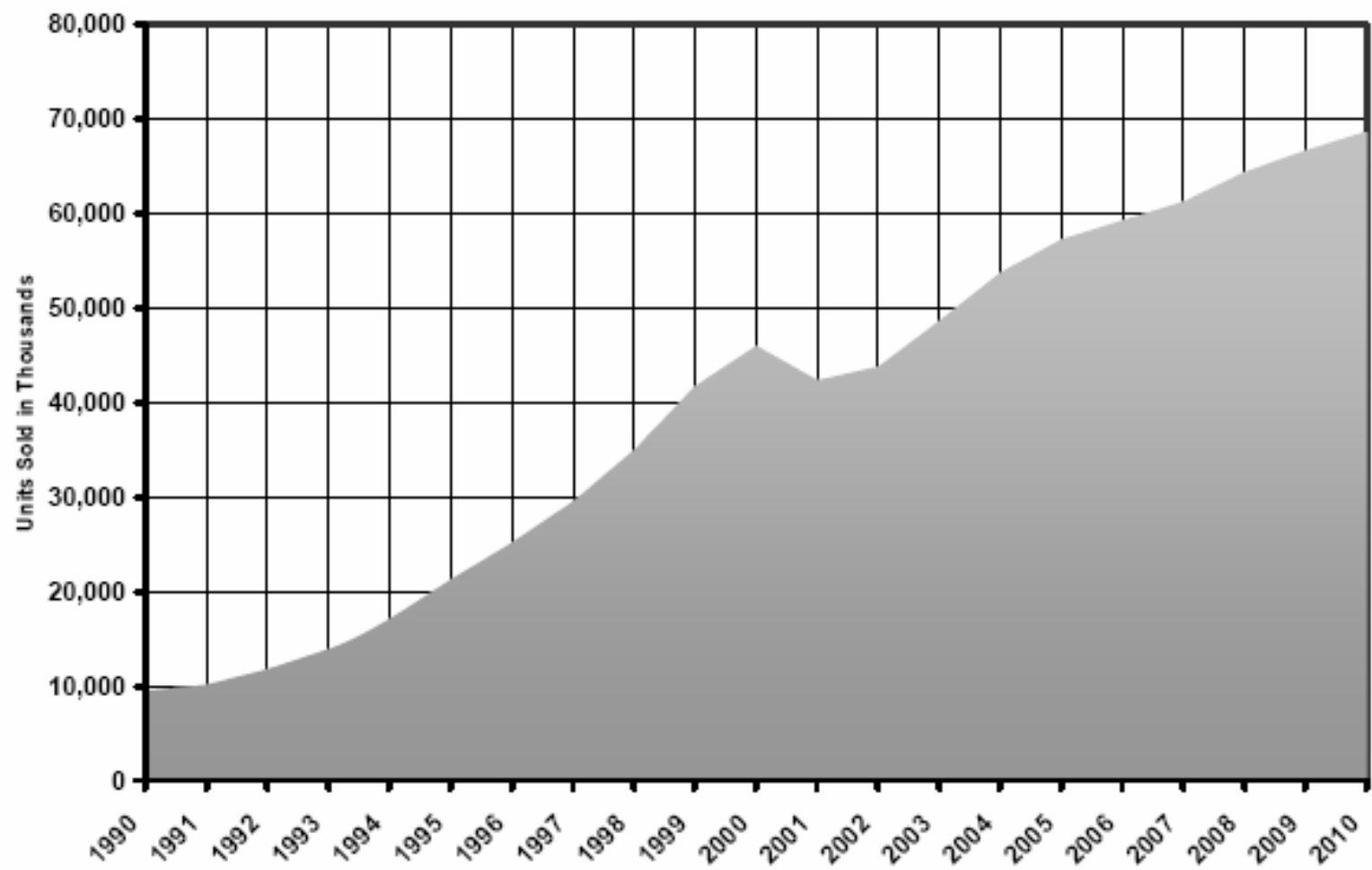


# Electronics Use and Generation

- Amount of material growing:
  - Average household has about 25 consumer electronic products: computers, televisions, DVD players, video game systems, etc.
  - An estimated one million computers and 900,000 TVs sold in NC each year.
  - Households have an average of 3.1 televisions:  
Approximately 9.92 million TVs in use in NC homes.
  - An estimated 60 percent of households have at least one computer: at least 1.9 million in use in NC homes.
  - EPA estimated that 250 million computers were going to be obsolete by 2005 – NC Share = 7,150,000
  - Switch to high definition TV in 2009 could drive disposal of televisions

## USA Computer Shipments All Manufacturers



# Current status of collection efforts

- Local government collection programs slowly growing:
  - Approximately ten permanent collection programs
  - About a dozen more with periodic collections
- Majority of counties offer no collection services – main issue is funding.
- Some of the permanent programs are limited – e.g., Gaston and Mecklenburg do not collect TVs
- Some manufacturers offer collection programs but usually at a cost and not as convenient as local drop-offs.

# Options

- Three major policy approaches available on electronics:
  - Stay with the status quo: no state law or funding to drive collection.
  - Adopt a Producer Responsibility law, requiring manufacturers to take back their products.
  - Adopt an Advanced Recycling Fee to fund local government collection programs statewide.

# Status Quo – Pros and Cons

- Would not require state to enact fees/taxes or major mandates.
- Many North Carolinians would have little or no access to local electronics recycling services.
- Majority of electronic discards would probably be disposed.

# Producer Responsibility - Pros and Cons

- Holds manufacturers responsible for their products
- Requires no state fees or taxes
- Does not necessarily require communities to run collection programs but those who do so will have costs.
- Uncertainty as to who would be responsible for the large amount of historical and “orphan” electronic waste.
- Collection system would probably be less convenient for citizens than Advanced Recycling Fee system
- In Maine’s system, citizens have to pay to recycle and municipalities have an unfunded mandate to collect materials.

# Advanced Recycling Fee

## - Pros and Cons

- Would not hold individual manufacturers responsible for their products.
- Would result in a small increase in the purchase price of electronics.
- Should cause no disadvantage to in-state retailers.
- Generally supported by local governments, environmental groups, and majority of electronics industry.
- Like white goods and tires, funding would establish an electronics recycling program in each county.
- Collection of large volumes would increase job and business creation in North Carolina by electronics recyclers.