

Electronic Waste Recycling Promotion and Consumer Protection Act



Final Briefing

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Overview

1. **What is electronic waste (e-waste) and why is it a problem?**
2. **What is being done about e-waste?**
3. **What are the options for national legislation?**
4. **What approach does the Electronic Waste Recycling Promotion and Consumer Protection Act (S.510) take?**
5. **How will our program implement the Act?**



What is E-Waste?

As defined by the legislation, it is discarded:

- **Televisions, Computer Monitors**
- **Central Processing Units (CPUs)**



In the future, the definition may include:

- **Cell Phones, Pers. Digital Assistants, MP3 Players**
- **Video and DVD Players**



Why is E-Waste Poisonous?

Seleni

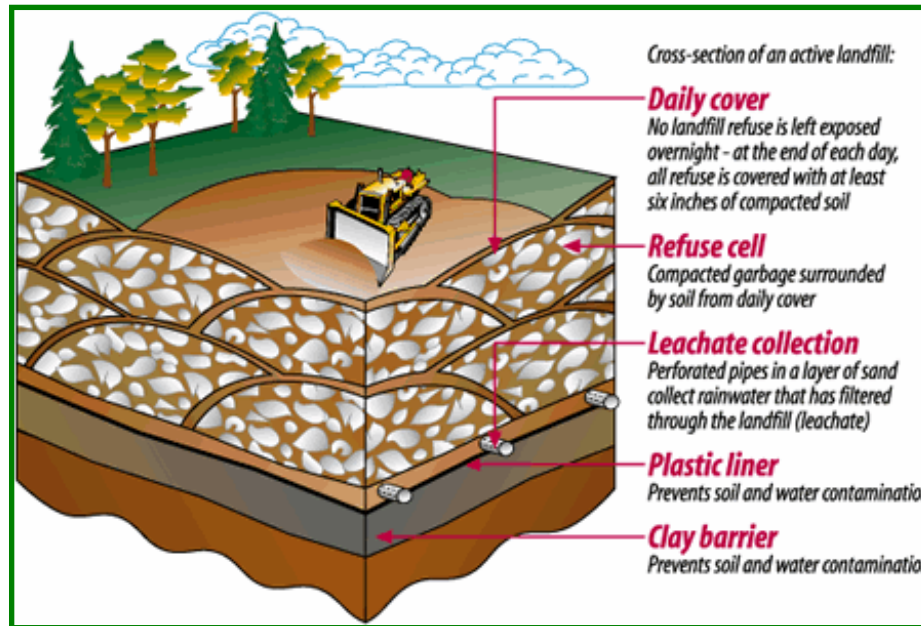
balt

Cadmiu

romium

Lead

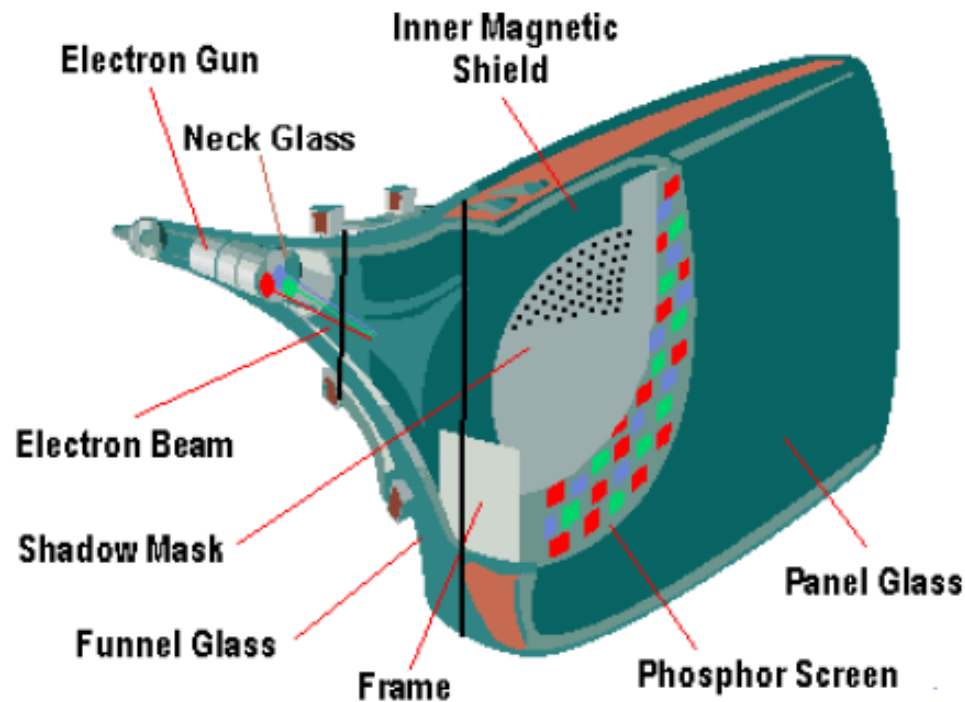
ylbrominated
