

E-waste



What is E-waste: Electronic waste, “e-waste” or “Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment” is a waste type consisting of any broken or unwanted electrical or electronic device.

Where does it go??

- * LANDFILLS
- * INCINERATED
- * EXPORT



The Flow of Ewaste...



Interesting Facts:

Phones:

- *The average cell phone in the U.S. is replaced after just 18 months.
- *In the United States alone, there are over 200 million active mobile phones. Think of how many of those people are on their second and even third cell phones.

Computers

- * In the next three years, individuals and organizations worldwide will replace more than 400 million computers.
- *Gartner estimated in 2003 that 133,000 PCs are discarded by U.S. homes and businesses each day.

Hard Numbers

- *In 2005, we generated 2.6 million tons of e-waste in the US.
- *Of this amount, only 12.6% was recycled.
- *E-Waste is generated 3 times faster than any other waste streams.

Obsolete:

*The average lifespan for a common PC manufactured in 2005 is estimated to be two years.

*More than 20 million personal computers become obsolete each year

The U.S

*The United States generates more e-waste than any other nation.

*The U.S. government doesn't ban, or even monitor, e-waste exports

Victims of E-waste: And Its Effects

The air smells acrid from the squat gas burners that sit outside homes, melting wires to recover copper and cooking computer motherboards to release gold. Migrant workers in filthy clothes smash picture tubes by hand to recover glass and electronic parts, releasing as much as 6.5 pounds of lead dust.

Lead: Extremely harmful to the human body; damages both the central and peripheral nervous system; can cause seizures, retardation, high blood pressure, damage to the kidneys and liver; adversely affects child development.

Mercury: Attacks the central nervous and endocrine systems; harmful to mouth, teeth and gums; poses risk in the neurological development of unborn fetuses.

Cadmium: Potentially Carcinogenic; repeated exposure can damage the lungs, kidneys and liver.

The open burning, acid baths and toxic dumping pour pollution into the land, air and water and exposes the men, women, and children of Asia's poorer peoples to poison.

What does the future hold??

TV Mania!

Millions of analog TVs could be obsolete in 2009 when the nation switches to Digital TV. And some advocates are fearful that Americans will simply throw them away, causing immeasurable harm to the environment. “There’s going to be an E-waste tsunami that hits America,” John Shegerian, chief executive of Electronic Recyclers in Fresno, CA.

Environmental Danger!!

* Scientists have predicted that if E-waste continues to dump into our local landfills, the toxins could seep into our earth deep enough to effect our drinking water. * Mercury can also enter our waters and effect sealife and the fish we eat. *The more we incinerate our e-waste, the more carcinogens enter our atmosphere, exposing the air we breathe. This releases high levels of CO₂ and contributes to global warming..

What is the Basel Ban? On March 25, 1994 in Geneva, Switzerland, the 65 parties to the Basel Convention took an unprecedented and historic step, and adopted a consensus decision for a full ban on all trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes from the 24 rich, industrialized countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, Mexico joined in April so there are now 25 members) to other states that are not members of the OECD. The ban is immediate for wastes bound for final disposal, and takes effect at the beginning of 1998 for all hazardous wastes that are said to be destined for recycling or recovering operations.

What else does the ban do? In addition to conditions of importing and exporting e-waste, the ban also requires countries to provide information on the tracking and consent of receiving hazardous waste.

Has it made an impact?? The ban has changed the way that 63 countries dispose of and recycle their electronic waste. If more of the major economic ratified the ban, the impact would be even greater. This has also raised awareness about this crime against humanity.

Worst Offenders

A list of despicable countries and institutions who are fighting the Basel Ban, and have refused to ratify.

- Australia
- Canada
- International Council on Metals and Mining (ICMM)
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- New Zealand
- Sustainable Development Network
- United Nations Center for Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United States

Companies like Sony, Nokia, Samsung, and LG have stepped up and taken responsibility, and are concerned. The following companies are still greatly contributing to the problem.

*Apple

*IBM

*Toshiba

*Panasonic

*Acer

What can you do?? Use SVTC's electronics purchasing guide and computer report card to evaluate companies on their recycling policies. Manufacturing processes and worker and environmental protections.

Visit E-Stewards Online-" No Export, No Dumping, No Prisons!" You type in your zipcode and find the nearest recycling center that does not export.

Donate your used electronics that are still working to charity organizations.
Just because you are ready for an upgrade doesn't mean you should trash it!

Support laws to make companies responsible for their toxic trash.
Raise awareness and get involved!

Thank You!

Thank you for taking your time reading this information.
This was made possible by the research and dedication of
3 Salisbury University students.

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<http://students.salisbury.edu/~mm05797/e%20waste%20project/artiststatementpage.html>