

DATE: February 1, 2016  
 TO: Environment and Land Use Committee  
 FROM: Susan Monte, Planner  
 RE: Countywide Residential Electronics Collection in 2016 - Update  
 ACTION REQUEST: Approve Champaign County coordination of two CREC events in 2016

The Best Buy TV drop off recycle option (at no charge to residents) is no longer available. Starting February 1, Best Buy stopped accepting all TVs from residents for recycling (see Attachment A). Exceptions:

- if a customer purchases a 55" or larger TV from Best Buy and has it delivered to their home, then Best Buy will take back one TV for recycling.
- a customer may sign up at Best Buy's home theater section, pay \$100 for a television pick-up, and then Best Buy would arrange to pick-up and recycle a TV from a residence.

With this local TV recycle option no longer available, local government staff concerns include increased instances of abandoning TVs near secluded dumpsters, outside of local Goodwill and Salvation Army locations (also not accepting TVs), and in roadsides and ditches.

The table below describes expected costs to the County and participating local governments for one and two CREC events in 2016:

Participating Local Govt	Population (2014)	Relative %	1 Spring CREC, 6 semis	1 Spring CREC, 8 semis	2 CREC, 6 semis each	2 CREC, 8 semis each
			Cost Share \$	Cost Share \$	Cost Share \$	Cost Share \$
County portion <sup>1</sup>	72,697	0.351	5,581	7,336	11,162	14,672
City of Urbana	42,044	0.203	3,228	4,243	6,455	8,485
City of Champaign	84,513	0.408	6,487	8,527	12,974	17,054
Village of Savoy	7,879	0.038	604	794	1,210	1,588
Total:	207,133	1.000	15,900	20,900	31,800	41,800

Note:

1. County portion includes unincorporated and other municipalities within county not presently contributing

Champaign County's share of cost to support two CREC events in 2016 would range from \$11,162 to \$14,672, depending on the number of semitrailers employed.

A total of \$3,000 is allocated from the County Solid Waste Management Fund for recycling collection events in 2016. A separate budget amendment request will be forwarded to the County Board Committee of the Whole this February.

### **Request ELUC Recommend Approval**

This request is that ELUC approve Champaign County coordination and support, as described above, for two CREC events at the Parkland College host site in 2016.

Attachment A ‘Best Buy’s recycling program is changing. Here’s how and why.’ February 1, 2016



# Best Buy's recycling program is changing. Here's how and why.



By **Laura  
Bishop**

February 1, 2016

This week we introduced changes in our in-store recycling program that allow us to continue to provide this service for our customers.

We are now charging customers \$25 for each TV and computer monitor they recycle at our stores. And in two states – Illinois and Pennsylvania – we are no longer recycling these particular products because of laws that prevent us from collecting fees to help run our program. All other products – such as batteries, ink cartridges, computers, printers and hundreds of other items – continue to be recycled for free at all of our stores.



Since 2009, Best Buy has voluntarily operated the most comprehensive e-waste recycling service in the United States. We remain an industry leader and the only national retailer to provide this service. We are fully committed to being a convenient local resource for people to safely dispose of their consumer electronics and appliances. From time to time, though, we will make changes to ensure the service itself is sustainable, including charging fees to recycle certain products for which recycling costs have risen sharply. And we will continue to work closely with the consumer electronics industry to develop more and better recycling options.

Our goal has always been to simply break even on our recycling program, and we're not there today. The new fees will help cover the increasing cost of managing TV and monitor disposal through our network of stores, distribution centers and recycling partners. E-waste volume is rising, commodity prices are falling and global outlets for recycled glass, a key component of TVs and monitors, have dramatically declined. More and more cities and

counties have cut their recycling programs for budget reasons, limiting consumer options even further. While providing recycling solutions for our customers is a priority, Best Buy should not be the sole e-cycling provider in any given area, nor should we assume the entire cost.

We are particularly disappointed that we can no longer help our customers in Illinois and Pennsylvania with TV and monitor recycling simply because these state laws restrict retailers from operating recycling programs where nominal fees are charged to help offset rising costs. Customers in these states can continue to recycle hundreds of other products free at our stores, as well as take advantage of in-home haul-away options for their TVs and large appliances.

For more information about the items Best Buy accepts for recycling, visit [BestBuy.com/Recycle](http://BestBuy.com/Recycle). If we're unable to accept your product, call 1-800-RECYCLING (800-732-9254) for other local recycling options.

*Laura Bishop is Best Buy's Vice President of Public Affairs & Sustainability.*