

E-WASTE RECYCLING

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Over the last decades the electronics industry has revolutionized the world: electrical products have become common in today's life around the planet. Without these products, modern life would not be possible.

Electronic waste, commonly called e-waste, is the trash you generate that's made up of obsolete, broken, or surplus electronic devices. Today the electronic waste recycling business has been developing over the world.

Although everyone knows about the fast growing world of technology and how important it is to get the latest phone or laptop, not as many people have heard about the growing environmental effects that occur because of electronic waste. Every year, the world tosses from 20 to 50 million metric tons of electronics, recycling only from 10 to 18%.

E-waste is the fastest-growing portion of the municipal waste stream. While other types of municipal waste are decreasing, e-waste is growing by close to 5% annually.

Nowadays, an exact number of e-waste in Ukraine is very difficult to count. According to statistics there are 53.6 millions of mobile devices are used in the territory of Ukraine; 300 thousand of computers and 277 millions batteries are imported every year. Ukraine throws away to a wastebasket 500 thousand tons e-waste every year.

Yet electronics are full of valuable resources, including silver, gold, titanium, fossil fuels, aluminium.

E-Waste contain persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals. The problem is when e-waste are not properly disposed of and then it remains in landfills.

E-Waste has toxic chemicals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, beryllium, chromium, and more.

Exposure to these chemicals over long periods of time can negatively affect kidneys, bones, the nervous and endocrine systems. The toxic materials found in electronics not only pollute soil and landfills, they also affect human health.

Health risks range from kidney disease and brain damage to genetic mutations. Scientists have discovered that one town in China, has the highest levels of cancer-causing dioxins in the world. Seven out of ten children in the villages near this town have too much lead in their bodies.

What should we do with old or broken electronics then?

You can do the following: consider repair, donate, lease and take-back programs, E-cycle.