



DTV Transition: The Importance of Establishing PDOs

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The FCC mandated TV signal switch to digital is exactly 10 months away from today, Feb.17,2009 and the U.S. as a nation hardly seems ready. Looking at the chart below (pink row), should the U.S. wait for legislation to be passed on electronic waste such as televisions and computers before we put "public sector" infrastructure in place such as Permanent Drop Offs (PDOs)? Or should we be pro-active and create the necessary "public sector" infrastructure to handle the residential electronic waste stream to prove to our state legislators that the U.S. is ready for federal E-waste legislation?

Regardless of your answer to the questions above, the results in the chart below for the non-legislated E-waste states in the Midwest depict a probable representation of all 45 non-legislated states. When you analyze the data, you'll arrive at the obvious conclusion that we look like **we aren't even trying** to put infrastructure in place to be part of the solution for the DTV transition.

Although this is only representative of the Midwestern states of Michigan , Illinois , Wisconsin , Indiana , and Ohio , we are also tabulating the same data for at least 20 more non-legislated states and are predicting the same results.

With or without legislation, we need infrastructure to solve this problem. Once we create the proper infrastructure, it should by default, help pass legislation.

NOTE: If only 10% of the total amount of analog TVs in existence in all the states come into the waste stream due to households replacing their analog TVs with digital TVs beginning in 2009, and continuing forward, the U.S. will be depositing 585 million pounds of toxic waste into land fills per year until we come up with a solution (see <http://www.classiccomputerrecovery.com/TVstorm.htm> and scroll down to the chart on Toxic Metals in Televisions) .

	Illinois	Michigan	Ohio	Wisconsin	Indiana
Total Counties	102	83	88	72	92
Public Sector¹ PDOs / PDOs that accept TVs	23/15	11/11	3/3	12/10	5/4
Conclusion	15/102	11/83	3/88	10/72	4/92
Percentage	15%	13.30%	3.40%	13.90%	4.30%
PDOs² that do not accept E-waste³					
Public Sector	28	30	56	28	67
Private Sector⁴	0	0	0	0	0
Total	28	30	56	28	67
PDOs that accept E-waste					
Public	25	17	9	13	9
Private	24	4	40	23	20
Total	49	21	49	36	29
From above, how many accept TVs					
Public	23	11	3	12	5
Private	24	4	22	16	10
Total	47	15	25	28	15
Charge Residents \$ / PDOs that accept TVs					
Public	10/23	6/11	1/3	10/12	2/5
Private	21/24	4/4	16/22	16/16	10/10
Total	31/47	10/15	17/25	26/28	12/15

Free to Residents / PDOs that accept TVs					
Public	13/23	5/11	2/3	2/12**	3/5
Private	3/24	0/4	6/22	0/16	0/10
Total	16/47	5/15	8/25	2/28	3/15
TDOs⁶ that collect E-waste					
Public	5	3	5	2	1
Private	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	3	5	2	1
One Day^d collection events that accept E-waste (by County)					
Public	5 Cnties	9 Cnties	3 Cnties	2 Cnties	6 Cnties
Private	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	9	3	2	6
Counties / PDOs that collect everything	77/30	51/18	105/28	64/22	96/20
Non Profits⁷ that collect E-waste		apx. 50			2
How many of those collect TVs		7			1
Total # of counties that have E-waste collections in the form of PDO, TDO, One Day, or Private	30	27	21	17	22
Counties that have collections from the PUBLIC sector in the above counties	20	27	11	15	12

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Public Sector¹ - city, county, DPW, Recyc. Auth, landfill, FWA

PDO² - Permanent Drop Off

E-waste³ - electronics that need to be recycled

Private Sector⁴ - Privately owned business

TDO⁵ - Temporary Drop Off, a monthly designated day of collection of E-waste plus other recyclables

One Day⁶ - events held by county or city for one day only, usually hold 1-3 times a year.

Non Profits⁷ (Goodwill, Habitat, etc.)

**The 2 free sites put the TVs in a landfill

Please note that the private sector is not required by city or state to accept E-waste and TVs. These privately owned companies could change what they accept at any time.

The Solid Waste TV Problem:

Currently, in 45 states there is no E-waste legislation preventing residents from throwing out their old analog TVs with their weekly garbage over the next few years.

Trucks will “tip” their loads into landfills with the lead-based hazardous material inherent in all analog TVs if the U.S. as a nation doesn’t take an active role in preventing this from happening.

By promoting and establishing Permanent Drop Offs (PDOs) through "public sector" entities throughout the nation, the U.S. would ADVANCE the recycling industry. First and foremost we would be encouraging our cities, counties and therefore our

States to have their residential community recycle the most popular waste streams (paper, plastic, metal cans, glass and cardboard). Secondly, we could tag onto those waste streams TVs, computers, household appliances, rubber tires, car batteries, textiles (clothing) and hazardous liquids such as paint, oil, and gasoline. Finally, we would be putting the *first wave* of proper infrastructure in place for what is needed to ASSIST in solving the potential solid waste disaster with TVs going into landfills. Although PDOs by themselves will not solve the entire problem, they will certainly initiate the *wheel* to start turning and COMPEL the legislators to consider passing legislation.

In anticipation of *one TV recycled from 25% of all households, otherwise stated as 10% of all analog TVs in existence*, state and local governments, in cooperation with private E-waste recyclers, must prepare an infrastructure.

The bottom line is that there aren't nearly enough "public sector" PDO sites for TVs and computer electronic recycling on a state by state basis in regards to the upcoming Analog to Digital TV transition (as evidenced by the chart above). **Every county should have at least one "public sector" PDO** to assist in managing the volumes of TVs being disposed of over the next few years and thereby create a full scale recycling drop off facility for all residential waste streams.

We can't stress the point enough that the FCC mandated switch to Digital TV signal has the MEDIA POWER and the PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN publicity to catapult the E-waste industry into the ECONOMIC and ENVIRONMENTAL FORCE it should be. If the U.S. and all of the industry players take advantage of the power of this historic technology event in TV broadcasting, it will exponentially affect all forms of recycling, which will create tons of jobs, which will all contribute to saving our economy and the planet.