



e-Waste

action: booklet & video

Once electronic devices reach their end-of-life stage, they become waste, and are often referred to as e-waste. E-waste is categorized as hazardous waste due to the presence of toxic materials such as mercury, lead and brominated flame retardants. E-waste may also contain precious metals such as gold, copper and nickel and rare materials of strategic value such as indium and palladium. These precious and heavy metals could be recovered, recycled and used as valuable source of secondary raw materials. It has been documented that e-wastes are shipped to developing countries where it is often not managed in an environmentally sound manner, thus posing a serious threat to both human health and the environment.

source: Renee Cho, Columbia University

What is in e-waste? Why is it harmful for the environment? What is a 'circular economy'? Can you suggest how the electronics industry What you can do to educate individuals in your local area about the adverse effects of e-waste?

GLOBAL CHALLENGE

E-waste is a popular name for the electronic products that are near the end of their "useful life." Computers, televisions, stereos, copiers, and fax machines are amongst the electronic products regularly discarded. Many of these products can be reused, or recycled.

According to the calrecycle web site. "With the passage of the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003, certain portions of the electronic waste stream are defined as the systems to recover and recycle them will be administratively regulated beyond the universal waste rules that apply to material handling."

When your old phones, computers and electrical gadgets are finished with where do they end up? I'm sure most of you didn't know e-waste even existed!

LOCAL ACTION

The main point of our local actions are to raise awareness and deepen knowledge on what e-waste is, why it is harmful, and what you can do to help.

In order to do these things we created a booklet and a small video about the basics of e-waste.

When we were making our booklet and video we learnt a lot more about e-waste simply by doing research and watching videos. We think this is a good local action because it will raise awareness and people will start being careful of where they throw things and consider recycling.

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