e retardants



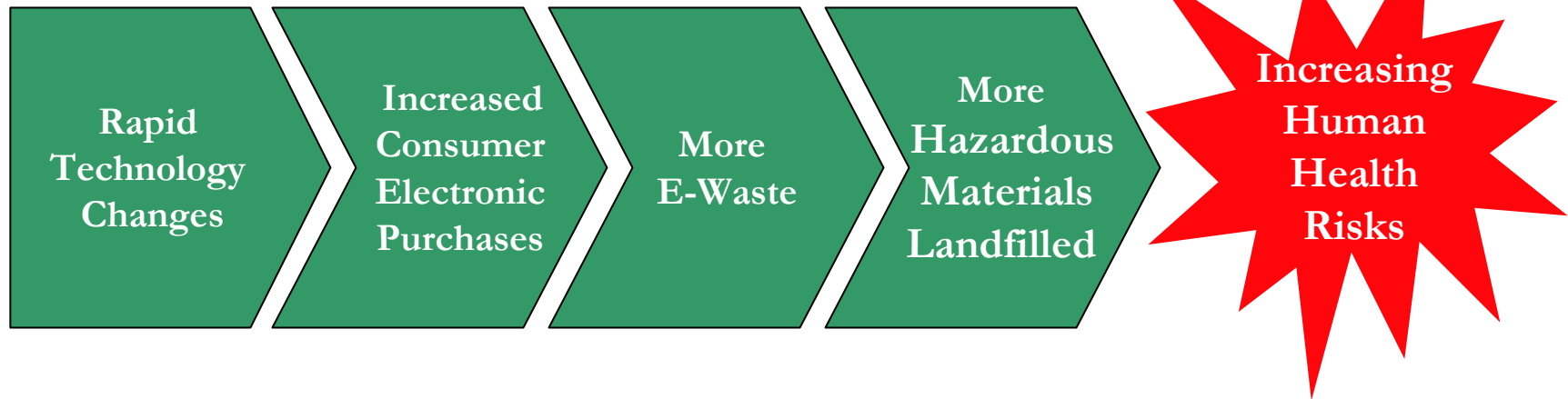
Toxins in electronic waste can damage blood and nervous systems, increase risks for cancer, and cause other **serious health effects**.

What is an Example of a Toxic Component?

Cathode Ray Tube



How Big is the E-Waste Problem?



- 400 million units discarded per year¹
- An average of **761 units** of e-waste discarded *per minute*

What is Being Done About E-Waste ?

- **The growing amount of e-waste has attracted legislative attention**
 - Two national bills in addition to this Act being considered
 - In the first half of 2005 alone, 30 state and local legislatures saw more than 50 bills
- **A patchwork of laws exist, placing different requirements on manufacturers, recyclers and retailers**
- **There is currently no national legislation to address this issue – current action is insufficient.**

What Options Exist for National Legislation?

