

Atlantic electronics stewardship designates drop-off locations

Nova Scotia residents and businesses are now able to responsibly recycle unwanted electronics through drop-off centers located around the province. Through a competitive bid process, 31 locations have been established as Atlantic Canada Electronics Stewardship (ACES) drop-off depots.

These centers will accept unwanted electronics regulated under Nova Scotia's Electronic Products Stewardship Program Regulation that went into effect on Feb. 1. Additional sites will be established

across the province to address any gaps in coverage. Electronic products that must be recycled through the ACES program include televisions, computers, laptops, monitors, printers, mice, keyboards, cables and other components within the computer.

"We believe these sites will be an important addition to the expanding environmental network across Nova Scotia, and we look forward to qualifying and opening new sites. The collection network is a critical piece of the infrastructure that will help ensure that

these products are collected and recycled in a safe and responsible manner," says Sean De Vries, chair of ACES and environmental manager for Panasonic Canada.

ACES is an industry-led, provincially-incorporated, not-for-profit association that has developed an electronics recycling program approved by Nova Scotia. The province's Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc, is assisting ACES with implementation of this program, which ensures that the end-of-life electronics will be responsibly recycled and not shipped illegally to developing nations.

"Nova Scotia has the highest recycling rates in Canada and this program will further Nova Scotia's reputation as a leader in recycling and composting," says Richie Cotton, chair of the Regional Chairs Waste-Resource Management Regions.

The new recycling program will be funded by an environmental handling fee (EHF) charged on the sale of new electronic products that are regulated under Nova Scotia law. The fees collected by ACES will only be used to cover the actual costs related to the collection, transportation, administration and recycling of these electronic items.

Brand Owner: Defined...

A 'brand owner' is responsible under the Nova Scotia Electronic Products Stewardship Program Regulation for: Participating in an approved stewardship program plan that provides for the responsible recycling of certain end-of-life electronics also identified in the regulation.

If you are a:

1. Manufacturer
2. First importer
3. Distributor
4. Multi-provincial retailer
5. Nova Scotia-only retailer
6. Internet and/or catalog seller

7. Computer assembler
8. Value-added reseller or
9. Licensee or owner of a regulated electronic product brand name and you sell any regulated new electronic product in or into Nova Scotia, YOU MUST participate in an approved stewardship program plan.

Atlantic Canada Electronics Stewardship (ACES) currently provides the only approved stewardship program plan - there is no cost to join.

To become an ACES member and find out exactly what your obligations are under the regulation, visit www.acesstewardship.ca and review the online (pdf) registration package.

EU ROHS Enforcement



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7. General enforcement implemented. After the completion of the preceding 6 stages, the beginning of general enforcement is often anti-climactic. With a validated process in place, the EU Member State begins enforcement within the limits of its budget and its enforcement model. Depending on the EU Member State and the enforcement model chosen, only a portion of enforcement is public in nature; many Member States see public enforcement as the most severe form of enforcement. Any public enforcement represents only a fraction of the enforcement occurring.

So at what stage are the EU Member States? The UK, Belgium, and Denmark completed their trial enforcement projects in 2007. These three Member States completed over three hundred (300) RoHS enforcement investigations during their initial enforcement projects with a RoHS compliance failure rate well over 50%.

The EU RoHS Directive has been transposed into Member State legislation, the enforcement agencies are in place, and have completed their trial enforcement projects. The non-compliance rate was found to be unacceptably high and enforcement is expected to increase both in number of inspections and severity of punishment in 2008. Some companies may decide to ignore these warnings and continue on as if RoHS enforcement is only a concept, however all indicators point to 2008 as the year of RoHS enforcement.

For more information on innovative services and strategies for global environmental compliance from Intertek Ageus Solutions (www.ageusolutions.com), <http://ept.hotims.com/16414-131>.

Green make-over

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replaced less frequently, reducing the impacts of producing replacements.

- Incorporate into the re-design a plan or more evolved plan for reuse and recycling: Products, processes, and systems should be designed for performance in a commercial 'afterlife'.
- For B2B, consider bulk packaging with recyclable materials instead of individual packaging.
- Provide instructions and contact information urging the consumer to recycle

the product after its normal life cycle. Consult the National Center for Electronics Recycling for more information, <http://www.electronicrecycling.org>

Once a product has gone through a green re-design, the results should yield a product that:

- uses less energy and raw materials;
- contains fewer toxic constituents;
- is designed for easy upgrading or disassembly;
- provides a savings on production by using energy and materials more efficiently;
- is produced in less time due to increased efficiencies;
- provides a leasing or take-back option;
- has improved whole systems functions

- such products have a more efficient manufacturing process, last longer and work better for end users;

- increased profit from a more efficient product with an extended life span.

Unlike most industries, the rapid pace of innovation in electronics technology makes for a constant demand for newer and faster products and applications. Coupled with the fact that today's parts and materials cost less than the original components, a green make-over could be a relatively easy and inexpensive route to choose that will mean success for both the product and the firm.

For more information on initiating the process of green re-design from ARMA Design, <http://ept.hotims.com/16414-130>.

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