



June 3, 2009

TO: Representative Spencer Black, Chair  
Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources

FR: David Krahn  
Legislative Policy Advisor

**RE: Assembly Bill 278 – Sale, Disposal, Collection and Recycling of Electronic Devices**

Waukesha County supports this legislation that establishes a statewide infrastructure and funding for recycling “covered electronic devices” including computers, printers, and televisions discarded by households. Manufacturer funding for recycling would provide incentives to the manufacturer to reduce toxicity and build products that can be disassembled and recycled more cost-effectively. When producers are held responsible, the end-of-life cost of the product can be integrated into the production cost and passed on to users. The bill also promotes best management practices for recyclers by requiring annual registration and compliance with training, worker health and safety, and proper storage, transportation, and processing of covered electronic devices.

A phased-in landfill ban is modeled after the successful approach used by the state with the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act. The ban minimizes future environmental risk and sends a clear message to markets that a steady stream of materials will be available. This will be especially useful in the case of televisions, since there is not adequate processing capacity in Wisconsin at this time, as there is for computers.

Waukesha County has had a residential computer-recycling program at three municipal drop-off sites for several years. Residents deliver their old computers and related equipment voluntarily. In the past three years the county has collected and contracted with a private company to recycle **359 tons** or over 717,000 pounds of computers and related equipment at a cost of \$158,000. We do not recycle TVs due to lack of funding and processing infrastructure.

We know that residents want to dispose of electronic waste responsibly, but they need convenient, effective programs that are easy to use and assure protection of public health and the environment. At a time when local governments are facing great pressure to freeze budgets and downsize government, this bill provides a fair, responsible and reasonable funding source for recycling that is directly linked to the product.

Recycling creates new business opportunities. Proper recycling provides jobs, feedstock for new products, and creates new markets.

Waukesha County urges you to support Assembly Bill 278.

Thank you!