

Waste Mobile Phone Rechargers Listed as Mandatory Recyclables

The EPA has added waste mobile phone rechargers to the list of mandatory recyclables to solve related waste disposal problems. Citizens are asked to hand their old mobile phone rechargers to local recycling truck.

Bought a new mobile phone and don't know what to do with your old recharger? On 30 October 2008, the EPA announced revisions to the list of mandatory recyclables, listing mobile phone rechargers as "resources." Effective immediately, any unwanted mobile phone rechargers (including stationary and travel types) should be sorted as "resources" and given to the recyclables collection crew. These devices should not be placed in the garbage truck and anyone found doing so after already receiving instruction to not do so will be fined from NT\$1,200 to NT\$6,000.

From May 2006 to August 2008, the nation generated 472 tonnes of waste mobile phones, equivalent to 3.08 million mobile phones. Mobile phone manufacturers produce many different types of rechargers including stationary and travel styles; these devices are usually no longer useful when people switch to newer mobile phones. This has given rise to increasing quantities of this waste item. Rechargers have a high reuse value and can be dismantled along with mobile phones, making it easy for both mobile phones and their rechargers to be handed over to recycling collection crews at the same time. To raise awareness, the EPA has specifically added this item to the list of mandatory recyclables.

As mobile phone rechargers are a new item on the list of recyclable, the EPA indicated that citizens may not be aware of the new regulations at the outset. Local environmental protection bureaus are spreading the news and asking those who fail to sort rechargers along with recyclables to sort the item on the spot and give it to the recycling truck. Those unwilling to cooperate will be subject to investigation and penalization.