

Illinois Electronics Recycling Program



Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency

Introduction

The Illinois Statewide Electronics Recycling Program began on January 1, 2012 under the Electronics Products Recycling & Reuse Act (EPRRA). On January 1, 2019, the Consumer Electronics Recycling Act (CERA) replaced EPRRA as the statutory framework for the statewide electronics recycling program. CERA incorporated many of the lessons learned from the historic program administration, including replacing numerical annual collection goals with minimum collection site requirements for participating Illinois counties.

The statewide program offers an environmentally sound outlet for residential electronics and reduces the occurrence of open dumping which can be an environmental and economic burden for Illinois taxpayers. CERA requires manufacturers of covered electronic devices (CEDs), listed in Table 1, to register with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) the brands they offer for sale at retail to Illinois residents. These manufacturers are required to fund packaging, transportation, and the subsequent recycling of CEDs collected at participating collection locations. The list of registered manufacturers can be found on the Agency's [website](#).

Table 1. List of Covered Electronic Devices

- Computers
- Computer Monitors
- Keyboards & Mice
- Printers
- Scanners
- Fax Machines
- Small-Scale Servers
- Televisions
- DVD Players|
- DVD Recorders
- VCRs
- Cable Receivers
- Satellite Receivers
- Digital Converter Boxes
- Video Game Consoles
- Portable Music Players (with memory capabilities)

Program Participation

Illinois county participation plays an important role in program success. In total, 47 counties opted into the 2023 statewide program. Of those counties, 38 were able to run collection sites or hold collection events. Figure 1 displays a visual depiction of county participation. Approximately 86% of the Illinois population had the opportunity to use a CERA collection site or event during calendar year 2023.

Collectors and recyclers are also vital components of the statewide program. Collectors involved in the program must register each program year with the Agency. In many cases, the participating county acts as their own designated collector. A county may also designate a third party to act as their collector. Collectors must register the collection sites and events with the Agency. These sites and events are published on the Agency's website and added to our [Beyond the Bin Map](#) for public access.

Recyclers involved in the statewide program are selected and assigned to participating counties by the manufacturers. In 2023, seven recyclers were selected to participate. Registered collectors and recyclers are responsible for handling CEDs in an environmentally safe manner in accordance with state law. CERA contemplates allowing additional collectors and recyclers

maintaining independent collection and recycling networks, which may not be funded by manufacturers.

Collection Totals and Analysis

CERA requires manufacturers to annually report to the Agency the amount of CEDs collected and recycled from participating collection sites and events by device category. The eight device categories are:

1. Computers and small-scale servers
2. Computer monitors
3. Televisions
4. Printers, scanners, fax machines
5. DVD players/recorders, video players/recorders
6. Video game consoles
7. Digital converter boxes, cable and satellite receivers
8. Keyboards, mice, portable digital music players

Manufacturers reported that approximately ~9.94 million pounds of CEDs were collected from collection sites and events established under CERA in 2023.

Figure 2 illustrates the total weight amount collected by CED category. A majority of the weight collected can be attributed to televisions and accounts for 56.8% of the total weight collected. Although televisions continue to become slimmer and lighter, they remain the heaviest consumer electronic. Additionally, tube televisions persist in Illinois homes despite their phaseout in the mid- to late 2000s. Television collection numbers are expected to remain high for the future due to their size, weight, and abundance. Computer monitor and Peripherals collection numbers are also expected to increase for the future due to the technology operational shift in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The remaining device categories collected include: Printers/Scanners/Fax (12%), DVD and VCR Players/Recorders (10.3%), Computers and Small-Scale Servers (7%), Computer Peripherals (5.1%), Computer Monitors (7.4%), Cable/Satellite Equipment (1.1%), and Game Consoles (0.4%).

