



Electronic Waste Guide

>> A knowledge base for the sustainable recycling of eWaste <<

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Overview



Welcome: Electronic waste, or e-waste, is growing rapidly given the faster rate of obsolescence of electronic equipment. The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs ([seco](#)) has commissioned the

Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research ([EMPA](#)) to conduct a study of the controversial issue of e-waste disposal, which implies both risks and opportunities on a global scale. Working together with partners in developed and transition countries, the ultimate vision of the guide is to serve as a knowledge base on e-waste recycling and reduce its harmful effects without ruining the attractiveness of e-waste recycling as a business.



Facts & Figures: The e-waste pile is growing around the world and statistics show that it runs into millions of tons annually. More and more countries are drafting legislations for the environment-

friendly disposal of this waste. Disposal techniques vary widely from country to country because it includes materials which are valuable and recyclable as well as toxic. While modern technologies allow for nearly hazard-free recycling of e-waste, precautions must be taken to control harmful emissions and toxins from cause detrimental impacts on health and the environment.



Case Studies: Case studies in four countries – [Switzerland](#), [India](#), [China](#) and [South Africa](#) are an insight into the e-waste issues in these countries. They evaluate the local conditions for the

introduction of a sustainable e-waste recycling system. The framework incorporates the various stakeholders and takes into consideration the socio-economic as well as environmental impacts of such as system.



Services: The [discussion forum](#) is to exchange views and information on e-waste-recycling. Additional information, links to further resources and documents and presentations for download can be

found in this section.

News From Around the World

[IAA and UNEP select e-waste as theme for InterAd X Competition](#)

November, 2005

[German expert urges e-waste assessment in India](#)

(Digital Opportunity Channel)

[UN programme aims at environmentally sound disposal of electronic waste](#)

25 November, 2005 (UN News)

[A wiser approach to e-Waste](#)

November 14, 2005 (Financial Express, India)

[Toxic "E-Waste" Gets Cashed in Poor Nations, Report Says](#)

November 8, 2005 (National Geographic)

[>> more](#)

Programme News

[Programme phase III, Implementation, has begun in September 2005](#)

September, 2005

[StEP: Solving the E-waste Problem - a United Nations initiative is prepared to be launched](#)

The programme will coordinate TF5 Knowledge Management & Capacity Building

[Dedicated site for e-waste in India by Indo-Swiss-German initiative on e-waste](#)

June 6, 2005

[Cooperative agreement between GTZ/EECZ China and EMPA](#)

November 1, 2004

Feedback

Your [feedback or input](#) is very much appreciated. You might also join in the [forum](#).