



Electronic Waste in New York City: Implementing Extended Producer Responsibility in the Big Apple



Prepared for the Natural Resources Defense Council

April 19, 2006



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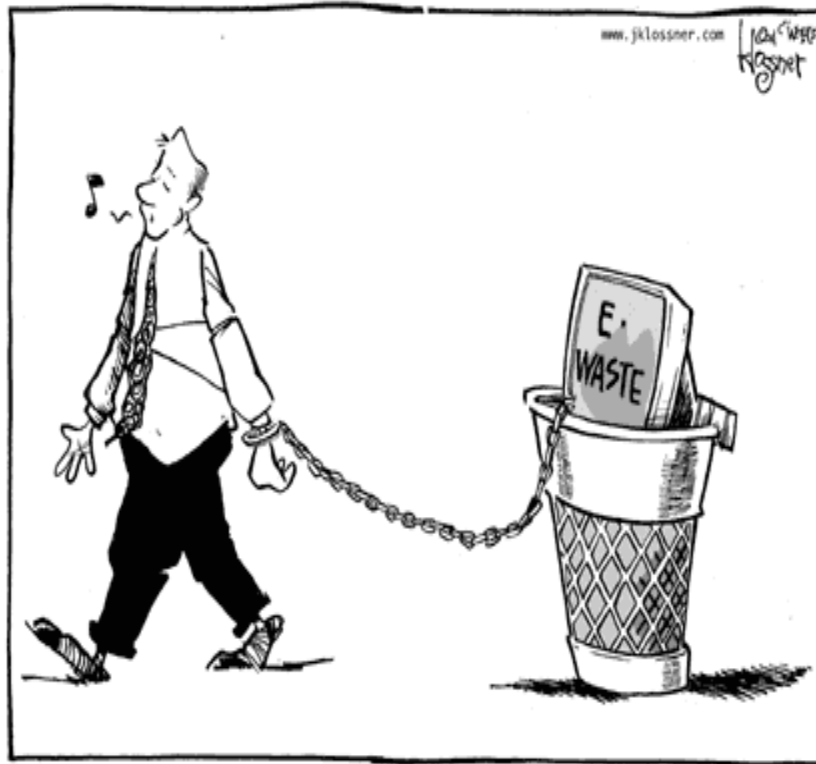
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Agenda



What is electronic waste?

Why is it a problem?

What is our role?

What did we learn?

What do we recommend?

What further research
may be conducted?

What is Electronic Waste?

- E-waste is any appliance using an electrical supply that has reached its end-of-life
 - Household appliances
 - Personal computers and notebooks
 - Computer monitors
 - Televisions
 - Cell phones



Why is E-Waste a Problem?



- 100 million personal computers disposed of in 2004
- Contains hazardous materials harmful to human health and the environment
- No existing policy to manage e-waste
- Introduced into the waste stream

What is Our Role?

- Consultants to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Provide policy and management analysis of proposed e-waste regulation in New York City



What is Our Role, cont'd...



- New York City's Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
 - First city-level policy of its kind
- Our strategy
 - Analyze existing programs
 - Examine stakeholder perspectives
 - Offer recommendations for best practices

What Did We Learn From Existing Programs?



- California, Maine, Massachusetts, Washington, Japan and the European Union
- Different methods of financing and collection to implement programs
 - Consumers bear some costs
 - Various methods of collection, transportation, recycling, reuse and disposal
 - Very new programs

What Did We Learn From Stakeholders?



- Divided over specific policy preference
- Concerned about impacts on existing markets
- Do not want patchwork of “stand-alone” programs
- Prefer a national policy solution

What Do We Recommend?



- Key Issues
 - Financing
 - Collection

- Best practices for implementation

What Do We Recommend? cont'd...

Assigning Manufacturer Cost

- Provide Flexibility
 - Transfers responsibility from public to private sector at lowest cost
- Encourages Participation



What Do We Recommend? cont'd...

Collection and Transportation

- Curbside pickup
 - Low effort required by consumers
 - High estimated collection rate
 - May require resources for sorting



How Do We Measure Success of the Program?



- Set target levels for
 - Collection, recycling and reuse
 - Hazardous materials
 - Amount to waste stream
- Evaluate and reassess targets, if needed

What Further Research May be Conducted?



- Logistical concerns
- Consumer education
- Transition period
- Quantifying costs and benefits

Questions?



Image Citations



- <http://mainegov-images.informe.org/dep/rwm/ewaste/images/pile.jpg>
- http://images.smalldog.com/sitedesign2004/eWaste_logo.jpg
- <http://wwp.greenwichmeantime.com/time-zone/usa/new-york/new-york-city/images/new-york-city.jpg>
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