

4.8.3: Recycled Cell Phones—A Treasure Trove of Valuable Metals

Electronic products are made from valuable resources and materials, including metals, plastics, and glass, all of which require energy to mine and manufacture. Donating or recycling consumer electronics conserves our natural resources and avoids air and water pollution, as well as greenhouse gas emissions that are caused by manufacturing virgin materials.

In 2006, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) estimated that:

- Recycling one million laptops saves the energy equivalent to the electricity used by more than 3,500 U.S. homes in a year.
- For every million cell phones we recycle, 35 thousand pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered.

Read: U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet: [Recycled Cell Phones—A Treasure Trove of Valuable Metals](#)

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling>

This page titled [4.8.3: Recycled Cell Phones—A Treasure Trove of Valuable Metals](#) is shared under a [not declared](#) license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by [Alaka Pradhan](#).