

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
- sony:** sony.com/ecotrade
- toshiba:** toshiba.ecotakeback.com
- blackberry:** us.blackberry.com/recycle.html
- lenovo:** 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
- on-campus repair seminars:**
Consumer Electronics Society
<http://www.calpolyieee.org/>
- recycling (alternatives to cold canyon landfill):**
achievementhouse.com
explorationstation.org
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



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



electronic graveyard

Website: Edes.408Sp2013_E-Waste

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