

Maximizing Recovery While Minimizing the Environmental Impacts for Reverse Logistics

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How can we recover the highest value for our returned goods if we are trying to protect the environment as well? Will environmental initiatives result in significant additional costs and efforts for reverse logistics processing?

One of the hottest topics for reverse logistics this year is the environment, as a result of the European environmental initiatives of WEEE (Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment) and RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances). Many other countries, states and regional governments are introducing similar legislation.

Best practices for the disposition of returned goods involve the use of secondary markets, disassembly, and salvage. In addition, proactive companies are also achieving significant results by spending considerable time planning ahead for the full life cycle of their products. By designing and manufacturing with final disposition in mind, they are able to minimize the number of returns, the cost of the returns and their impact on the environment.

This article outlines some strategies, tactics and insights to maximizing recovery while minimizing environmental impact from some reverse logistics industry leaders such as Motorola, Palm, IBM Global Services and Ericsson.

Read this report we wrote for the Reverse Logistics Association. Free registration is required.