

DEVELOPING AN E-WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM IN RURAL ILLINOIS

An Abstract of
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ABSTRACT

This is an applied thesis that addresses impending statewide action on end-of-life electronics (e-waste) in Illinois. Rural Illinois communities have no feasible, cost effective option for disposing of e-waste in a responsible manner. A regional project was started in western Illinois for collection of e-waste. This study discusses hazards of e-waste, previous collection strategies, and the gap in knowledge for rural collection. Also addressed are funding methods, site logistics, project timeline, a check list for communities interested in starting an e-cycling program, and the innovative addition of household paint collection to make the project more enticing to communities and funding entities. The study length was just under one year. It has shown that such a project is not only possible but vital to public and environmental health.