

# A Guide to Curbside Collection of Electronics Through the E-Cycle Washington Program

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## 1. Purpose

This guide addresses recurring questions and issues about curbside recycling service provided by WA Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) certificated collectors and city or county contract collectors and how they can operate as collectors of covered electronic products for the E-Cycle Washington program.

## 2. Definitions (see [WAC 173-900-030<sup>1</sup>](#) for detailed definitions)

"Collector" means an entity licensed to do business in Washington State that gathers unwanted covered electronic products from households, small businesses, school districts, small governments, and charities for the purpose of recycling and meets the registration and collector performance standards set by the Department of Ecology.

"Covered electronic products" (CEPs) are defined as TVs, computers, monitors, e-readers, and portable DVD players.

"Covered entity" means any household, charity, school district, small business, or small government located in Washington State.

"Curbside recycling service provider" means a collection service authorized by the WUTC or a city or county contract to collect residential recyclables that provides regularly scheduled pickup of covered electronic products from households or other covered entities in quantities generated from households.

As outlined in [WAC 173-900<sup>2</sup>](#), curbside collection of CEPs is an allowable option in the E-Cycle Washington program.

### **WAC 173-900-400 What collectors need to know to collect CEPs for a CEP recycling plan.**

(1) To collect CEPs for a plan under this chapter the collector must:

- (a) Submit an initial registration;
- (b) Update the registration information if it changes;
- (c) Renew registration annually;
- (d) Meet the collector performance standards; and
- (e) Be in "in compliance" status on the "collector registration list" on ecology's web site.

(2) Collection services:

- (a) Plans are not required to compensate collectors for any products other than CEPs submitted for recycling by covered entities (households, charities, school districts, small businesses, and/or small governments located in Washington State).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-900-030>

<sup>2</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-900>

- (b) Plans are not required to compensate collectors for CEPs collected prior to January 1, 2009.
- (3) Registration under this chapter is only for purposes of administering the electronic product recycling program and does not constitute endorsement by Ecology of a particular registrant.
- (4) The authority of the standard plan must accept CEPs from registered collectors in "compliance" status.
- (5) The authority must compensate registered collectors, in "compliance" status for the reasonable costs associated with collection of CEPs submitted by a collector to the plan.
- (6) The standard plan will not pay for additional costs associated with premium or curbside services, unless a prior written agreement has been made between the authority and the service provider.

### **3. Eligibility**

Curbside recycling service providers are required to cover all costs of collecting CEPs at curbside.

Costs that are eligible for compensation by the Washington Materials Management & Financing Authority (WMMFA) are costs to:

- 1) transport the CEPs from a consolidation site to the recycling facility, and
- 2) process/recycle the CEPs.

Compensation rates will be negotiated between WMMFA and the curbside recycling service provider. Curbside service providers may charge covered entities a fee for the additional cost of providing the collection service (see [WAC 173-900-355\(11\)](https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-900-355)<sup>3</sup>). If a fee is to be charged to the ratepayer for curbside collection of CEPs, the services covered by that fee must be disclosed to the WMMFA in the negotiation process. Any fees or rate changes will need to meet the requirements of the WA Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) franchise agreement or the city solid waste and/or recycling contract.

#### **Eligible Curbside Recycling Service Providers**

a) A curbside recycling service provider not currently collecting electronic products at the curbside is eligible to provide collection services in the E-Cycle Washington program. The service provider must hold authority from the WUTC or a city or county contract for curbside collection of residential recyclables and apply to become an E-Cycle collector/transporter of CEPs by following the E-Cycle program requirements, below.

b) A curbside recycling service provider currently providing curbside collection of electronics covered by the E-Cycle program is eligible to provide collection services in the E-Cycle Washington program if the service provider charges the ratepayer a separate add-on fee that is limited to collection costs and/or transportation costs, but does not include the cost of

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<sup>3</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-900-355>

recycling/processing. In this scenario, the service provider could be compensated by the WMMFA for recycling/processing costs not already paid by the fee charged to the ratepayer. The service provider will be required to provide a clear breakout of the services and costs covered by the fee for curbside pick-up of electronics and meet the E-Cycle Program Requirements as described below.

### **Ineligible Curbside Recycling Service Providers**

Curbside recycling service providers currently providing curbside collection of CEPs for recycling outside of the E-Cycle Washington program will not be eligible to participate in the E-Cycle program if the price of that service is embedded in their city solid waste and/or recycling contract or in the rates approved by WUTC as part of their franchise agreement. In this instance, the costs of collecting, transporting and recycling electronics are already being paid by the ratepayer. The service provider could not then be paid again by the E-Cycle program for any portion of those services. This would effectively be a double payment by the ratepayer.

### **E-Cycle Program Requirements**

Eligible curbside recycling service providers interested in collecting CEPs through the E-Cycle program must:

- Register with Ecology as both an E-Cycle collector and a transporter by going to the “Collectors” and “Transporters” pages on the E-Cycle website, [www.ecyclewashington.org](http://www.ecyclewashington.org). Registrations will only be approved when all requirements have been met.
- Provide Ecology with a detailed description in writing of how the proposed curbside service will work, including how the electronics will be protected from the weather and handled safely prior to pick-up. Ecology is concerned that electronics sitting at the curb could become “attractive nuisances” by inviting vandalism, theft, etc. The service provider should address how they will prevent or minimize this attractive nuisance issue.
- Describe how they will ensure that electronics submitted to the E-Cycle program are coming from eligible entities. Large businesses (50 or more employees statewide) and large governments are not eligible to use the E-Cycle program.
- Negotiate a collector/transporter agreement with the WMMFA. If the ratepayer is to be charged for curbside electronics pick-up service, the cost of that service needs to be clearly identifiable through a separate fee or in the service contract. The structure of that fee or service cost will need to be disclosed during the negotiation process to determine what costs the WMMFA might cover beyond costs already paid by the ratepayer.

- Meet the [performance standards for collectors and transporters](#)<sup>4</sup> as described on the website, including providing secure, covered facilities with an impervious floor for the consolidation and storage of electronics.
- Commit to palletizing and preparing CEPs for pick-up or self-transport to the processor as described in the [Collector's Operation Guidelines](#)<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Electronics-E-Cycle>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.wmmfa.net/documents/pdf/WordCollectorsManual2014.pdf>