

Protecting Clean Water Together Series: Water in Your Pocket: Why Buy Refurbished Tech?

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CAPTION: When it's time to replace old technology — why buy new when you can save big money on factory-refurbished? And even get a trade-in on your old goods.

It's a no-brainer that buying refurbished technology is cheaper than buying new. One example: an unlocked, 128 GB iPhone 13 goes for \$381 — 39 percent less than new — on www.backmarket.com. If you have a trade-in, you can save even more.

And buying refurb electronics is way more than just cheaper.

Buying refurb saves water. Thousands of gallons of water. Manufacturing the indispensable smart phone in your back pocket took about 3,200 gallons of water. You read that right — 3,200 gallons for one phone. Every step in making a smart phone uses water: from mining the metals, to making the components, to assembling and packaging. The toxic dregs have to be diluted before being disposed of, and that alone guzzles enormous amounts of clean water.

Buying refurb saves other resources, too. Electronic “waste” is full of stuff that can be re-used, but we humans throw away more than 50 million tons of electronic waste every year. And only a small percentage actually gets recycled.

What a waste!

Why not find out about buying refurbished goods? Manufacturers like Apple, Samsung, Dell, Lenovo, iRobot, Dyson, KitchenAid, Vitamix, and HP all have “storefronts” on eBay.com that offer factory-refurbished goods, many offering free returns and product warranties. Some will buy back their brands from you for more savings (and less in the landfill). For even more options, enter “refurb tech deals” in your search engine to find websites that specialize in refurbishing and selling multiple brands of electronics and other goods.

Maybe you used to be the first in line to get the newest iPhone. Or maybe you’re still hanging on to your old iPhone7 because, hey, it does what you need and you have better uses for your hard-earned cash.

Either way, next time you’re in the market for a phone, tablet, computer, or other tech-based product, keep in mind that “new-to-you” can be the best deal — for you, our water, and our planet.

Refurb sites to consider dcluttr.com backmarket.com eBay.com

For more information about buying refurbished equipment

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/money/buying-refurbished-products/>

Brodhead Watershed Association protects water quality and quantity throughout our area. Get involved! Become a member!
www.brodheadwatershed.org