Approximately 85% of the Illinois population had the opportunity to use a CERA collection site or event during calendar year 2020.

Collectors and recyclers are also vital components of the statewide program. Collectors involved in the program must register each program year with the Agency. In many cases, the participating county acts as their own designated collector. A county may also designate a third party to act as their collector. Collectors must register the collection sites and events with the Agency. These sites and events are published on the Agency's website and added to our [Beyond the Bin Map](#) for public access.

Recyclers involved in the statewide program are selected and assigned to participating counties by the manufacturers. In 2020, seven recyclers were selected to participate. Registered collectors and recyclers are responsible for handling CEDs in an environmentally safe manner in accordance with state law. CERA contemplates allowing additional collectors and recyclers

maintaining independent collection and recycling networks, which may not be funded by manufacturers.

## Collection Totals and Analysis

CERA requires manufacturers to annually report to the Agency the amount of CEDs collected and recycled from participating collection sites and events by device category. The eight device categories are:

1. Computers and small-scale servers
2. Computer monitors
3. Televisions
4. Printers, scanners, fax machines
5. DVD players/recorders, video players/recorders
6. Video game consoles
7. Digital converter boxes, cable and satellite receivers
8. Keyboards, mice, portable digital music players

Manufacturers reported that approximately ~12.3 million pounds of CEDs were collected from collection sites and events established under CERA in 2020.

Figure 2 illustrates the total weight amount collected by CED category. A majority of the weight collected can be attributed to televisions and accounts for 54.8% of the total weight collected. Although televisions continue to become slimmer and lighter, they remain the heaviest consumer electronic. Additionally, tube televisions persist in Illinois homes despite their phaseout in the mid to late 2000s. Television collection numbers are expected to remain high for the future due to their size, weight, and abundance.

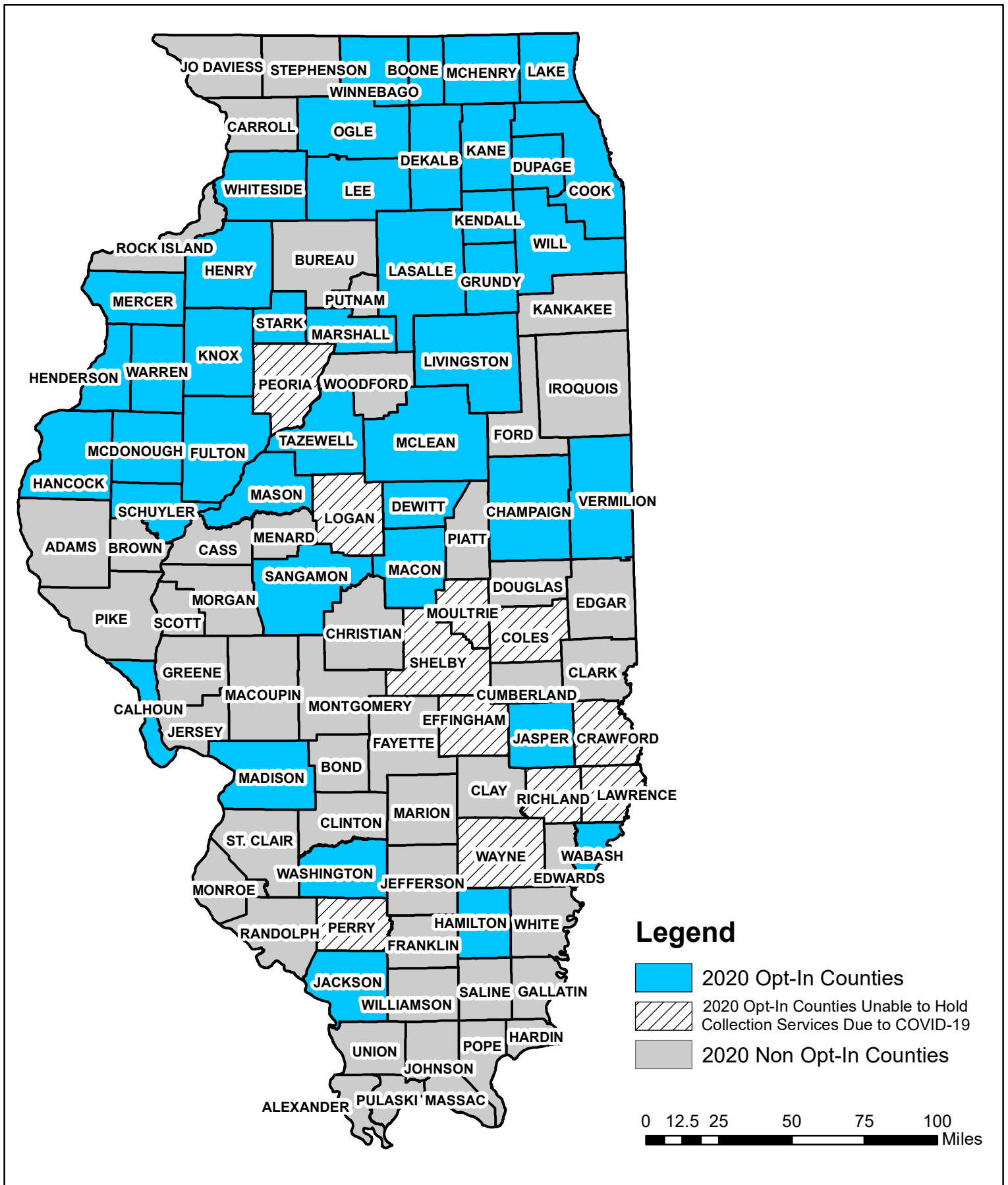
The remaining device categories collected include: Printers/Scanners/Fax (13.9%), DVD and VCR Players/Recorders (11.2%), Computers and Small-Scale Servers (7.2%), Computer Peripherals (4.7%), Computer Monitors (5%), Cable/Satellite Equipment (2.2%), and Game Consoles (1%).

