



1713 S. Broad St. #54807

Philadelphia, PA 19148

Ph: (215) 732-5897

[www.EnvironmentAmerica.org/Pennsylvania](http://www.EnvironmentAmerica.org/Pennsylvania)

Dear Legislator,

We're writing in support of [House Bill 1607](#), Representative Lisa Borowski's legislation to improve, enhance, and update Pennsylvania's electronic waste programs and infrastructure.

E-waste is the [fastest growing portion of the municipal waste stream](#) as consumers dispose of more phones, televisions, computers, and electronic devices every year. [There has been a 42% increase in e-waste generated since 2000](#). And while e-waste represents only part of the trash in landfills, it contains a disproportionate amount of heavy metals like lead and other toxic materials, posing a danger to our health and the health of our environment.

Yet Pennsylvania's current electronic waste recycling law has proven to be woefully inadequate in addressing the massive amounts of e-waste in the commonwealth. There exist numerous burdens that make it hard for well-intentioned Pennsylvanians to recycle their old electronic equipment, from limited drop-off locations to expensive drop-off fees. Given this, maybe it shouldn't be surprising that [only 30% of all electronic waste is recycled each year](#), leading to almost 28 million tons of e-waste ending up in the nation's landfills or incinerators each year. Sadly it's far too common to come across a flat screen television that has been short-dumped in an empty city lot in a Philadelphia neighborhood, or dumped onto an unsuspecting rural roadside or forest. This is emblematic of the ways that bad actors commonly illegally dump their e-waste due to the challenges that they face disposing of it legally and in an environmentally sound manner.

Electronic waste is chock-full of high-value minerals that would be much better to recycle and reuse instead of sending to landfills and incinerators like gold, copper, platinum, and silver. In fact, it's estimated that [\\$57 billion worth of high value metals and minerals](#) contained in e-waste is dumped or burned instead of captured and recycled each year. From exorbitant drop-off fees to limited drop-off locations, the difficulty with recycling e-waste leads to more expensive electronics and a lack of available resources.

That's why we need to update Pennsylvania's e-waste recycling law and programs. HB 1607 will achieve this goal by increasing funding for e-waste recycling programs, increasing the number of e-waste recycling drop-off locations, and reducing drop-off fees. This legislation is based off of best practices and the most effective e-waste laws across the country.

It's time to tackle the threat of electronic waste once and for all. Let's make Pennsylvania a national leader in the fight to rein in e-waste.