

# OP 21: Hazardous Waste Management

1 point available

## A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that seek to minimize and safely dispose of all hazardous, universal, and non-regulated chemical waste and that have electronic waste (“e-waste”) recycling and/or reuse programs. Hazardous waste typically contains toxic components such as lead and mercury that can contaminate soil and groundwater and have detrimental human health impacts if handled improperly. At the same time, e-waste contains components that can be recycled. Likewise, computers, cellular phones, and other electronic materials can be donated or re-sold at reduced cost to non-profit organizations and community groups. Given the environmental and workplace health hazards that arise from hazardous waste disposal and e-waste recycling, this credit is reserved for programs that take steps to ensure that workers’ basic safety is protected and environmental standards are met.

## B. Criteria

### Part 1

Institution has strategies in place to safely dispose of all hazardous, special (e.g., coal ash), universal, and non-regulated chemical waste and seeks to minimize the presence of these materials on campus.

### Part 2

Institution has a program in place to recycle, reuse, and/or refurbish electronic waste generated by the institution and/or its students. Institution ensures that the electronic waste is recycled responsibly by using a recycler certified under the [e-Stewards](#)® and/or [Responsible Recycling](#) (R2) standards.

## C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions.

## D. Scoring

Each part of the credit is scored separately.

### Part 1

Institutions earn 0.5 points for meeting the criteria outlined above. Partial points are not available for Part 1.

### Part 2

Institutions earn the maximum of 0.5 points available for Part 2 for having or participating in a program to responsibly recycle, reuse, and/or refurbish electronic waste generated by both the institution and its students. Partial points are available. For example, an institution whose program includes recycling, reusing, and/or refurbishing electronic waste generated by the institution or its students, but not by both, would earn 0.25 points (half of the points available for Part 2).

## E. Reporting Fields

### Required

- ☐ Does the institution have strategies in place to safely dispose of all hazardous, special (e.g., coal ash), universal, and non-regulated chemical waste and seek to minimize the presence of these materials on campus?

*If yes, provide the following:*

- A brief description of steps taken to reduce hazardous, special (e.g., coal ash), universal, and non-regulated chemical waste
  - A brief description of how the institution safely disposes of hazardous, universal, and non-regulated chemical waste
  - A brief description of any significant hazardous material release incidents during the previous three years, including volume, impact and response/remediation
  - A brief description of any inventory system employed by the institution to facilitate the reuse or redistribution of laboratory chemicals
- ☐ Does the institution have or participate in a program to responsibly recycle, reuse, and/or refurbish electronic waste generated by the institution?
- ☐ Does the institution have or participate in a program to responsibly recycle, reuse, and/or refurbish electronic waste generated by students?

*If yes to either of the above, provide:*

- A brief description of the electronic waste recycling program(s), including information about how electronic waste generated by the institution and/or students is recycled
  - Is the institution's electronic waste recycler certified under the e-Stewards and/or Responsible Recycling (R2) standards?

### Optional

- ☐ Electronic waste recycled or otherwise diverted from the landfill or incinerator during the most recent year for which data is available during the previous three years (short tons/tonnes)
- ☐ The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

## F. Measurement

### Timeframe

Report on current programs at the time of submission.

### Sampling and Data Standards

Not applicable

## **G. Standards and Terms**

### **e-Stewards**

The [e-Stewards](#) certification program for electronics recyclers is designed to enable individuals and organizations who dispose of their old electronic equipment to easily identify recyclers that adhere to the highest standard of environmental responsibility and worker protection. e-Stewards Certification is open to electronics recyclers, refurbishers and processors in all developed countries.

### **Responsible Recycling**

The Responsible Recycling ([R2\) Standard](#) sets forth requirements relating to environmental, health, safety, and security aspects of electronics recycling. R2 also requires e-recyclers to assure that more toxic material streams are managed safely and responsibly by downstream vendors-all the way to final disposition. It also prohibits e-recyclers and their downstream vendors from exporting these more toxic materials to countries that have enacted laws making their import illegal.