

E-waste, or electronic waste, is unwanted electronic equipment or devices, such as cellphones, batteries, speakers, cameras, and video game consoles. These products contain toxins such as mercury, lead, arsenic, and other materials that are hazardous to both the environment and human health if they end up in landfills. Once electronic products reach the end of their life, they should be properly recycled or disposed of in an environmentally-sound manner. E-waste is one of the fastest growing streams of solid waste in the world. In 2020 alone, Canada produced nearly a million tons of e-waste!



HOW SHOULD WE DEAL WITH E-WASTE?

Reduce: Be mindful of the products we purchase, what they are made of, and how they would need to be disposed of once you're finished with them. Consider how often we change our cellphones, laptops, and other devices.

Reuse & Recycle: Repair or refurbish electronics, or take them to be properly recycled. The components that make up electronics, such as glass, copper, and aluminum, can be recovered to create new products. This contributes to a circular economy.

LINEAR ECONOMY



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



One way to help today – learn more about e-waste, spread the word, and organize an e-waste collection in your community!

Planning Questions:

Where and when can I host a collection event?

Who will help me?

What types of e-waste will I accept?

Where will I take the e-waste I collect?

STEP I: MAKE A PLAN

- Research local e-waste recycling facilities or nearby businesses that accept different types of e-waste
- Work with your school principal or community leader to organize an e-waste collection drive
- If you need volunteers, start asking around

Advertising Questions:

What important information do I need to include?

How will I spread the word?

STEP 2: ADVERTISE THE COLLECTION

- Create flyers with the “when, where, what, & why” of your e-waste collection (see next page for resources)
- Share flyers at school, in your community, with friends and family, and on social media

Collection Event Questions:

How will I set up my station for collection?

How will I transport the materials?

How will I share more information about e-waste recycling to visitors?

STEP 3: COLLECTION DAY

- Set up your station to collect materials
- Have information from the local recycling business about how these materials will be recycled
- Be prepared to transport them safely to the recycling facility. Have an adult assist if needed

STEP 4: SHARE YOUR RESULTS

- On the last page, keep track of the items you collect and your volunteer hours. Once you're finished, answer the Feedback Questions. To complete your project, submit everything to erteens@earthrangers.com. Pictures are required!
- Tag us on Instagram [@er.teens](https://www.instagram.com/er.teens)



RESOURCES

The resources and information below can help you to get started in your e-waste research. Continue searching for more information about e-waste and local e-waste recycling facilities near you.

Important information for e-waste collection:

- Electronics should never be put in the garbage or recycling bin
- Talk to your local recycling facility to find out any important information you may need to know before running a collection drive
- Protect your privacy! Always clear all personal information from computers, cell phones and other electronics prior to collection/drop-off
- Have an adult available for support on collection day
- Refuse any items you do not feel safe collecting

Sources for e-waste information:

[Inventory of recycling programs in Canada by province \(select electronic and electronic equipment\) | Environment and Climate Change Canada](#)

- "Electronic waste (e-waste) includes unwanted electronic equipment, such as smart devices and used cables, as well as batteries and fluorescent lights (including compact fluorescent lights)."
- "The inventory of recycling programs provides links to extended producer responsibility programs, product stewardship programs, and other related initiatives across Canada."

[Electronic Waste \(e-waste\) | World Health Organization](#)

- "Less than a quarter of e-waste produced globally in 2019 was known to be formally recycled; however, e-waste streams contain valuable and finite resources that can be reused if they are recycled appropriately."
- "Once in the environment, toxic pollutants from e-waste or produced through unsound recycling activities can travel significant distances from the point of pollution, exposing people in faraway areas to health-damaging substances."

[Sustainable Future of E-waste | United Nations Environment Programme](#)

- "To put it in perspective, that's approximately 7 kilograms of E-waste per person, and this figure is expected to double by 2050 if no action is taken. Only 17% of this E-waste is properly recycled."
- "Without responsible E-waste management, particularly in regions with substantial informal recycling activities, there is an elevated risk of these substances contaminating the environment, including soil and water sources. In such informal sector, Women and children, in particular, are vulnerable, with documented effects on hormone levels and immune function due to exposure to toxic environments."

To complete your ER Teens project, fill in the tables below and answer the Feedback Questions. Then submit everything to erteens@earthrangers.com.

Collection Date & Location: _____

ITEM COLLECTED	AMOUNT	NOTES

Feedback Questions

1. What was your experience like planning and running an e-waste collection?
2. What were some challenges you ran into and how did you overcome them?
3. What is something you are proud of accomplishing with this project?
4. What advice would you share with another teen completing this project?

Volunteer Hours Log

Use this template to keep track of how and when you are actively working on this project. Pictures are required for volunteer hours.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	DATE	# OF HOURS	PHOTO
TOTAL:			