

ELECTRICAL GOODS

Over 2 million electrical goods are sold in Australia each year. Goods such as computers, printers, scanners, and televisions can become quickly outdated and consequently large quantities are sent to landfill when they are superseded.

This system of consumption and disposal can affect the environment in several ways:

- Environmental impact of extraction of raw materials
- Waste generated during the manufacture of goods
- Hazardous materials contained within the goods such as lead, mercury, cadmium and chloroflourocarbons may become leachate in landfill and contaminate water supplies

WHAT CAN I DO?

Before buying electrical goods think about the following:

- Has the product been designed to be reused and recycled easily?
- Is the design of the product durable, and can it be upgraded?
- Can you buy a used product from a second-hand or charity store?
- Ask about the possibility of replacing component parts

You can also reduce waste by maintaining your product:

- Upgrade your computer or trade it in when buying a new one rather than throwing it away
- Maintain your appliances by following the manufacturers instructions
- Tune-up and overhaul items to keep them in good working order
- Make sure someone is at home to meet the service repairer when your appliance needs repairing
- Make use of any product take-back offers provided by retailers or manufacturers

MORE INFORMATION

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/1986-buying-green---appliances-and-electronic-goods.asp

A guide to buying green appliances and equipment