- **Producer responsibility model**
 - Manufacturers take back their own products for recycling and attempt to improve their product
- **Advanced recovery fees**
 - Consumers pay the cost of recycling in the purchase price of electronics
- **Deposit refund system**
 - Consumers pay a fee when they purchase an electronic and are reimbursed when they return the unit
- **Tax credits**
 - Provide tax credits for consumers and recyclers

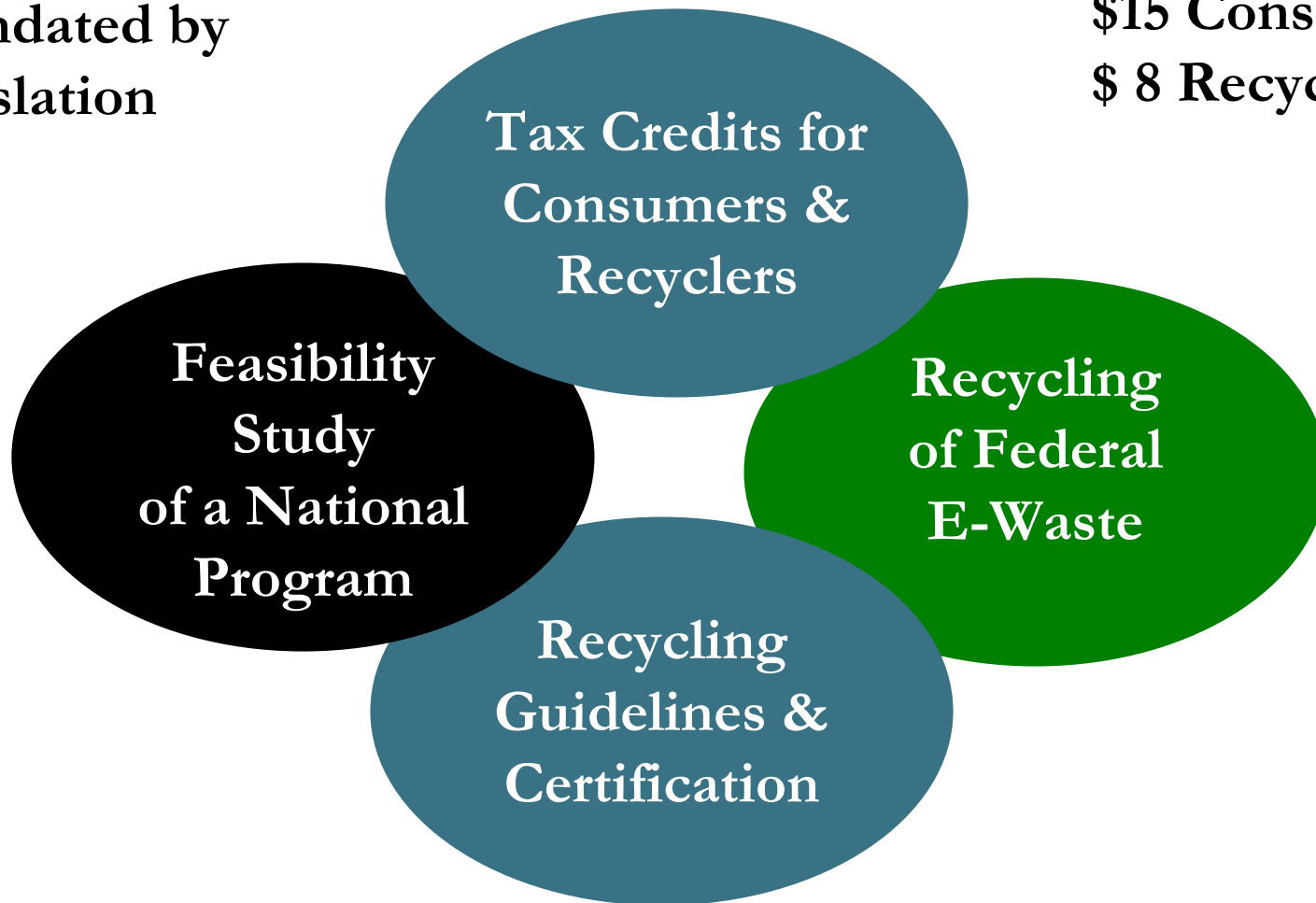
3,805



How Does the Act Approach the Problem?

**Mandated by
legislation**

**\$15 Consumer
\$ 8 Recycler**



How Does Our Program Implement the Act?

TIMING	ACTION
After Enactment	Begin process of recycling across all federal agencies and begin feasibility study.
Within 6 Months	Issue regulations to facilitate tax credits and guidelines for recycling.
Within 1 Year	Present feasibility study to Congress.
For 3 Years	Provide tax credits to recyclers and consumers.

5,327

Who Will Implement the Act?

EPA Office of Solid Waste

Electronics
Recycling Taskforce

Program Manager

Recycling
Guidelines &
Certification Group

Communications
Group

Tax Credit
Group

Feasibility
Study

6,088

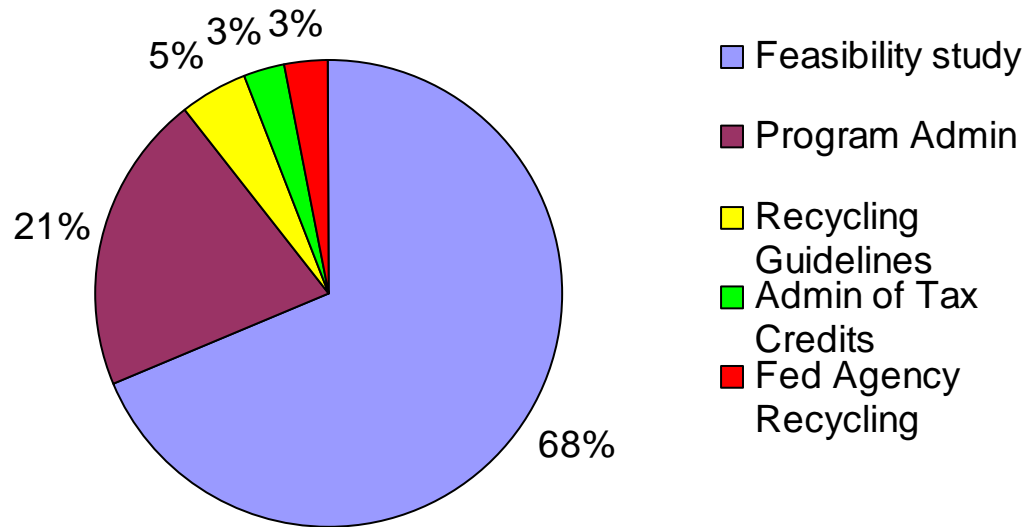
How Much Will it Cost to Get Started?

Electronic Waste Taskforce Budget

6,849

First Year Costs: \$1.75M

This includes expenses such as salaries, travel, office supplies, and consulting fees.



Other Expenses fall outside of the purview of the Taskforce. For example, Tax Credits represent revenue foregone by the IRS during the first year of about \$150M.

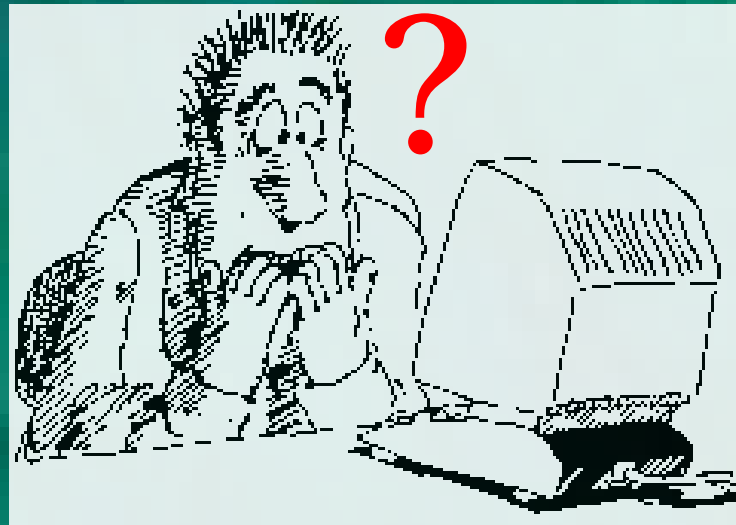
7,610

In Conclusion - Why is this Important?

- **E-waste problem growing, and requires immediate action**
 - During this presentation, about 7,610 more units of electronic waste entered the waste stream
- **National legislation will create recycling industry uniformity**
- **Recycling will become more accessible to individuals**
- **This Act is a first step to national legislation for e-waste**



Thank You & Questions



Thank you to Professor Steve Cohen,
Carrie Senefelder
& The Entire Electronic Waste Team!