

RESPONSIBLE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

EVERY RETIRED DEVICE
HAS ANOTHER LIFE.

When a computer reaches the end of its useful life, its story isn't over.

Inside every laptop, desktop, server, and network device are valuable materials that can be recovered and reused, along with components that require specialized handling to protect people and the environment.

For organizations, responsible recycling isn't just about environmental stewardship. It's about accountability, sustainability, and having the documentation to prove every asset was managed properly.

Responsible electronics recycling ensures these materials are managed safely, documented thoroughly, and processed through qualified recycling partners.



Only ~22% of global e-waste is formally collected and recycled.

THE JOURNEY OF A RETIRED COMPUTER



COLLECT

Devices are securely picked up and logged.



INVENTORY VERIFICATION

Assets are scanned, documented, and verified.



DATA DESTRUCTION

Data-bearing devices are destroyed or sanitized.



REUSE EVALUATION

Usable equipment is evaluated for remarketing or donation.



DISASSEMBLY

Devices are carefully dismantled by trained technicians.



MATERIAL RECOVERY

Materials are sorted by type for maximum recovery.



AUDIT-READY DOCUMENTATION

Complete records provide accountability from start to finish.

DID YOU KNOW?



A smartphone contains more than 60 different elements.

Source: USGS



Lithium-ion batteries are a leading cause of fires at recycling facilities.

Source: USGS



Recycling one ton of circuit boards recovers over 600 pounds of valuable materials from landfills.

Source: EPA

AUDIT-READY DOCUMENTATION

Responsible electronics recycling doesn't end when equipment is dismantled.

Organizations often require complete documentation to support internal asset reconciliation, environmental reporting, regulatory compliance, ESG initiatives, and future audits.



SERIALIZED ASSET INVENTORY

Detailed record of assets received, including make, model, serial numbers, and condition.



CERTIFICATE OF DESTRUCTION

Verifies that all data-bearing devices were securely destroyed in accordance with NIST 800-88 and NAID AAA standards.



CHAIN OF CUSTODY DOCUMENTATION

Documents the movement of equipment from collection through final disposition.



ENVIRONMENTAL & MATERIAL RECOVERY REPORTS

Summarizes recovered materials and outcomes to support ESG reporting and compliance.

BATTERY SAFETY: WHY IT MATTERS



Lithium-ion batteries require specialized handling and should never be processed with general electronic scrap.

Improperly managed batteries can:

- ⚠ Cause fires during transportation and recycling
- ⚠ Damage processing equipment
- ⚠ Endanger workers
- ⚠ Interrupt recycling operations



Responsible recyclers remove batteries early in the recycling process and send them to specialized battery recycling facilities.

R2v3 DOWNSTREAM ACCOUNTABILITY



R2v3 requires certified facilities to qualify, manage, and track downstream vendors that handle controlled material streams.

This creates documented accountability beyond the first recycling facility, even when a downstream processor is not itself R2-certified.

Leading recyclers also conduct independent audits of downstream vendors to help verify responsible handling and processing throughout the recycling chain.

CERTIFICATIONS THAT MATTER



R2v3

The leading certification for responsible electronics recycling, emphasizing environmental protection, worker safety, data security, and downstream accountability.



e-Stewards

A globally recognized certification for ethical and environmentally responsible electronics recycling.



NAID AAA

Data-bearing devices are destroyed or sanitized.



ISO 9001

Quality Management Systems that promote consistent, documented processes.



ISO 14001

Environmental Management Systems focused on reducing environmental impact and continual improvement.



ISO 45001

Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems that help protect employees and promote safe operations.



When selecting an electronics recycling vendor, choose a provider that is **certified** to either **R2v3** or **e-Stewards**. If your project includes data destruction, look for a provider that also maintains **NAID AAA Certification** to help ensure secure information destruction.

Speak with an Electronics Recycling & Sustainability Specialist.



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