Recycling Cellphones by Reagan Wireless  
  
Florida-based [cellphone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_phone) distributor Reagan Wireless specializes in the distribution, reselling, wholesaling, and recycling of cellular phones. In operation for more than 17 years, the company operates out of a 53,000 square-foot warehouse in Deerfield Beach.  
  
An average North American purchases or receives a new cellphone every 1.5 to 2 years, and United States residents discard approximately 125 million cellphones annually. This process creates a waste mass of 65,000 tons, some of which is potentially hazardous. Of all the reusable electronic equipment discarded in the United States in 2011, only 18 percent was recovered for recycling purposes, with most of the remaining 82 percent disposed of in landfills.   
  
Many telecommunications distributors have programs in place to accept unwanted cellphones, and may refurbish or resell them. Metals contained in cellphones can be placed into circulation for a second time, resulting in a decrease in metal mining. Reagan accepts any cellphone, regardless of whether it was purchased onsite or not. In 2011, the company was responsible for recycling over 5 million handsets, using responsible, safe, and secure work processes.