

SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OR MUNICIPAL GOVERNING BODY LETTER
URGING STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT E-WASTE BILL – customize as appropriate for your town,
adding information about impacts or concerns specific to your town or situation.

Dear Senator/Assemblyman (woman) _____

We are writing to inform you of a serious situation that is occurring in New Jersey's towns and counties. Problems related to implementation of New Jersey's *Electronic Waste Management Act* (NJSA 13:1E-99.94 et seq), compounded by the Governor's pocket veto of proposed revisions (A-4763) to the law in late 2015 **have resulted in the recent shutdown of over half of the counties' e-waste collection programs across the state**. Municipal e-waste collections that were tied to county programs, **such as our Environmental Commission's annual e-waste collection day**, are also now halted. Many free e-waste collections by retailers have shut down or (like Best Buy) are charging a fee for items, some rather steep, and not accepting equipment over a certain size.

As you know, it is illegal to dispose of televisions, computers and monitors in the regular trash stream, due to the hazardous materials contained in these products. Without the retail and county free collection programs, e-waste is piling up and a trend toward illegal dumping has begun. This is bad for the environment and the quality of life in our community. Residents have become accustomed to disposing of e-waste properly because of the availability of convenient, free drop-off locations, and will be shocked to learn that this system has collapsed. They have few good options at this point.

The Senate and Assembly have picked up the bill the Governor vetoed, and it is again making its way through committees as A-2375/S-981. This bill will fix some of the provisions in the law that have allowed manufacturers of e-waste to shirk their obligation to support the safe disposal of the products they produce.

Our **Environmental Commission/Borough/Township** urges your active support for A-2375/S-981, to get New Jersey's e-waste collection system back in order quickly. We are anxious to re-institute our e-waste collection day, and to inform our residents that they can properly dispose of computers and televisions responsibly once again. We also ask that you help the Governor's office understand the importance of this bill to New Jersey's communities, and urge him to sign the bill immediately once it passes the Legislature.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,