

BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNEA

**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
ASSEMBLY**

ABOUT ELECTRONIC HAZARDOUS WASTE

WHAT IS E-WASTE?

“E-waste” refers to any unwanted electronic device or Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) and is classified as universal waste. E-waste frequently contains hazardous materials, predominantly lead and mercury, and is produced by households, businesses, governments, and industries. Typical e-waste devices include but are not limited to:

- Old CRT tube televisions
- LCD, OLED, and Plasma televisions
- LCD monitors, smart displays, and tablets
- Laptops with LCD monitors
- OLED desktop monitors, laptops, and tablets
- Computers, Computer monitors, and Printers
- VCRs
- Portable DVD players with video screens
- Cell phones and Telephones
- Radios

Promoting the Responsible Disposal of Electronic and Hazardous Waste

Introduction

Man is a rational animal. Though he is having six senses, but his behavior towards society shows that he has never used all these senses. He has become selfish that he is always thinking of himself and the present but not bothered of others & future. But as a responsible citizen, it is our duty to avoid Global warming. E-waste has the largest source of heavy metals and organic pollutants which makes our life miserable. Here I am going to highlight the different ways by which effect of electronic and hazardous wastes can be disposed safely and our responsibilities in disposing them.

India is a developing country where the population is increasing manifold, the lifestyle is changing and thereby the demand for electronic gadgets is also increasing. The central pollution board control report says that in India, 60-70% of e-waste is contributed by 10 states. Among the electronic waste, the metals & non-metals are 60%, plastics comprise 30% and hazardous pollutants account only 10%. Amid the growing waste, fastest growing is electronic waste. Every year 40 million tons of e-waste is created.

According to the waste ranking in 2016, INDIA stands in the fourth place for generating more waste. The widespread use of e-products has made business, created employment, globe inside our palms.

ELECTRONIC WASTE

We are in the world of science, where without electronic devices, living is impossible. The useful life of electronic devices has become short which creates a large amount of e-waste. E-waste is discarded, broken parts of electronic. The e-waste is growing more than municipal waste. There are three strategies by which effect of e-waste can be minimized such as, reducing the use of electronic devices, the life span of electronic devices can be increased and proper disposal & recycling of these e- wastes.

The first two ways cannot be adopted as we are marching towards science and technological development. So the best way is recycling. When we talk about proper disposal, the conventional and primary disposal methods are landfills and incineration. Landfill is a burden to our environment. It creates soil and air pollution and it also needs more land. Hence we are forced to think something new and not harmful to nature which is nothing but recycling.

Recycling is not easy because electronic products are the output of modern technology and combination of different components such as, metals, non-metals, coating layers, poisonous gas, etc.,.

Effect on human health

Since e-waste contains toxic elements, it is having irreversible effect on health and environment. Therefore it needs to be handled properly. It leads to cancer, kidney damage, infertility, slower growth and development of organs, imbalance in hormone level.

Responsibility

Recycling and burning should not be done near residential areas because people are vulnerable to chemicals. Producers should design less wasteful, fewer toxic components, easy to reuse or recycle. An e-waste recycling center should be opened in every city as it is generated more.

E-waste across globe

Developed countries have a well-equipped system for proper disposal and recycling of waste but as far as India is concerned, we lack the facility of proper recycling, shortage of refill land area, lack of infrastructure to handle huge waste, not affordable to buy the new improved equipment etc.,.

We are living in the world where not only advancement of technology and also development of hazardous waste. The waste that we throw out of from our house causing threat to the society is called hazardous waste. Hazardous waste is waste that has potential or substantial threats to our health or the surroundings. Hazardous wastes may be in any form such as, liquids, solids, vapors, or mud. It may be co-products of industrial processes or basically superfluous marketable goods, like cleaning liquids or pesticides. The most corporate wastes such as, luminous bulbs, toxic batteries (lithium or lead), and mercury-containing devices are all hazardous wastes.

Hazardous waste

There are different ways available, by which we can reduce the hazardous waste as listed below,

- Avoid house holding cleaner
- By using bio fertilizer in agriculture
- Avoid insecticides in open air
- Using water based paints at our homes and office
- Replacing toxic cleaner by naturally prepared one
- Avoiding unusual cleaner and floor polish
- Dispose and recycle the waste safely

As we are moving towards modernization we are not in apposition to avoid such things. But we must dispose and recycle the waste safely without affecting our health using modern technology.

Responsibilities

The government should create awareness by introducing separate industrial waste management institution. The young minds should be educated from their primary studies about the disposal of these wastes. For that, the curriculum should be framed carefully by introducing importance of hazardous waste disposing methods as a primary subject.

A law should be framed in which the government should order the people to separate hazardous waste from their daily waste and safely dispose them. Government should provide subsidies to build hazardous waste disposal units at every city. This will be more helpful for the people to dispose their hazardous waste without dumping and burning it. Also the government should take initiative about the waste through advertisements.

Effects

When hazardous waste is disposed improperly, they go inside the soil and affect the ground water which we drink. This causes death. When we grow plants on this soil and eat them, it causes lungs and kidney diseases. This leads to chemical poisoning also.

CONCLUSION

In the world of Information, Communication and Technology, it is highly impossible to avoid electronic and hazardous waste but we can minimize the amount of electronic and hazardous waste products.

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