

# How much e-waste is collected in the state-mandated recycling programs?

## States with strong laws see higher takeback volumes

Twenty one states have passed e-waste recycling laws, but many programs are only just getting started or will start collecting in the next year or two. We do have collection data from a few programs so far. All states except California require the manufacturers to pay for collection and recycling of e-waste. States with “drivers” (MN, WA, OR) such as convenience standards or collection goals are seeing much higher collection rates in their first year than states without such drivers (Texas, Virginia). Only some states report breakdowns by product type. (Figures in red estimated.)

| State                       |                | Year            | Monitors               | TVs         | Computers   | Laptops                        | Other                                 | TOTAL LBS COLLECTED | Notes       | Population <sup>1</sup> | Lbs per capita <sup>2</sup> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| California                  | Year 1         | 2005            |                        |             | not covered |                                |                                       | 64,809,498          |             | 35,795,255              | 1.81                        |
|                             | Year 2         | 2006            |                        |             | not covered |                                |                                       | 127,979,144         |             | 35,979,208              | 3.58                        |
|                             | Year 3         | 2007            |                        |             | not covered |                                |                                       | 185,190,929         |             | 36,226,122              | 5.17                        |
|                             | Year 4         | 2008            |                        |             | not covered |                                |                                       | 216,062,581         |             | 36,580,371              | 5.91                        |
|                             | Year 5         | 2009            |                        |             | not covered |                                |                                       | 167,876,682         |             | 36,961,664              | 4.54                        |
| Maine                       | Year 1         | 2006            | 1,205,726              | 2,954,848   | not covered | Laptops numbers under monitors |                                       | 4,160,574           |             | 1,317,308               | 3.16                        |
|                             | Year 2         | 2007            | 1,393,775              | 3,290,682   | not covered |                                | 4095 unk                              | 4,688,552           |             | 1,314,963               | 3.57                        |
|                             | Year 3         | 2008            | 1,421,399              | 3,853,020   | not covered |                                |                                       | 5,274,419           |             | 1,319,691               | 4.00                        |
|                             | Year 4         | 2009            | 2,145,256              | 5,767,036   | not covered |                                |                                       | 7,912,292           |             | 1,318,301               | 6.00                        |
| Minnesota                   | Year 1         | 2007 - 2008     | No breakdown.          |             |             |                                | Printers, keybds, faxes, DVD players. | 33,600,000          |             | 5,191,206               | 6.47                        |
|                             | Year 2         | 2008 - 2009     |                        |             |             |                                |                                       | 30,293,194          |             | 5,230,567               | 5.84                        |
| Oklahoma<br>Dell bill       | Year 1         | 2009            | Reports due March 2010 |             |             |                                |                                       |                     |             |                         |                             |
| Oregon                      | Year 1         | 2009            | 6,144,774              | 10,817,023  | 2,031,941   | Reported under computer        |                                       | 18,993,738          |             | 3,825,657               | 4.96                        |
|                             |                | %               | 32.4%                  | 57.0%       | 10.7%       |                                |                                       |                     |             |                         |                             |
| Texas<br>Dell bill          | Year 1         | 09/08 - 12/2009 |                        | not covered |             |                                |                                       | 12,400,000          |             | 24,782,302              | 0.50                        |
| Virginia<br>Dell model bill | Year 1 partial | 2009 - 2010     |                        | not covered |             |                                |                                       | 3,782,500           | Actual 2Qs  | 7,882,590               | 0.96                        |
|                             |                |                 |                        |             |             |                                |                                       | 7,565,000           | Annual-ized | (6 mos x 2)             |                             |
| Washington                  | Year 1         | 2009            | 12,287,734             | 22,350,612  | 3,910,328   | Reported under computer        |                                       | 38,548,674          | Actual      | 6,664,195               | 5.78                        |
|                             |                | %               | 31.9%                  | 58.0%       | 10.1%       |                                |                                       |                     |             |                         |                             |
| West Virginia               | Year 1         | 2009-10         | No data                |             |             |                                |                                       |                     |             |                         |                             |

## Trends and questions

Last updated: May 3, 2010

### 1. What's the "BEST" model for legislation?

We are getting data from only a handful of state programs, and some are still in the start-up phase. So it's too early to draw firm conclusions about which models are the most effective at this point. However, we can easily see that states passing the Dell model bill (TX, VA) are seeing significantly lower results than others, collecting less than a pound per person.

### 2. What drives high collection numbers?

Some state laws include "drivers" that result in high levels of collection even in the first year:

- Collection goals: In MN, the law set a collection goal for manufacturers, tied to the amount they are selling into the state.
- Convenience requirements: WA and OR used a different driver – a convenience requirement. They don't say how much manufacturers must collect (although OR has a minimum goal) but they describe how convenient collection must be (at least one site for every county and every city of 10,000 people or more).
- All three of these states with "drivers" in their laws saw high levels of collection in year 1 – between about 5 and 6 lbs per person.

### 3. Comparing states.

To make fair comparisons, it's important to know that these programs are not all accepting the same products, and some collect from more than just households.

For instance, the California program accepts e-waste from all entities – business, consumers, etc. CA experts estimate that at least half the volume there comes from business. So those numbers should be expected to be higher than states that are only collecting from residents. Maine, MN, OK, TX, VA, and WV accept from consumers only. WA accepts from consumers, charities, small businesses, schools and small governments, but not large businesses. OR accepts from consumers, small businesses, small non-profits and anyone dropping off 7 items or less to collection points.

### 4. Dell model bill shows lowest results, even compared to just the computer results from other states

Several states have passed a bill developed by Dell. It simply requires the manufacturers to have a program of some kind, with no goals or convenience requirements. This model also doesn't cover televisions. So the results so far show volumes lower than all other states. But even if you compare the Dell bill states' results with the amount of computer equipment collected in other states, we find that the Dell states still collect lower volumes.

|                      | Lbs of Computers & Monitors Collected Year 1 | Population | Pounds per person |
|----------------------|--|------------|-------------------|
| WA (all sources)     | 16,198,802                                   | 6,664,195  | 2.43              |
| WA (just households) | 15,130,640                                   | 6,664,195  | 2.27              |
| OR                   | 8,176,715                                    | 3,825,657  | 2.14              |
| VA                   | 7,565,000                                    | 7,882,590  | 0.96              |
| TX                   | 12,400,000                                   | 24,782,302 | 0.50              |

For more information on state laws: [http://www.electronicstakeback.com/legislation/state\\_legislation.htm](http://www.electronicstakeback.com/legislation/state_legislation.htm)

<sup>1</sup> Population stats from US Census annual July estimates: <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/NST-ann-est.html>

<sup>2</sup> Pounds per capita (pounds per person in the state) is used to compare collection volumes between states with different populations.