



The E-Waste Problem in America

With the exponential growth in technology, electronic waste (e-waste), such as computers, monitors, cell phones and other products, is becoming an exceedingly dangerous problem for our environment. The increasing amount of e-waste being dumped into landfills throughout the world releases hazardous chemicals and harmful toxins into soil and streams.

Compounding the problem is the fact that many e-waste recyclers do not track the sometimes-circuitous route that their collections take. In fact, many times, e-waste ultimately ends up in landfills.

E-waste has become such a global concern that many countries have banned it from landfills. For example, the European Union in 2002 implemented the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive, which holds manufacturers responsible for e-waste disposal at end-of-life.

E-waste policies in Europe are beginning to become popular here in the United States. A number of states have passed e-waste laws and the trend continues to gather steam.

E-waste Facts & Figures

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- 80 to 85 percent of electronic products were discarded in landfills or incinerators, which can release certain toxics into the air.
- Some of these toxics include lead, mercury, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium and some types of flame-retardant chemicals, all of which are poisonous at varying exposure levels. E-waste represents 2 percent of America's trash in landfills.
- E-waste equals more than 70 percent of the toxic waste in our landfills.
- Americans discard an average of 130,000 personal computers every day.
- Americans own in excess of 2 billion electronic devices.
- Our government disposes of approximately 10,000 computers every week.
- Americans dispose of 130 million cell phones annually.
- The U.S. produces 2.3 billion pounds of e-waste each year.
- Only 12.5 percent of e-waste is currently recycled..
- Massachusetts, New York and Washington are among nine states and cities that have begun drafting take-back legislation, which require electronics producers to take back and responsibly manage their old and obsolete electronics.

Why should you recycle e-waste?

Protect public health and the environment:

Avoid disposing e-waste into landfills, which exposes of toxins in the atmosphere.

Conserve natural resources:

There are many products that can be made from e-waste, such as jewelry, automotive catalytic converters, garden furniture, license-plate frames and much more.

Create jobs:

As demand for electronics recycling increases, new businesses will form and existing companies will grow.

A Cost-Effective Solution

With e-waste increasing at an accelerated rate, recycling electronics can be very costly. Possitivity provides a convenient, inexpensive solution for businesses of any size, as well as for consumers, to dispose of their unwanted electronic items.

If you'd like to learn more or if you have e-waste concerns that need resolution, contact Possitivity

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