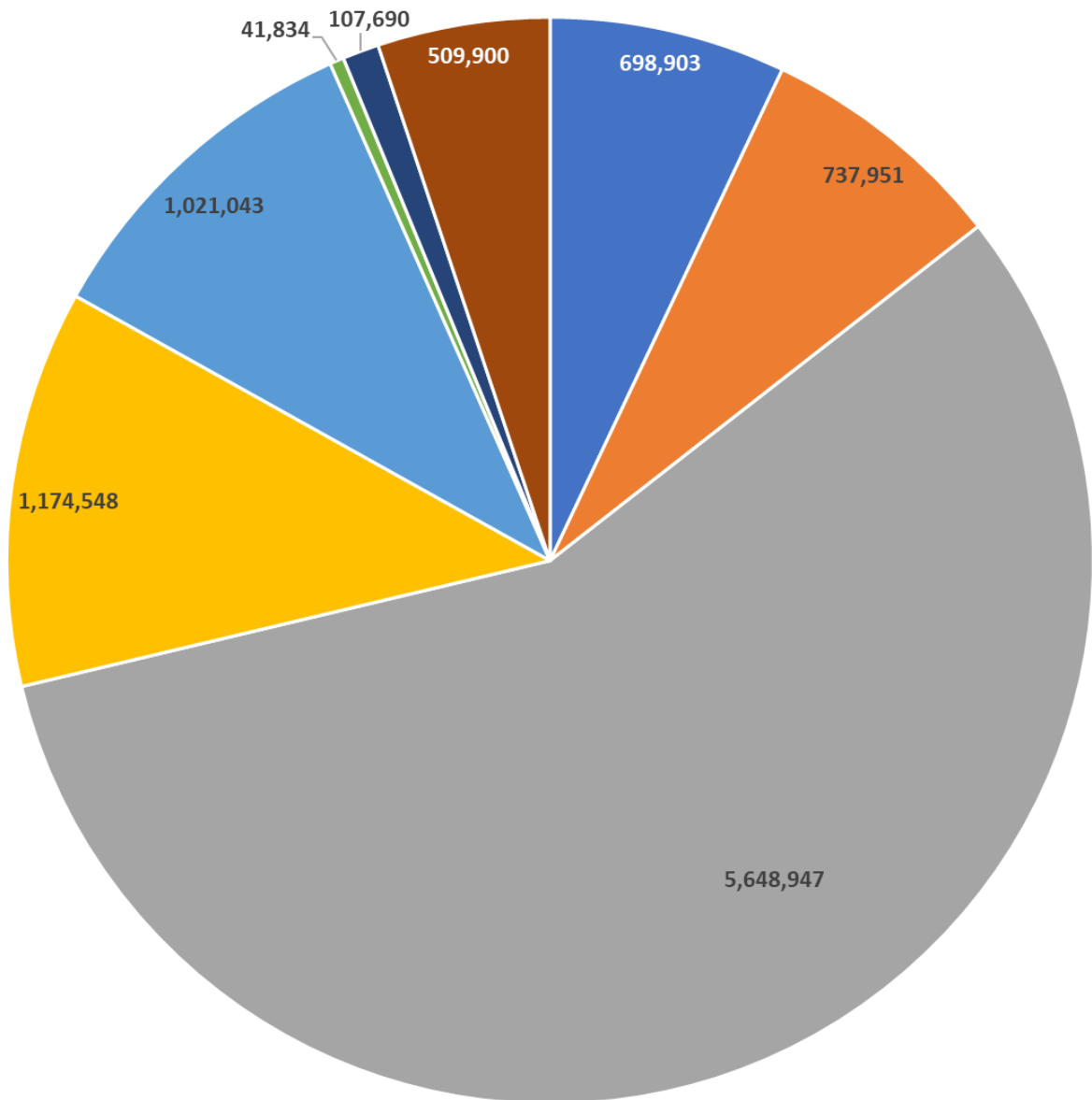
In addition, the Agency is provided with a summary of CED weight collected by each county. A summary of collection weight by county can be found in Table 2. The top four counties by collected weight are Lake County, Will County, DuPage County, and Kane County. These counties represent the four out of the five largest Illinois counties by population size.

CERA is among the first of several electronic recycling statutes enacted in the United States. Analysis of program effectiveness is on-going as more data is collected each year. Nine counties that had opt-ed into the program were ultimately unable to provide collection services during 2023 due to the budgeting, infrastructure, and staffing restraints following the COVID-19 pandemic reopening measures. Additionally, some new collection sites awaited construction and opening, and many collection events were postponed. Therefore, the 2023 program was

significantly impacted. Program year 2023 brought in 266 thousand fewer pounds when compared to program year 2022. A decrease in total weight collected was anticipated. Despite these challenges, local governments and recyclers worked diligently to re-open collection sites and hold collection events throughout the program year. This was largely achieved by taking additional measures to protect the health and safety of employees and residents so that this important program could continue to benefit local communities and the environment.

Please contact Archana Uppuluri at (217) 524-9303 or email EPA.Recycling@illinois.gov if you have any questions related to this report or the Illinois Statewide Electronics Recycling Program.

Figure 2. Total CED Weight (lbs.) Collected in 2023 Under CERA



- Computers and Small-scale servers
- TVs
- DVD players, DVD recorders, VCRs
- Digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers
- Computer Monitors
- Printers, Fax machines, Scanners
- Game consoles
- Peripherals

Table 2. CED weight (lbs.) Collected by Illinois Counties in 2022 Under CERA

County	Weight (lbs.) Collected by County (2023)
Bond	33,027
Boone	83,122
Bureau	30,764
Champaign	161,259
Cook	371,818
Dupage	1,290,024
Fulton	59,685
Grundy	39,201
Hancock	20,991
Henderson	7,213
Henry	53,469
Jackson	310,157
Jasper	35,330
Kane	984,862
Kankakee	125,076
Knox	66,846
Lake	1,649,020
LaSalle	108,129
Lee	53,497
Livingston	83,092
Macon	79,934
Madison	99,507
Marshall	41,620
McDonough	51,161
McHenry	441,616
McLean	517,262
Mercer	30,498
Ogle	115,583
Peoria	963,313
Perry	16,676
Schuyler	18,039
Vermillion	76,705
Warren	39,353
Wayne	14,707
Whiteside	174,776
Will	1,396,691
Winnebago	296,795
TOTAL	9,940,818

* Collection numbers do not include non-opt-in counties, municipal programs outside of CERA, private programs, retailers, for profit businesses, or non-profits.