

# Electronics Recycling in the News

Recent articles in the Denver Post [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_16713183](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_16713183) and Boulder Daily Camera [http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci\\_16667696?source=pkg](http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci_16667696?source=pkg) profile organizations that claim to handle electronics recycling responsibly but then send them to auctions, prisons, or export them. Read more at: Government auctions in Colorado feed global trade in toxic e-waste — The Denver Post [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_16713183](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_16713183).

Not only do such practices risk the security of information that may be residing in your electronics, but toxic materials from those electronics can end up in landfills or dumped in other countries. Below are some questions to ask to determine whether your electronics recycling company is following responsible recycling practices.

## What to ask electronics recyclers

Not all electronics recyclers are equally responsible. Here are some questions to ask if you want to be sure your old electronics are handled properly.

- 1 **How much do you charge?** Free recycling can be a red flag. Safe recycling practices generally cost something.

Metech Recycling charges fees for recycling based on the type of material and the size or volume of the material. Businesses or others with high volume e-waste may call for a quote for pickup, secure data destruction, and recycling services.

- 2 **Do you resell or export untested electronics?** Exporting equipment that's non-working or untested can shift the toxic burden of dilapidated electronics to developing countries.

Metech Recycling does not resell or export untested, non-working electronics.

- 3 **What happens to the dismantled parts?**

Metech Recycling dismantles electronics in our collection and processing centers. Data containing devices are securely shredded to eliminate access to any residual data even if drives are "wiped". Component materials are separated by type (plastics, wire, glass, copper, circuit boards, etc.). Metech Recycling selects and audits downstream partners that share our same high standards of environmental stewardship to ensure that these materials are responsibly returned to the manufacturing stream.

- 4 **Are you certified under the e-Stewards or R2 third-party programs?**

Metech Recycling is certified under the ISO 14001 standard, which addresses quality in environmental management. The BAN e-Stewards certification is the most stringent of environmental standards for recycling electronic waste. Metech Recycling is a founding member of the e-Stewards program, we have undergone 3rd party e-Stewards audits and are awaiting final e-Stewards certification.

For more information about Metech Recycling, lists of materials we recycle, quotes for recycling electronics, or our commitment to e-Stewards standards, please call 866.479.4920 or visit [www.metechrecycling.com](http://www.metechrecycling.com)