In addition, the Agency is provided with a breakdown of CED weight collected by each county. A full breakdown of collection weight by county can be found in Table 2. The top four counties by collected weight are Lake County, Cook County, Will County, and DuPage County. These counties represent the four largest Illinois counties by population size.

CERA is a unique statute and is currently the only electronics recycling statute of its kind enacted in the United States. Analysis of program effectiveness is on-going as more data is collected each year. Eleven counties that had opt-ed into the program were ultimately unable to provide collection services during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, some collection sites were temporarily closed, and many collection events were either postponed or cancelled all together. Therefore, the 2020 program was significantly impacted. Program year 2020 brought in 2.4 million fewer pounds when compared to program year 2019. A decrease in total weight collected was anticipated. Despite these challenges, local governments and recyclers worked

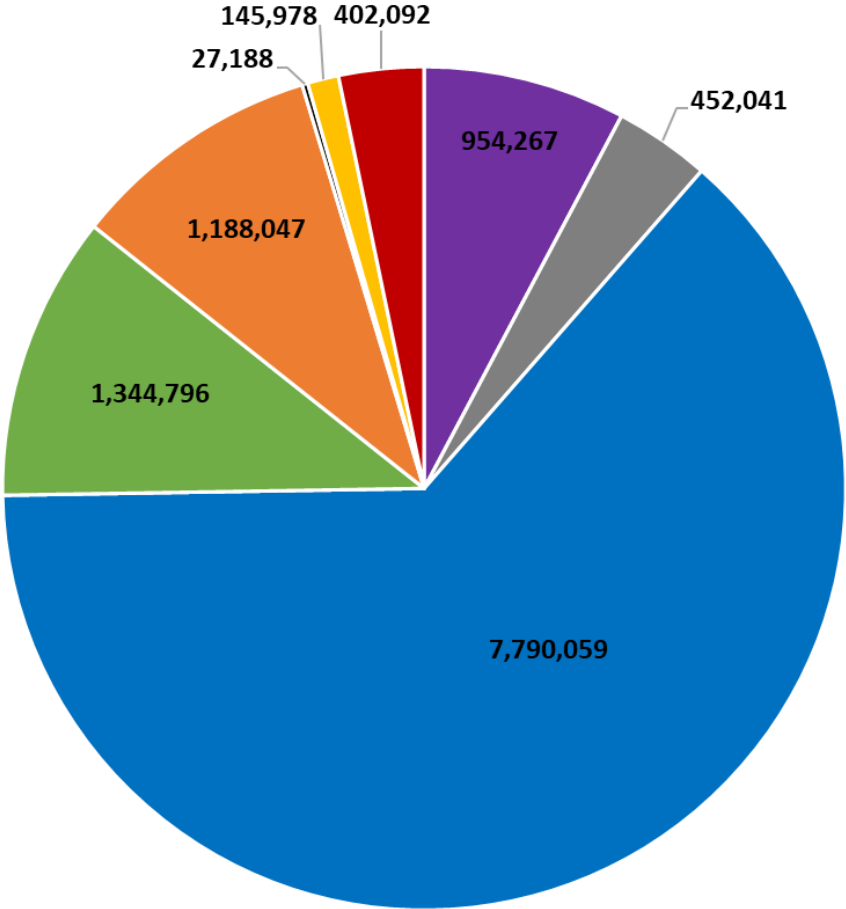
diligently to re-open collection sites and hold collection events throughout the program year. This was largely achieved by taking additional measures to protect the health and safety of employees and residents so that this important program could continue to benefit local communities and the environment.

Please contact Jessica Miller at (217) 524-7948 or email [EPA.Recycling@illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.Recycling@illinois.gov) if you have any questions related to this report or the Illinois Statewide Electronics Recycling Program.



**Figure 1. Illinois County Participation in 2020 Under CERA**

Figure 2. Total CED Weight (lbs.) Collected in 2020 Under CERA



- Computers and Small-Scale Servers
- TVs
- DVD/VCR
- Cable/Satellite Equipment
- Computer Monitors
- Printers/Scanners/Fax
- Game Consoles
- Computer Peripherals

**Table 2. CED Weight (lbs.) Collected by Illinois Counties in 2020 Under CERA**

County	Weight (lbs.) Collected by County (2020)	Computers/Small Scale Servers	Computer Monitors	TVs	Printers/Scanners/Fax	DVD/VCR	Game Consoles	Cable/Satellite Equipment	Computer Peripherals
Boone	181,485	8,995	2,217	132,981	10,603	938	313	625	24,814
Calhoun	9,073	-	-	9,073	-	-	-	-	-
Champaign	171,652	7,014	5,403	133,284	16,635	5,072	207	1,656	2,381
Cook	1,347,074	191,334	112,699	782,997	152,987	62,034	2,678	18,759	23,587
Dekalb	144,823	3,949	7,540	117,894	13,753	-	-	857	830
Dewitt	55,130	-	412	46,893	2,895	3,991	78	157	704
Dupage	1,141,364	225,765	49,215	646,141	104,396	82,048	-	8,222	25,577
Fulton	99,772	7,636	4,062	77,847	6,446	2,058	84	672	966
Grundy	36,947	1,717	2,550	25,921	4,386	1,292	53	422	607
Hamilton	15,156	660	-	12,972	584	512	21	167	240
Hancock	35,151	2,720	1,412	27,399	2,296	721	29	235	339
Henderson	12,032	923	488	9,386	779	248	10	81	116
Henry	88,098	3,797	4,079	72,010	1,255	3,788	155	1,237	1,778
Jackson	413,523	33,087	5,050	313,528	41,605	11,027	452	3,598	5,176
Jasper	44,085	1,673	-	35,143	1,710	3,027	123	988	1,421
Kane	661,618	123,777	33,999	392,762	52,790	40,037	-	5,407	12,846
Kendall	95,238	23	7,091	2,655	49,157	16,447	4,266	9,550	6,048
Knox	183,405	13,852	7,597	143,264	11,693	3,811	156	1,244	1,789
Lake	2,468,361	7,300	6,437	1,314,429	428,126	576,440	11,301	22,605	101,723
LaSalle	233,275	5,260	4,389	196,635	20,629	3,465	141	1,132	1,624
Lee	94,740	1,762	2,522	64,860	5,586	10,894	445	3,557	5,114
Livingston	64,534	1,036	4,932	54,181	439	2,148	88	702	1,008
Macon	57,493	4,710	-	45,844	693	3,401	139	1,110	1,596
Madison	163,995	9,803	14,368	123,534	2,040	7,758	317	2,533	3,642
Marshall	9,940	705	-	7,591	659	537	22	175	252
Mason	29,646	1,759	1,812	19,443	2,288	1,422	-	1,694	1,228
McDonough	84,815	6,307	3,573	66,352	5,326	1,773	72	579	832
McHenry	235,783	28,528	14,797	161,014	22,979	4,609	188	1,505	2,163
McLean	662,216	7,410	6,568	420,153	73,542	116,972	2,225	4,449	30,897
Mercer	50,934	3,824	2,124	39,809	3,228	1,061	43	346	498
Ogle	187,223	13,813	8,842	135,885	15,492	7,182	291	2,347	3,371
Sangamon	1,082,374	150,262	102,411	482,183	129,442	111,790	1,010	38,742	66,534
Shuyler	15,862	1,207	650	12,384	1,019	328	13	107	154
Stark	21,674	844	-	18,548	228	1,118	46	365	525
Tazewell	46,871	3,705	2,899	32,885	3,073	2,346	96	766	1,101
Vermilion	110,913	5,246	-	93,904	1,176	5,764	235	1,882	2,705
Wabash	42	36	4	-	2	-	-	-	-
Warren	65,640	4,937	2,730	51,295	4,169	1,366	56	446	641
Washington	90,337	3,150	1,109	70,792	3,270	6,543	266	2,136	3,071
Whiteside	134,049	2,251	1,490	107,882	8,359	401	-	-	13,666
Will	1,262,661	31,119	18,946	977,491	107,763	76,407	1,273	2,546	47,116
Winnebago	395,463	32,373	7,621	310,816	31,296	7,272	297	2,375	3,413
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,304,469</b>	<b>954,267</b>	<b>452,041</b>	<b>7,790,059</b>	<b>1,344,796</b>	<b>1,188,047</b>	<b>27,188</b>	<b>145,978</b>	<b>402,092</b>

\*Collection numbers do not include non-opt-in counties, municipal collection programs outside of CERA, private programs, retailers, for profit businesses, or non-profits.