

## LANDFILL BAN REQUIRES CITY RESIDENTS TO RECYCLE

June 30, 2011

Effective July 1, City of Albemarle residents can no longer place old televisions and computers at curbside for collection. Small electronic items should not be put in curbside containers. A new State law prohibits the disposal of the following items into North Carolina landfills:

- Televisions
- Computers (Desktops, monitors and laptops)
- Computer Keyboards and Mice
- Printers, scanners and fax machines

The law was approved in July 2010 and scheduled to take effect July 1, 2011. As outlined in the law, the General Assembly “recognizes that discarded televisions and computer equipment are rapidly growing and complex waste streams”. The ban addresses the potential for toxic materials, such as cadmium, mercury and lead found in some electronics to enter the waste stream. Ellen Lorscheider, N.C. Division of Waste Management spokeswoman, said the new law’s goal is to reduce landfills’ risk of possible contamination from metals used to make electronic equipment.

An added benefit of the new law is the increase in valuable parts from electronic equipment that will be available for reuse. According to the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, state residents average tossing five to six pounds of electronic equipment per capita each year. Most of these items contain materials that have value and can be reused.

Residents can collect their televisions and computers at the following:

- The City of Albemarle Landfill will accept electronic items for recycling. All items are subject to a small disposal fee. For more information, call 704-982-3302.
- Stanly County/City of Albemarle Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day held each spring.

All computer manufacturers are required to offer at least a free mail-back program for their own equipment, and some will offer additional types of recycling options. A comprehensive list of recycling options for residents can be found at [p2pays.org/electronics/](http://p2pays.org/electronics/).

More information can be found at the following links:

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wm/sw/electronics/consumer-information>

<http://www.p2pays.org/electronics/household-opportunities.asp>

<http://www.p2pays.org/citizens.asp>