**E-Waste and Informal Recyclers: Regulatory Mechanisms for Inclusion**

Abstract:

Two facts are apparent in Latin America: the stream of e-waste is growing exponentially, and informal recyclers are present in almost every country. E-waste is high on local agendas, and several countries now have specific regulations. A few attempts have been made to integrate informal recyclers into modern waste management, but it has not resulted in many of them having a legal status. The preferred method for handling e-waste in the region is through extended producer responsibility schemes and special management plans. These new systems will serve to further marginalize informal recyclers unless laws and policies advocate for their inclusion. This presentation will analyze the few Latin American laws and regulations that have tried to bring informal recyclers into the loop, examine their success or failure, and suggest a path forward for regulatory mechanisms that link this important local resource to the growing e-waste stream.

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