E-Waste Recycling Overview
About 3R Technology

- Founded in 2003.
- We are an IT Asset Disposition company
- Two reuse stores (Georgetown and North Seattle).
- Recycled over 3 million pounds of e-waste in 2019
Why is E-waste a problem?
There’s a lot of e-waste

• E-waste is the fastest growing municipal waste stream in America, according to the EPA.

• E-waste represents 2% of America's trash in landfills, but it equals 70% of overall unsafe waste.

• An estimated 50 million tons of E-waste are generated globally each year.

• The USA discards 30 million computers each year.

• Only 12.5% of E-waste is currently recycled.
E-Waste Contains Hazardous Materials

Lead

Cadmium

Mercury

Chromium Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)
It gets exported

• Some is sent to China and Africa where there are fewer environmental laws.

• Not illegal to export.

• Less economic incentive to export these days and more oversight.
What to look for when choosing an e-waste recycler

• Certifications
• Data Destruction
• Logistics
• Reporting
• Reuse Options
Electronics Recycling Certifications

- Basel Action Network (BAN)
- Sustainable Electronics International (SERI)
Certification Requirements

• Pass annual 3rd party audits
• Restrictions on exporting e-waste.
• ISO 14001:2015
• ISO 45001:2018
• Emergency Plans
• Data Destruction Requirements
DATA DESTRUCTION

DATA WIPE: Software is used to securely wipe hard drives that get reused.
- What software is used?

HARD DRIVE SHRED: Hard drives are mechanically shredded into small bits.
- Offer onsite shred?
NAID Certification

- Administered by the National Association for Information Destruction
- NAID does unannounced audits
- Require companies to meet certain data destruction procedures, regulations and insurance levels.
Logistics

• Can the company do safe pickups?

• When?

• National coverage?
Reporting

- Settlement Reports
- Data Destruction
- Customer Portal
Does the recycler reuse?

• Recycling is not reuse (It’s taking it apart)

• Remarket (Get paid for it)

• Donate (Give it away)
Remarket

• Not all computers can get reused.

• Look for companies that do retail sales since they will pay more (store, online)

• Some companies pay outright and some do profit share
Donate

• Does the charity/nonprofit have a computer reuse program?

• Do they erase data?

• Do they have a need for used tech?
Conclusion

• E-waste contains hazardous materials

• Use criteria when choosing an E-waste recycler

• Ask questions. Certifications are good, but not fool proof.
Thank You!

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