



Photos by RENÉE JONES SCHNEIDER • reneejones@startribune.com

Matthew Gonzalez unloaded a microwave to be recycled at Asset Recovery in St. Paul on Wednesday. The drop-off site charges people to dispose of their electronics.

Easing the way for electronics recycling

• Supporters hope an e-waste recycling measure — expected to be signed into law by Gov. Pawlenty — will cut down on the dumping of unwanted TVs and more.

By NORMAN DRAPER
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Star Tribune staff writers

Minnesotans will soon find it easier to dispose of old, unwanted television sets and computer monitors, under legislation that won final approval Wednesday and now heads to Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who is expected to sign it.

The measure will be one of the strongest in the nation aimed at recycling electronics, which are loaded with toxic minerals.

Supporters say the measure will reduce the numbers of TV sets and computers that are left by the road,

tossed into woods and lakes, or even burned. They also say the need for easy recycling of TVs will grow in the next couple of years as people make the changeover from analog technology to digital.

The bill, approved in the House on Wednesday after earlier passage in the Senate, makes Minnesota unique for recycling such “e-waste” for two reasons: It requires manufacturers to ratchet up recycling of their electronic products and to pay for those efforts based on the weight of all the TVs and computers they sell in the state.

E-waste continues: Measure applies only to home electronics. **A10** ▶



Daniel Hernandez and Juan Carlos shrink-wrapped a stack of TVs delivered to Asset Recovery. A consumer might pay \$17 to \$22 to dispose of a 19-inch TV.

