

1                   **RECYCLING OF ELECTRONIC WASTE JOINT**

2                                   **RESOLUTION**

3   2009 GENERAL SESSION

4   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Chief Sponsor: Scott D. McCoy**

6                                   House Sponsor: Rebecca Chavez-Houck

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8   **LONG TITLE**

9   **General Description:**

10           This joint resolution of the Legislature urges the Utah Department of Environmental  
11   Quality to work with the Recycling Coalition of Utah to develop recommendations for  
12   addressing electronic waste.

13   **Highlighted Provisions:**

14           This resolution:

- 15           ▶ encourages Utahns to reduce electronic waste and reuse or recycle electronic items;
- 16           ▶ urges the Utah Department of Environmental Quality to continue working with the  
17   Recycling Coalition of Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee and other  
18   interested stakeholders to assess electronic waste issues in the state;
- 19           ▶ urges the Recycling Coalition of Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee to  
20   study and make recommendations regarding electronic recycling to the Department  
21   of Environmental Quality for potential implementation in Utah; and
- 22           ▶ urges the Recycling Coalition of Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee to  
23   report its findings and recommendations to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and  
24   Environment Interim Committee.

25   **Special Clauses:**

26           None

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28   *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29           WHEREAS, in 2008 the Consumer Electronics Association reported that the average

30 household has 24 electronic products, including computers, monitors, televisions, cell phones,  
31 audio/video, and other electronic products;

32 WHEREAS, the weight of electronic products being discarded by Utahns this year will  
33 be approximately 240,000,000 pounds, 5% or more of total disposal residential waste, and will  
34 continue to increase at significant rates as Utahns upgrade to more sophisticated models or  
35 replace electronic equipment;

36 WHEREAS, many of these electronic waste products contain hazardous substances  
37 such as lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants;

38 WHEREAS, these hazardous substances, when released into the environment, have  
39 caused health problems in humans, fish, other aquatic species, and wildlife;

40 WHEREAS, the increasing volumes and types of electronic waste are also burdening  
41 local community resources and depleting both valuable and limited landfill space;

42 WHEREAS, local and national recycling businesses are able to disassemble and  
43 process components of most electronic waste in an environmentally safe and cost effective  
44 manner;

45 WHEREAS, businesses recycling electronic waste provide jobs in Utah and may  
46 provide reusable computer resources for education;

47 WHEREAS, Utah communities are struggling to address the collection and recycling  
48 of electronic waste on their own;

49 WHEREAS, many states have implemented, or are currently evaluating, electronic  
50 recycling regulations to assist local communities and provide statewide collaboration;

51 WHEREAS, the not-for-profit Recycling Coalition of Utah has formed an Electronic  
52 Scrap Steering Committee, composed of representatives from the Utah Department of  
53 Environmental Quality, local governments, electronic scrap recyclers, and other interested  
54 parties; and

55 WHEREAS, the Recycling Coalition of Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee  
56 has begun discussing ways to more systematically address these issues:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah

58 encourages all Utah residents to reduce electronic waste and reuse or recycle electronic items.

59           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Utah Department of  
60 Environmental Quality to continue working with the Recycling Coalition of Utah's Electronic  
61 Scrap Steering Committee and with other interested stakeholders to collaboratively assess the  
62 electronic waste issues in Utah.

63           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Recycling Coalition of  
64 Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee to review electronic recycling activities of other  
65 states, and develop recommendations to present to the Department of Environmental Quality  
66 for potential implementation in Utah.

67           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Recycling Coalition of  
68 Utah's Electronic Scrap Steering Committee to report its findings and recommendations to the  
69 Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee of the Legislature by  
70 October 31, 2009.

71           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Recycling  
72 Coalition of Utah, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah League of Cities  
73 and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, and the chairs of the Natural Resources,  
74 Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee.