

E-waste... the defining challenge
of our generation

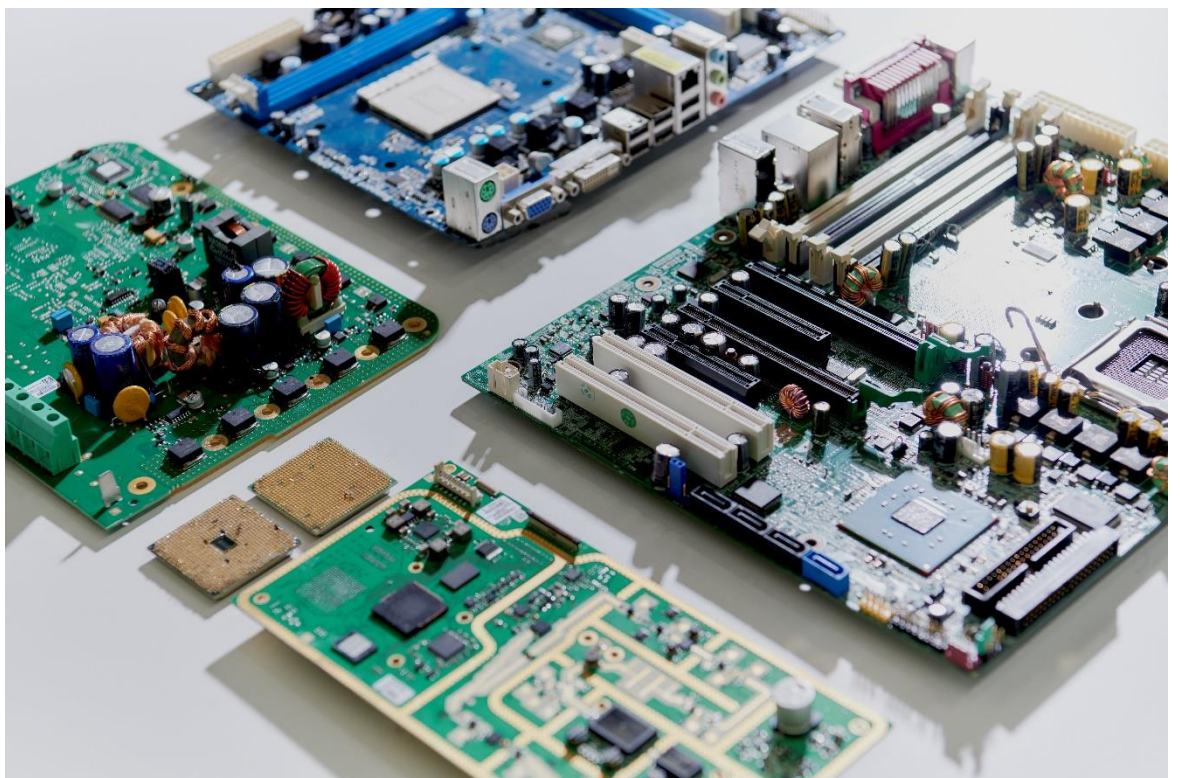
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What is e-waste?

Electronic waste - commonly referred to as e-waste - is electronic devices with a battery or plug that is no longer wanted, not functional, or obsolete. Simply, it's any appliance with an electrical plug or separate charger.

Think phones, laptops, PCs, TVs, and every household appliance. As well as all the things we don't see in our daily lives like IT servers, communications exchanges and control panels for industrial equipment.

- Australia is among the world's largest generators of e-waste at 21.7 kg per capita (Globalewaste.org).
- The world generated an estimated 57.4 million tonnes of e-waste in 2020 – greater than the entire weight of the Great Wall of China (WEEE Forum, 2021).
- More than five billion of the estimated 16 billion mobile phones possessed worldwide were likely discarded or stashed away in 2022. Stacked flat on top of each other, that's equivalent to roughly twice the circumference of Australia (WEEE Forum, 2022).
- Global e-waste is predicted to exceed 74 million tonnes per annum by 2030 (United Nations University, 2020) – a 30% increase in annual volume in only a decade.



A fast-moving world needs fast moving solutions

End-of-life electronics are the fastest-growing global waste stream. Yet, our understanding of what happens once we drop our old devices in an e-waste bin is low... and our cynicism is high.

Restoring and protecting our planet is the defining challenge of our generation. If we fail to regenerate the materials in these devices, not only are we haemorrhaging finite resources, but we are also actively damaging the planet that enables their existence in the first place. It's time to rewrite the narrative. Let's bring end-of-life technology back to life. Let's consider the "end" right at the "beginning".

Why is less than 20% recycled?

Recycling is a "feel good" story with a flawed reality. The speed of technological innovation and the increasing cycle of consumption means the scale of the problem is more visible than ever, but the range of solutions is narrow and opaque.

- The National Waste Report 2022 shows there are only 20 facilities in Australia that reprocess e-waste for recycling, yet we generated 554 kilo tonnes of e-waste in 2019 alone – the capacity of over 220 Olympic swimming pools.
- More than 90 per cent of e-waste recyclers in Australia focus on repurposing or selling a relatively small amount of high-value material from e-waste, sending more than 80 per cent of non-repurposed material to landfill.
- Legislation is moving to support e-waste recycling practices but is loosely enforced.
- E-waste often includes materials, such as plastics, that cannot be recycled through traditional methods. However, state and territory governments in Australia are yet to recognise alternative recovery streams, such as waste to energy, as a diversion from landfill (as of March 2023). This contributes to higher quantities of e-waste being sent to landfill.



What you can do

We all have a responsibility to future generations to preserve and protect the finite resources of our planet. We believe that the future of e-waste can mean no waste at all. Here's what you can do to help.

1. Re-purpose your electronic assets that still have a workable life, re-use is the best form of recycling.
2. Urge electronics manufacturers to ensure end-of-life solutions are an inherent part of the product design cycle.
3. Recommend your workplace, school or organisation to partner with credible recyclers who are committed to recovering the maximum resources from each device – rather than those who only recover high-value material.
4. Advocate for 100 per cent uptake of green materials for tomorrow's devices, creating a truly circular economy, rather than digging raw materials from the ground.
5. Educate, inform and engage with communities, organisations, governments and the public to make this a reality within a generation.



How Sircel is driving change

Sircel is an Australian green-technology company addressing one of the world's fastest-growing environmental problems with a world-leading proprietary system that enables up to 100% diversion of e-waste from landfill.

Addressing this rapidly growing problem will take effort from all of us. Governments, business, schools, community groups, and the public.

We want to work with you as a strategic partner to complete the circular economy. Our resource regeneration experts can help unlock the e-waste in your organisation, now and into the future.

Together, we can deliver outcomes which are better for business, better for the community and better for the planet.



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