



Global Sustainability & Compliance | STAR News

Period 5, Fiscal Year 2022

Electronics are recyclable, too



As personal technology continues to advance, electronics are becoming more prevalent in everyone's day-to-day lives. This raises the question of how to manage these products at the end of their useful life. As a company we have made the effort to do all we can to find the most sustainable options, for environmental and budgetary reasons.

Costco maintains a robust electronics recycling program through our partnership with Electronic Recyclers International (ERI). We are able to manage both member returns and retired company assets through ERI, ensuring the highest levels of sensitive data destruction alongside material recovery through their e-scrap shredding system. This process allows ERI to bring materials down to the commodity level and separate them by category, such as plastic, metal, precious metals and glass. Then the commodities are sent to downstream processors for recycling. Since the beginning of our partnership, Costco has recycled nearly 48 million pounds of electronic items through ERI.

Here are some tips to help your location manage your electronics recycling:


- Costco spent nearly **\$2 million** in fiscal year 2021 shipping electronics via FedEx Less-than-Truckload (LTL) to ERI. You can greatly reduce this cost by building higher, more compacted pallets. The idea of “getting it off the floor and out the door” is hurting your budget. Avoid shipping your ERI pallets until they are completely full.



- The ERI pallet should not be a catchall. Please remember to check SWI and STOP instructions for all items. RTV/RTC or Salvage options will always be the best option for returned items. Locations will be charged extra for non-electronic waste.
- Have you ever wondered what to do with your own old electronics? ERI has partnered with [Recycle Nation](#), to develop an online service that allows users to find nationwide disposal/recycling centers in their local area.

DID YOU KNOW:

By responsibly recycling over 47.98 million pounds of electronics, the equivalent of 54,640 U.S. households' annual garbage generation has been diverted from disposal to beneficial reuse. By the numbers:




1.32 Million
pounds of Glass



19.52 Million
pounds of Metals
(such as copper,
steel & aluminum)



7.74 Million
pounds of Plastics



6.59 Million
pounds of Materials sent
for precious metal extraction
(such as gold, silver, lead &
palladium)



298,136



8.42 Million



777,149