



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – COUNTY INFORMATION

ILLINOIS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM

What is the Illinois Electronics Recycling Program?

The Consumer Electronics Recycling Act (CERA) establishes a statewide system for recycling and/or reusing a specific set of electronic devices (CEDs) from Illinois residences. CERA requires CED manufacturers to financially support the recycling of collected CEDs.

What are the covered electronic devices that manufacturers are responsible for recycling?

Computers	DVD Recorders	Electronic Mice
Computer Monitors	VCRs	Small-Scale Servers
Televisions	Video Game Consoles	Portable Digital Music
Printers	Digital Converter Boxes	Players (Memory Capability
FAX Machines	Cable Receivers	& Battery Powered)
Scanners	Satellite Receivers	
DVD Players	Electronic Keyboards	

What about the electronic devices that the manufacturers do not have to recycle?

Individual collectors may decide to accept non-CEDs, such as cell phones, microwaves, and other common household devices that have an electronic component. Collectors must separate any accepted non-CEDs from the collected CEDs before those items are removed from the collection site. Collectors may be charged a fee by their recycler to cover the cost of recycling non-CEDs.

What is the benefit for a county to participate in the Illinois Electronics Recycling Program?

The Illinois Electronics Recycling Program provides residents of participating counties an environmentally safe outlet for their unwanted CEDs and helps prevent open dumping of electronics.

What does a county need to do to participate in the next program year?

Submit a completed Opt-In Form to the Illinois EPA and the designated manufacturer representative by March 1 of the preceding program year. The Opt-In Form should include a list of proposed collection locations that are likely to be available to support an electronics recycling site or event during the next program year.

What is the county responsible for if it opts-in to the program?

Participating counties are awarded a certain number of sites based upon population density, this is broken down below. The county will work with the manufacturer electronics recycling program contact to determine the specific collection sites or events for the upcoming program year. [Section 1-45 of CERA](#) outlines the additional responsibilities for counties that operate their own collection sites.

Population Density (individuals/sq. mile)	Minimum # of Sites*
0-249	1
250-499	2
500-749	3
750-999	4
1000-4999	5
5000+	15
*One site is equivalent to four one-day events	
Note: Municipality with over 1,000,000 residents receives 10 additional sites (located in that municipality)	

Will the county have to absorb any costs?

This depends if the county acts as a collector. Counties that hire a third party to collect CEDs will likely have to absorb the third party’s costs. These expenses may be covered or minimized by the fees that collectors can charge for accepting televisions and monitors.

Counties that serve as collectors are primarily responsible for staffing, equipment (forklift, forklift operator, pallet jack, etc.), and advertising. Under these circumstances, electronics manufacturers provide the county packaging and shipment materials, bulk transportation, and recycling of collected CEDs. The county may be assessed a prorated transportation fee if loads of transported CEDs do not average 18,000 pounds.

Counties can keep costs low by working with local departments to staff sites or events. Contact your ILCSWMA Regional Representative to see if they have any other ideas that have worked in the past.

ILCSWMA Northern Region Representative – Pete Adrian – padrian@swalco.org or 847-377-4952

ILCSWMA Central Region Representative – Chad Braatz – chad.braatz@cityofmonmouth.com – 309-255-5075

ILCSWMA Southern Region Representative – Andi Yancey – anyancey@co.madison.il.us – 618-296-4616

Will counties be charged any fees by electronics recyclers?

CERA does not include any recycler fees. The Illinois EPA recommends that counties contact their recycler to determine if they have an independent fee schedule.

How many people are needed to staff a site or event? What if a county does not have any staff for these sites or events?

Site staffing may vary based on county size. Depending upon the population density within a county, a single staff member for a site may suffice. However, staffing a site is more predictable than an event. Event staffing can vary depending upon several factors, including frequency of event, weather, and advertising. Counties should discuss staffing numbers with their recycler or ILCSWMA Regional Representative as they may have experience with organizing electronics recycling events.

Volunteers can be used if the county does not have enough staff for these sites or events. Volunteers should receive sufficient training that covers safety, sorting, and packaging prior to the event. Also, an individual with experience is recommended to provide expertise on the sorting, packaging and loading of the collected material.

What are the benefits and limitations of selecting collection sites or one-day collection events?

	Benefits	Limitations
Collection Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued availability for resident drop-off• Predictable schedule• May operate with single employee• County control over recycler pick-ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dedicated location• Dedicated staff
One-day Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flexible location options (may use an empty parking lot)• Staff only required for one day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited availability to residents• Unpredictable (weather, number of incoming devices)• Less control over ability to meet 18,000 gross pound transportation requirement

What can a county expect after opting-in?

Participating counties should be contacted by a manufacturer program contact after opting-in to the Illinois electronics recycling program. The manufacturer program contact will work with participating counties to identify the collection sites or events that will be listed in the manufacturer program plan and connect the counties with assigned recyclers. These contacts should take place before July 1, when the manufacturer program plan is due to the Illinois EPA.