



## *Electronics Stewardship Association of BC*

Examining the Belly of the Beast: An Introduction  
to Sustainable Consumption for Local Government

Responsible and Safe Electronics Recycling

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# Background

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- The ESABC Stewardship Program is an industry led extended producer responsibility program which is designed to ensure that producers and consumers not municipal taxpayers fund the cost of recycling obligated products.
- The ESABC program is funded by a visible Electronic Handling Fee levied on the sale of new products sold by ESABC members.
- The EHF is not a tax. 100% of the funds collected are used to cover the costs of operating the ESABC recycling program.

# Background

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- ESABC Membership of 1408 includes major producers & retailers of electronics in British Columbia
- Return-It Electronics program launched August 1, 2007
- Industry through ESABC is diverting electronic waste from landfills in an environmentally responsible manner
- ESABC is in the process of expanding its program to cover a greatly expanded range of materials commencing July 1, 2010.
- ESABC is working hard to establish and maintain safe and responsible standards and an efficient system

# Background

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- 97 Collection Sites (up from 70 at launch)
- Encorp 59, Regional Districts 7; Not for profit organizations 28 (including Salvation Army); Provincial government 2
- 13 drop-off events operated in remote communities
- 5 consolidation centres – Nanaimo, Castlegar, Coquitlam, Prince George, Kelowna
- 1408 members
  - Remitters 956
  - POP 452

# ESABC Independent Audit Process

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What ESABC is trying to prevent



Migrant child from Hunan province sits atop one of countless piles of unrecyclable computer waste imported from around the world. Guiyu, China. December 2001.

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# ESABC Independent Audit Process

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- Our goal is an electronic stewardship program that is efficient and managed to a high environmental standard. This process requires a rigorous audit of recyclers who apply to participate in the ESABC program.

## Audit Process:

- Managed by a third-party.
- Takes about 6-8 months to complete an assessment.
- Three recyclers approved to date: Teck Cominco, E-Cycle and Sims; we expect a number of new recyclers be approved in 2009.
- Must meet ESABC industry standards outlined in Stewardship Plan approved by Ministry of Environment.

# ESABC Audit Standards & Process

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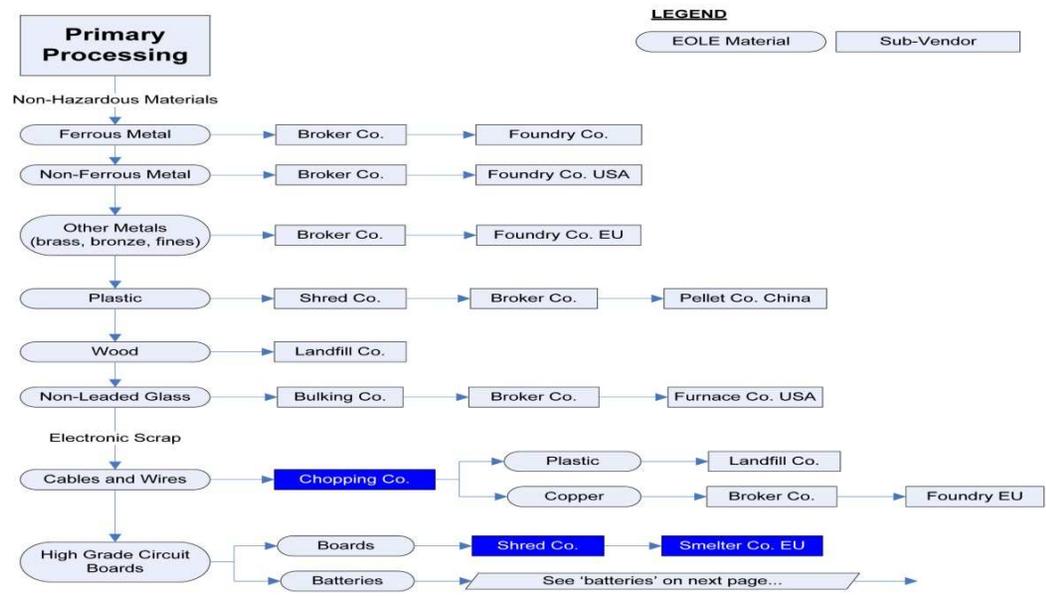
To be approved as an ESABC recycler requires:

- Sound upstream practices – Recycler must handle the material they receive in an environmentally responsible manner
- Good downstream practices which include not shipping non commoditized material offshore to non OECD countries

# ESABC Audit Process



## Processor/Vendor Mapping



# Program Accomplishments

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- To the end of April 2009 ESABC has diverted over 18,000 metric tonnes of electronic products from landfill. 100% of the costs of collection and recycling this material was covered by ESABC.
- Averaging 900 – 1000+ metric tonnes of diversion per month
- Based on per capita weight – ESABC is already collecting almost 3.0 kilos of electronics per resident of BC which makes it one of the most successful programs in NA!
- Actively working to effectively communicate the nature and value of the program to all stakeholders including the launch of a dedicated ESABC website: [www.esabc.ca](http://www.esabc.ca)

# Program Accomplishments

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- ESABC has commissioned a study to determine coverage in urban and rural areas. Urban criteria to have a depot within a 30 minute drive. Rural criteria to have a depot within a 45 minute drive.
- Based on these criteria ESABC is presently servicing approximately 99.5% of the BC population of 4.3 million with less than 200,000 people outside of the target driving ranges. ESABC is continuing to expand its depot network to address the last isolated areas of concentrated population which do not currently have depots.