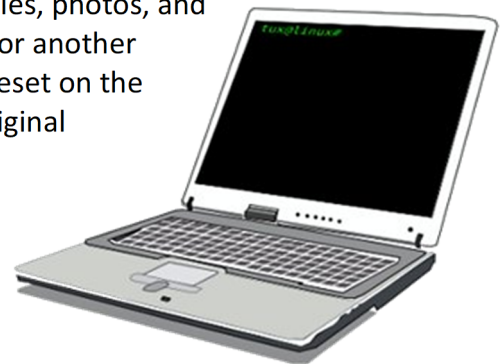


# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## Properly Preparing Your Electronics for Recycling

As technology rapidly evolves, the lifecycle of our devices keeps on shrinking, which has resulted in an ever-increasing amount of old electronic devices in need of recycling. Luckily there are plenty of available options for recycling electronics to help conserve these valuable resources and minimize our environmental impact. However, before handing over your old computers or smartphones for recycling, it is essential to prepare them properly to ensure any person information is adequately removed or erased.

- **Data Backup & Device Reset** - Download important files, photos, and contact lists to an external hard drive, cloud storage, or another secure location. After backing up, perform a factory reset on the device to erase all personal data, returning it to its original settings.
- **Remove External Accessories** - Remove memory cards, SIM cards, batteries, chargers, and other peripherals that can be reused or recycled separately.
- **Data Destruction:** Any remaining data, such as personal records or passwords, can be secured by using data erasure software or physically destroying storage components. Information is available online for tackling either method.



For information on where to recycle your old electronic devices, visit [www.gainesvillefl.gov/WasteWizard](http://www.gainesvillefl.gov/WasteWizard).

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