

**ELECTRONICS MANAGEMENT FUND DISTRIBUTIONS**

**ELECTRONICS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

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**State Authorization: GS 130A-309.137**

**N.C. Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Waste Management**

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The auditor may not consider the Supplement to be “safe harbor” for identifying audit procedures to apply in a particular engagement, but the auditor shall be prepared to justify departures from the suggested procedures. The auditor may consider the supplement a “safe harbor” for identification of compliance requirements to be tested if the auditor performs reasonable procedures to ensure that the requirements in the Supplement are current.

The grantor agency may elect to review audit working papers to determine that audit tests are adequate.

**Auditors may request documentation of monitoring visits by the State Agencies.**

**I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

The electronics management program is designed to encourage proper management of discarded televisions and computer equipment. Local governments are encouraged to accept discarded electronics at collection centers or through curbside collection.

**II. PROGRAM PROCEDURES**

An initial registration fee and annual renewal fee is charged to manufacturers of televisions and computer equipment. The fees aid the county’s electronics management programs.

The Department distributes the funds collected to the local governments annually by February 15 on a per capita basis. The distribution amount each year equals the total of the fees collected from computer equipment manufacturers (although 10% of the revenue from computer equipment manufacturers and 100% revenue from television manufacturers may be retained for administration of the program).

The Electronics Management Fund was established, in part, to provide the funds units of local governments may need to aid in the high costs of recycling and transporting discarded electronics.

### III. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. Activities Allowed or Unallowed

##### **Compliance Requirements**

Each unit of local government (ULG) which receives funds must have submitted an electronics management plan to the Department. The purposes for which a ULG may use its funds distributions include:

- Operating costs associated with managing electronics. This includes such expenses as transportation and costs charged by electronics' recyclers, and labor at county electronics collection facilities.
- Capital improvements for infrastructure to manage discarded electronics, including trailers, loading equipment, and concrete pads.
- Educational materials

A county shall not use fund distributions for an expense that does not directly relate to the management of discarded electronics.

A unit of local government is not eligible for a funds distribution unless its electronics management plan includes the necessary components according to G.S. 130A-309.137 and is approved by the Department.

##### **Audit Objectives**

1. Determine whether funds distributions are being used only for the management of electronics.

##### **Suggested Audit Procedures**

1. Check with the ULG solid waste manager and finance officer to determine how electronics management expense is determined and how the ULG is using the funds.
2. Verify how the ULG is using the funds through accounting records or the General Ledger.
3. Verify expenditures from the General Ledger from the prior fiscal year.
4. Require that ULG use only recycling contractors who are e-Steward or R2 certified

#### 2. Allowable Costs/Costs Principles

##### **Compliance Requirements**

Units of local governments are eligible for a distribution equal to the total amount available in the fund per capita. Funds shall only be used for the management of electronics.

**Audit Objectives**

Determine whether the reported expenses are accurate.

**Suggested Audit Procedures**

1. Confer with the ULG solid waste manager and finance officer to determine how electronics management expense is determined.
2. Determine what categories of expense are included, such as contract costs, equipment maintenance, labor (assisting the public, hauling, equipment operation, loading, etc.). After determining what costs are included, verify that expenses are applicable to the programs.
3. Confirm the costs reported are only for electronics management. If an expense benefits both electronics and another program it will be necessary to verify that the costs are pro-rated.
4. Conflict of Interest

**Compliance Requirements**

Refer to GS 14-234 regarding conflict of interest for local governments.

**Audit Objectives**

Determine compliance with GS 14-234.

**Suggested Audit Procedures**

Verify compliance with GS 14-234.

6. Equipment and Real Property Management

**Compliance Requirements**

The ULG shall follow local procedures and policies for equipment management.

**Audit Objectives**

Ensure the county follows all local procedures for equipment management.

**Suggested Audit Procedures**

Obtain a description of local procedures and policies for equipment management and determine it is being followed for equipment purchased by Electronics Management Fund distributions.

8. Period of Availability of State Funds

**Compliance Requirements**

Reported expenses occur annually to the Department.

**Audit Objectives**

Determine whether reported distribution use was for electronics recycling and recovery.

**Suggested Audit Procedures**

Audit ULG reports.

12. Reporting

**Compliance Requirements**

Each ULG must complete an annual report on a form prescribed by the Division and submit it by September 1 each year. This is part of the requirements in GS 130A-309.09A.

**Audit Objectives**

Determine whether reporting is accurate and reliable.

**Suggested Audit Procedures**

Review ULG fund account information, recycling procedures, and recycler information; to include proof of contract or agreement.

14. Special Tests and Provisions

**Compliance Requirements**

The finds distribution is to provide reimbursement to ULG for expenditures incurred for the collection and recycling of electronics.

**Audit Objectives**

Determine that distributed monies from the Fund are used for a program to manage discarded computer equipment, televisions, and other electronic devices.

**Suggested Audit Procedures**

1. The ULG is required to report the intended use of distributed monies from the Fund.
2. Report by September 1 annually, as required by NCGS 130A-309.09A. The ULG is required to provide information regarding permanent recycling programs for discarded computer equipment and television for which funds are received and information on operative interlocal agreements executed in conjunction with the distributed monies from the Fund.

3. Electronics Management Fund Plan submitted by the ULG, required by GS 130A-309.137, is required to show amounts of electronics recovered and the method of recovery.