



**CAG**

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

# A CLOSE LOOK AT E-WASTE

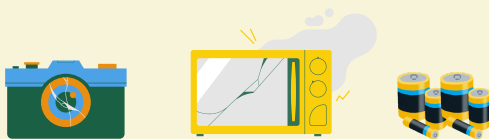




## DID YOU KNOW?

*India stands second in terms of E-waste generation in Asia, with 4.1 million tonnes, generated as of 2022, after China.*

*This means that each one of us, on average, throw out 2.9 kg of e-waste, every year.*



*Electronic waste (e-waste) is generated when any electrical or electronic equipment becomes unfit for its intended use.*

## WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

*The continuous evolution and introduction of new electronic devices, significantly reducing the lifespan of older gadgets.*

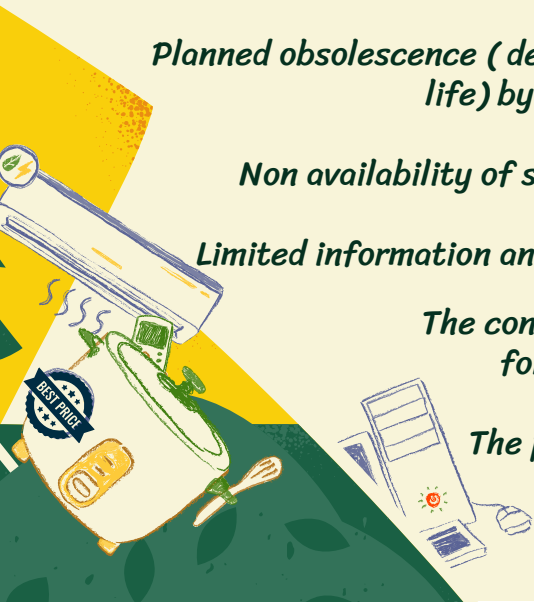
*Planned obsolescence (designing a product with limited life) by industries.*

*Non availability of spare parts for products.*

*Limited information and choice for repair of products.*

*The constant demand from consumers for cutting-edge products.*

*The prevalence of a use and throw culture.*



# BUT IT IS WASTE...? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THROWING IT?

*Well, it's NOT WASTE.  
Electronic items contain:*

***useful materials** of economic benefit such as plastics, iron, glass, aluminium, copper; precious metals such as silver, gold, platinum, and indium; and rare earth elements such as lanthanum, and neodymium.*

***hazardous substances** such as lead, cadmium, mercury; other toxic substances such as polychlorinated bi-phenyls, Brominated Flame Retardants(BFR), etched chemicals, etc.*



*The environmental impact of e-waste toxins include contamination of soil, groundwater pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, emission of toxic fumes.*

*Human exposure to the toxins in e-waste lead to neurological risks, reproductive issues, elevated toxins in blood and tissue, skin and respiratory conditions, and increased risk of cancers.*

# WHAT'S THE CORRECT WAY TO HANDLING E-WASTE?



*E-waste management and recycling is a process and includes the following steps:*

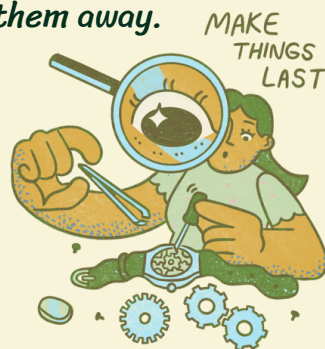
**COLLECTION - SORTING -  
DIS-ASSEMBLY- SHREDDING - SEPARATION AND  
RECOVERY - HAZARDOUS DISPOSAL OR MATERIAL  
RE-SALE**

## SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?

*Develop the habit of repairing and reusing electronic goods instead of throwing them away.*

*Reach out to authorised e-waste recyclers to pick-up discarded products from your doorstep for safe management of e-waste.*

**IN IT FOR THE LONG RUN**



*Or, hand it over to local scrap dealers who deal with e-waste, if a collection recycling centre is not available in the nearby vicinity.*



*Donate devices in good condition to those who need them if they are of no use to you.*



*Do not mix e-waste with normal household garbage as e-waste contains hazardous material that needs special handling.*

*Contact the manufacturer to see if they have a take-back program for old electronics. Many companies offer free or incentivized recycling services.*



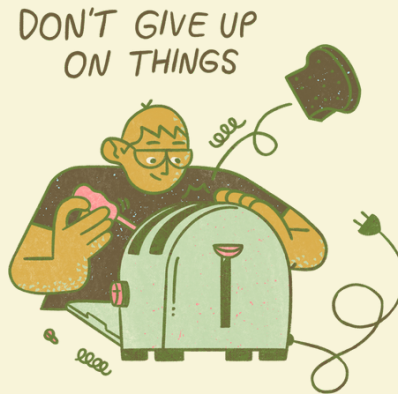
*Ensure that all personal data is wiped off from the device before disposing off e-waste. This will prevent data theft and character impersonation.*

## **DON'T FORGET THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS**

*Inform other consumers about e-waste recycling and stay updated on the latest news regarding e-waste, including laws and regulations.*

## REMEMBER YOUR RIGHT TO REPAIR!

*The Right to Repair is a Government of India initiative. The Right to Repair Portal India was launched in 2022 by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.*



*The objective is to  
give consumers a chance to repair their products on their  
own or at an optimal cost instead of buying new products;  
reduce e-waste;  
help harmonise the trade between original equipment  
manufacturers, third party buyers and sellers – thus  
facilitating creation of new jobs;  
boost business for small repair shops*

*The portal works as a catalyst for providing relevant  
repair-associated information between the companies and  
consumers. It has details, including access to product  
manuals and repair videos of various companies. It is  
voluntary for now, and around 62 companies have  
registered in the portal so far.*



# LET US KNOW THEIR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

## MANUFACTURERS

*must collect e-waste generated during the manufacturing process and recycle it. They are also tasked with spreading awareness through various media*

## PRODUCERS

*must meet extended producer responsibility (EPR) targets and ensure that products are collected back from the end-users for recycling.*

## BULK CONSUMERS

*must ensure that their e-waste is handed over only to registered producers, refurbishers, or recyclers.*

## RECYCLERS

*must work to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) -set standards and ensure that non-recycled fractions are sent to authorised facilities and that residues are appropriately disposed.*

## STATE GOVERNMENTS

*must provide spaces and facilities for e-waste dismantling and recycling and ensure the registration and safety of workers involved in e-waste processing.*



## AND AS FOR BATTERIES



*It is the responsibility of consumers to ensure the proper disposal of batteries by segregating waste batteries from other waste streams, especially mixed and household waste streams. Consumers are advised to deliver the batteries to an authorized entity engaged in the collection, refurbishment, or recycling of batteries.*

*The Battery Management Rules is applicable to producers, dealers, consumers, and entities engaged in the collection, segregation, transportation, refurbishment, and recycling of waste batteries. This rule encompasses all types of batteries, irrespective of their chemistry, shape, volume, weight, material composition, and usage.*



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