

E-Waste



An informational booklet
produced by the Environmental
and Social Development
Organization of Bangladesh



What is E-Waste?

E-waste is the term used to describe old, end-of-life or discarded appliances that use electricity. The amount of e-waste in Bangladesh is increasing, with the growth in technology and society's growing requirement for the latest equipment.

How is e-waste generated?

When e-waste is dismantled without effective controls in place, hazardous materials can be released, which adversely affects workers health.



What items are considered E-Waste?

Televisions, computers, cell phones, CFL bulbs and medical and dental equipment, just to name just a few.

Why is E-Waste a problem in Bangladesh?

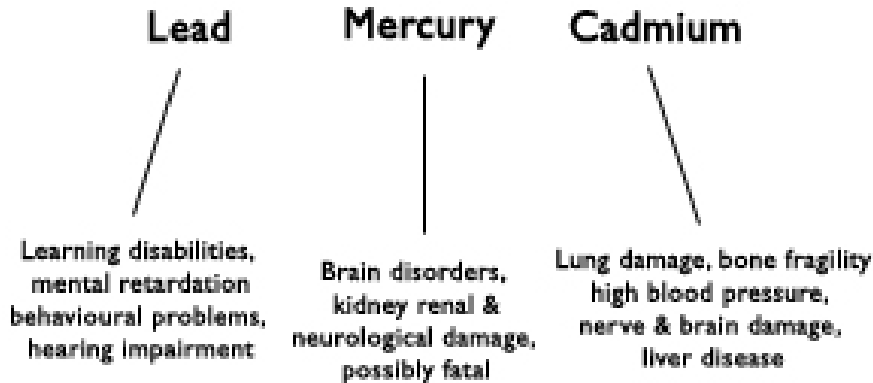
Including e-waste from the ship breaking yards, more than 5 mil tonnes of electronic waste is generated in Bangladesh each year. According to surveys by ESDO since around 1971, 12 million televisions, 2 million computers, 2.5 million mobile phones, 9.5 million CFL tubes and over 65 million pieces of medical equipment.

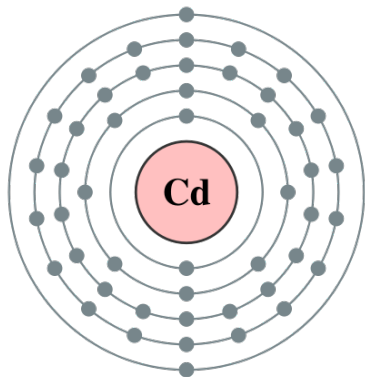
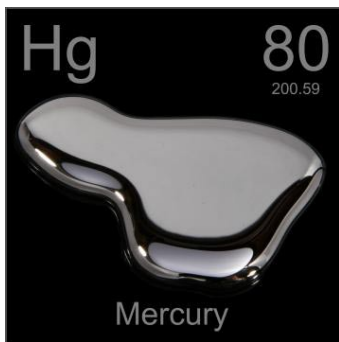


How does e-waste damage the environment?

E-Waste often contains heavy metals and other toxic materials. An example of some of these materials is mercury, lead and cadmium, all extremely toxic when released into the atmosphere. When e-waste is dismantled without effective controls in place, hazardous materials can be released into the air, soil and water, damaging the environment for thousands of years.

How is it damaging to the people's health?





What needs to be done?

- Undertake an inventory of e-waste in the large cities of Bangladesh
 - Develop an e-waste policy and guidelines, including consultation with the relevant stakeholders
 - Establish an efficient collection system for selected types of electronic waste
 - Register and engage in capacity development with e-waste recyclers
 - Introduction of environmental management system in the e-waste sector
 - Establish an e-waste tracking mechanism in order to update the original inventory
 - Raise awareness in the general community





Environmental & Social Development Organization

ESDO is an independent and non-for-profit organization dedicated to achieving environmental sustainability and social justice. ESDO raises critical environmental awareness throughout Bangladesh, and as our name suggests, we assist communities to achieve self-reliant and eco-friendly lifestyles through our capacity building initiatives. Since the formation of ESDO in 1990 we have helped 150,000 people in three rural communities become more conscious of the importance of conserving and rehabilitating the environment. ESDO also represents our environment by influencing positive change in national policy through our awareness-raising and research initiatives. For example, ESDO was the principle force in pressuring the Government in 2002 to announce a complete ban on the sale and manufacture of polythene (plastic) bags in Bangladesh.

House 8/1, Level 4, Block C, Lalmatia, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1207.

Ph: +880 2 9122729 Email: info@esdo.org Web: www.esdo.org