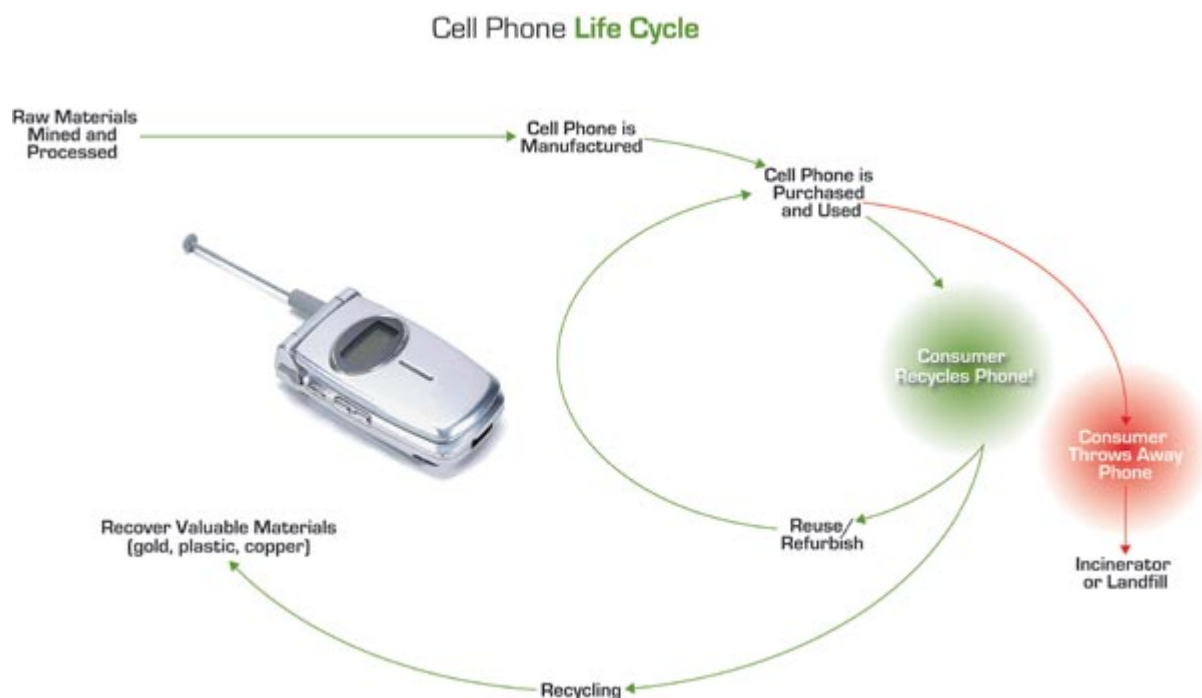


Friday Facts: Recycle Your Cell Phone

The planet now has more than 2 billion cell phone subscribers – that’s nearly one out of every three on the planet and customers typically discard and replace their phones every 18 months (United States Geological Survey). In fact, an estimated 130 million, or roughly 65,000 tons, of cell phones will be retired every year for the next 3 years in the United States (EPA). Despite these growing numbers, many consumers still do not know where or how they can recycle their unwanted cell phones. Consequently, less than 20 percent of unwanted cell phones are recycled in the U.S. each year (EPA).

Recycling a cell phone offers an opportunity for everyone to help reduce pollution, save energy, and conserve natural resources. The improper disposing of your cell phone can contribute to complex environmental problems. By properly disposing of old cell phones, they can be reconditioned to extend their useful life, donated to shelters and law enforcement agencies to provide emergency communications, or be recycled to extract the precious metals and minerals. All of these measures help to conserve energy, preserve natural resources, reduce the need for mining raw materials, and keep hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals out of landfills and incinerators where they can potentially pollute our air and water.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with retailers, manufacturers, and service providers, introduced a public education campaign in January 2008 entitled, “Recycle Your Cell Phone It’s an Easy Call.” Eleven companies, including AT&T, T-Mobile, Staples, Best Buy, and Office Depot, partnered on the campaign. Some of the companies already have strong cell phone recycling programs in their stores. EPA will schedule several cell phone collections and post a searchable list of cell phone drop-off centers on websites. The agency will promote cell phone recycling and consumer awareness through public service announcements. According to EPA’s website, cell phone recycling is free of charge in most cases. EPA estimates that about 150 million cell phones are taken out of service each year, each containing an assortment of metals, plastics, glass, and chemicals. For more information about the *Recycle Your Cell Phone. It’s An Easy Call Campaign*, please visit www.epa.gov/cellphones.



Get Caught !

