

Join the Global e-Waste Statistics Partnership

The Partnership



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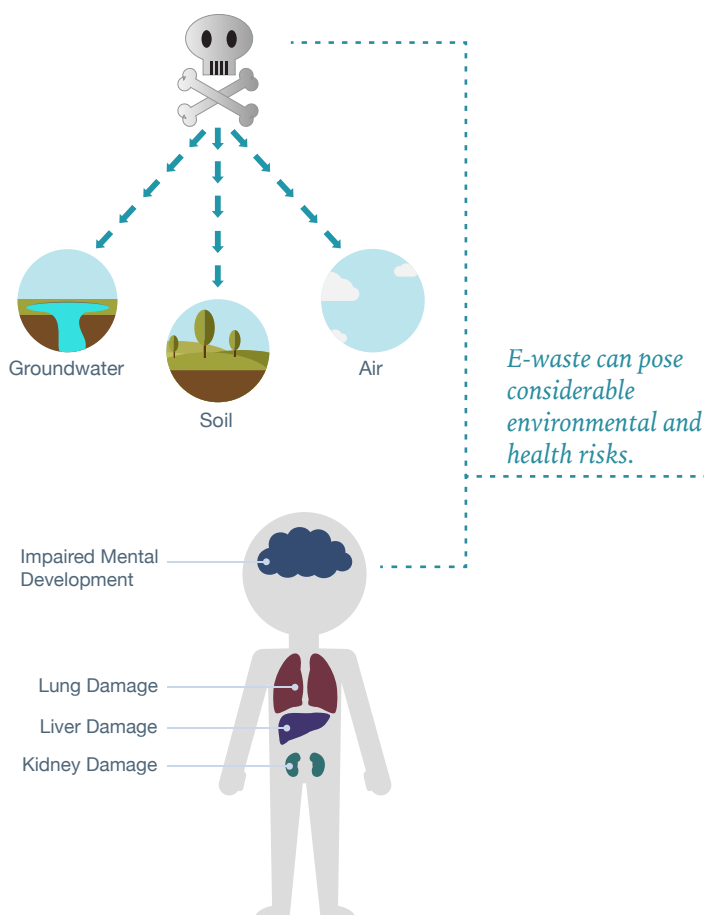
International Solid Waste Association



The e-waste challenge

More and more people are joining and benefiting from the opportunities of the digital economy and information society. As a result, the amount of electronic waste, or e-waste, is growing rapidly and large dump sites exist throughout the world.

Discarded equipment, such as phones, laptops, sensors, TVs, and batteries contain substances that pose considerable environmental and health risks, especially if treated inadequately. Most e-waste is not properly documented and not treated through appropriate recycling chains and methods. The majority ends up in dumpsites. Often, only anecdotal evidence is available on the production, management, and recycling of e-waste and valuable resources are wasted.



Better e-waste data for better e-waste policies

Measuring e-waste is an important step towards addressing the e-waste challenge. Statistics help to evaluate developments over time, set and assess targets, and identify best practices of policies. Better e-waste data will:

- ★ Help to minimize its generation
- ★ Prevent illegal dumping
- ★ Promote recycling
- ★ Create jobs in the refurbishment and recycling sector

Better e-waste data will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 12, to 'ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns', but also other SDGs. A global target to 'reduce the volume of redundant e-waste by 50% by 2020' was set by the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Membership.



The goals of the Global e-Waste Statistics Partnership

Only about 40 countries in the world collect internationally comparable statistics on e-waste. Existing global and regional estimates are based on production and trade statistics but should eventually be replaced by nationally produced data.

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To address these challenges, the ITU, the United Nations University (UNU), and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) have joined forces to create the Global e-Waste Statistics Partnership. This partnership will:

- ★ Build national and regional capacity to help countries produce reliable and comparable e-waste statistics, through regional workshops.
- ★ Collect data from countries and build a global e-waste database to track developments over time and to inform policy makers and industry.
- ★ Enhance the understanding and interpretation of global e-waste data and communicate the data to the general public and relevant stakeholders (e.g. via the Global e-Waste Monitor).
- ★ Map recycling opportunities from e-waste, pollutants, and e-waste related health effects.
- ★ Identify best practices of global e-waste management.
- ★ Inform on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 11.6 and 12.5 by monitoring relevant waste streams and track the ITU Connect 2020 target 3.2.

Join the Partnership to:

- ★ Highlight your dedication to tackling the e-waste challenges.
- ★ Be part of the highly publicized e-waste monitor, the publication that monitors e-waste trends.
- ★ Enhance your e-waste network through the Partnership's global outreach via project partners and workshops.

For further information, contact: e-waste@itu.int

