

Recycling**Report Says New York Met Annual Goal
Of Recycling 44 Million Pounds of E-Waste**

ALBANY, N.Y.—Almost 45 million pounds of scrap electronics were collected in New York state during the first year its e-waste recycling law was in effect, according to a July 15 report from the Product Stewardship Institute.

The report, which was prepared at the request of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), found that New Yorkers recycled an average of 3.1 pounds per capita from March 2011 to March 2012, the first year of the new law. That ranked 11 out of the 21 states with e-waste recycling laws.

The report said the state met its statutory goal of recycling 44 million pounds in the first year, but recommended that the state take a number of steps to improve the program. It said, for example, that outreach and education needs to be improved by manufacturers and government agencies because a number of New Yorkers remain unaware about the law.

“While the law has resulted in critical improvements in New York’s recovery of e-waste, more work needs to be done to ensure that all New Yorkers have convenient access to safe and free electronics recycling,” Kate Sinding, senior attorney with the NRDC, said in a statement. “New York has to figure out how to better serve the residents of the nation’s most densely populated city, how to expand and maximize resources dedicated to e-waste recycling, and how to adjust to changing market forces.”

The report, which is the second of its kind from the Boston-based Institute, is based on interviews with 30 parties. It said a quantitative analysis of the law was not possible at this point because the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has failed to release data on e-recycling. The Institute’s first report found that the law increased access to e-waste collection sites for rural New Yorkers and lowered the cost for rural local governments to manage e-waste (201 DEN A-6, 10/18/12).

According to the report, there were 1,646 e-waste collection sites in the state in 2012, up from 925 in 2011. Of the 1,646 collection sites, 896 were operated by retailers, 544 by independent organizations, and 206 by local governments.

The report recommended that the state increase funding for the DEC to administer the law. It also recommended that the state closely monitor New York City’s e-cycleNYC program, which was established in October 2012; continue its ban on the disposal of cathode ray tube (CRT) glass; and require certification of e-recyclers.

BY GERALD B. SILVERMAN

The report is available at http://www.productstewardship.us/associations/6596/files/PSI%20Final%20Report%20to%20NRDC%2006-21-13.pdf?utm_source=2013.07.10+-+PRESS+RELEASE+-+Evaluation+of+New+York+EPR+Law&utm_campaign=NY+e-Waste+Report+-+PRESS+RELEASE&utm_medium=email

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