

Waterloo Oxford Secondary School % Mrs. Voll
1206 Snyder's Rd W, Baden, ON N3A 1A4

April 2023

Mayor Natasha Salonen
Region of Waterloo
150 Frederick St., Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4J3

Dear Mayor Natasha Salonen

We are concerned students and staff at Waterloo Oxford Secondary School. We would like to make a change with the important environmental issue of e-waste.

In the United States, which is similar to Canada, e-waste represents 2% of the trash in the landfills, however it represents 70% of overall toxic waste. 20 to 50 million metric tonnes of e-waste are disposed of each year. Only 12.5% of e-waste is recycled and 85% is in landfills or is incinerated, which releases harmful toxins into the air. This issue is not just with old cell phones or computers, it is also batteries, televisions, broken chargers, and headphones. These everyday items, that you most likely throw in the garbage bin, are killing our home.

There is a lot you can do to prevent the harm caused by e-waste. A major part of the issue with e-waste is the fact that people do not know how or where to properly dispose of it. Instead of throwing out old technology people could:

- give it to a friend or someone who needs it
- donate your used/old technology or
- take them to an e-waste recycling facility

We would appreciate your help in providing education, awareness, a drop off spot for people to take their e-waste, and arrange for the pick up to the disposal site. WO would be happy to help by providing a location as well as student volunteers. We would like to see WO be a dropoff spot for e-waste. We believe this will benefit not only the school, by promoting WO and painting a good climate friendly environment, this will also help the people of Baden, and Canada as a whole. The entire world can benefit from reducing e-waste and WO can be the first step in our community. By taking e-waste not only from staff and students, but also from community members, we can properly recycle it and keep toxins out of our local environment.

We appreciate you reading this letter and hope to hear back.

Thank you,

Concerned Staff and Students at Waterloo Oxford Secondary School