

# consequences

Much of it ends up in third world countries, such as India, Nigeria, and China. Once in those countries, it is sent to poor communities for residents to store, dismantle and burn, resulting in **millions of tons of toxic wastes** and inhospitable living conditions. One of the most notable examples is the Chinese village of **Guiyu**. Known as the "electronic graveyard," the ground water has become so contaminated it is unsafe to drink, plants refuse to grow due to toxins in the soil, and 88% of children have lead poisoning.

Even recycling may not help. In 2012, Charles Tenborg, a San Luis Obispo County hazardous waste disposal manager and founder of the e-waste disposal company ECO Solutions, was found to be **illegally transporting hazardous wastes** and encouraging others to do the same.

## so what can **you** do to help?

- use your electronics to their **fullest** extent
- **avoid replacing** electronics simply because a newer version is available
  - **fix** electronics that are broken
  - participate in **take-back** programs
- **recycle** all other electronics at trusted centers



## helpful links & resources

### Brand-specific take-back programs:

**apple:** [apple.com/recycling](http://apple.com/recycling)

**sony:** [sony.com/ecotrade](http://sony.com/ecotrade)

**toshiba:** [toshiba.ecotakeback.com](http://toshiba.ecotakeback.com)

**blackberry:** [us.blackberry.com/recycle.html](http://us.blackberry.com/recycle.html)

**lenovo:** [portal.aerccr.com/TRCS/RequestMailback](http://portal.aerccr.com/TRCS/RequestMailback)

**panasonic, mitsubishi, sanyo & vizio:**  
Electronic Recyclers International (ERI)  
3243 South East Ave  
Fresno, CA 93725

**LG, zenith & goldstar:**

WM Health Sanitation Services  
1850 W. Betteravia Rd.  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
(805) 614-1128

### Retailers with recycling / take-back:

best buy, staples, at&t

### Other resources:

**electronics repair tutorials:** [ifixit.com](http://ifixit.com)

**on-campus repair seminars:**  
Consumer Electronics Society  
<http://www.calpolyieee.org/>

**recycling (alternatives to cold canyon landfill):**  
[achievementhouse.com](http://achievementhouse.com)  
[explorationstation.org](http://explorationstation.org)  
[allgreenrecycling.com/san-luis-obispo](http://allgreenrecycling.com/san-luis-obispo)

## questions?

for more information and a comprehensive version of the decision tree, visit our website at:

**[cepetterson.wix.com/ewaste](http://cepetterson.wix.com/ewaste)**



the truth about our  
electronic waste and what  
**YOU** can do to help



# electronic graveyard

Website: [Edes.408Sp2013\\_E-Waste](http://Edes.408Sp2013_E-Waste)

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# [truth &

In the world today, there are:

- 6+ billion cell phones
- 1+ billion computers
- 2+ billion televisions

In 2012 alone, the world produced:

- 1.75 billion cell phones
- 352.7 million computers
- 238 million televisions

The average US household owns:

- 2.73 cell phones
- 1.49 computers
- 2.5 televisions

This means that in San Luis Obispo, residents are using:

- 47,801 cell phones
- 28,598 computers
- 47,983 televisions

[...and that just includes electronics currently **in-use**]

Americans annually throw away:

- 140 million cell phones
- 47 million computers
- 20.6 million televisions

...and only **13.6%** is recycled.

[but where does all that electronic waste **go**?]

## [e-waste decision tree]

