

E-WASTE

2022-2023 Practice Problem 1

+ TOPIC DESCRIPTOR +

Electronic devices are often replaced with the latest version at an alarmingly fast pace. These constant upgrades add to e-waste significantly impacting the environment and reducing natural resources while consumer demand is being met. Tens of millions of tons of such materials are discarded every year worldwide. Electronic products are full of hazardous substances such as toxic materials and heavy metals that can threaten humans, plants, animals. One method of disposal often employed by developed states is to offload e-waste to low-income countries for resale or demolition. This offloading places developing nations at greater risk of exposure to toxic chemicals and materials. Meanwhile, the high rate of device upgrades in developed countries has significant consequences for both people and the environment.

What impact does planned disposal have on the amount of e-waste? What incentives can be developed to promote software upgrades for existing devices? As the appetite for ever-increasing technological devices continues, what are the implications for how we dispose of these devices? How can more effective and ethical responses to recycling and disposal policies be encouraged to protect human life and the global environment in the future?

+ SUGGESTED READINGS +

Theme 1: Planned Obsolescence and Consumption Driven Society



- Gadgets not lasting as long as you would like them to? Welcome to planned obsolescence
- Ending over mending: planned obsolescence is killing the planet

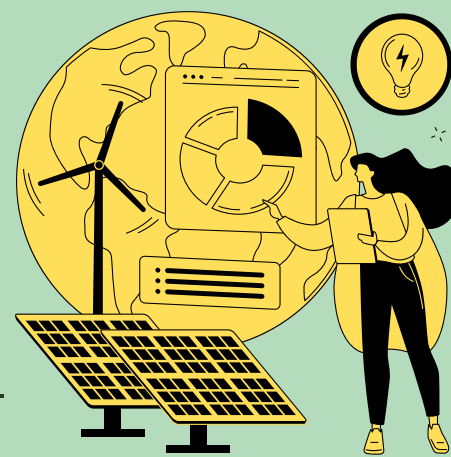


Theme 2: The Hazards of E-Waste & Offloading

- The harmful effects of e-waste to humans
- Toxic e-waste dumped in poor nations, says United Nations

Theme 3: Sustainability & A Circular Economy

- The impact of electronic devices on the circular economy
- Clean energy tech needs to be designed for recycling, experts say

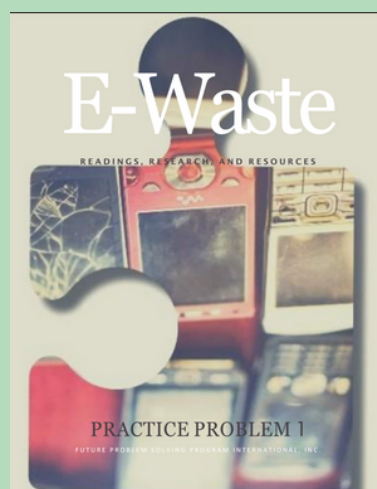


Theme 4: A Worldwide Problem of Inconsistent (or Nonexistent) Regulation

- Call to revise EU legislation for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- How toxic e-waste from high-income countries booms in Nigerian market

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