WHAT IS E-WASTE?

E-waste is any broken, obsolete or unused electronic equipment including personal computers, peripherals such as printers and keyboards, televisions, and associated cabling. Any appliance using electricity has the potential to cause harm to the environment, if not disposed of responsibly.

E-waste contains significant amounts of valuable materials that can be recovered and recycled for reuse. They also contain several hazardous substances, such as, arsenic, mercury, lead, cadmium and chromium. These substances are very harmful to the environment and human health and can cause changes in lung function, especially in children; DNA damage; impaired thyroid function and increased risk of some chronic diseases later in life, such as cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Some 75% of toxic chemicals found at disposal facilities can be attributed to electronic waste. When disposed of correctly, most materials and toxic substances can be recovered and reprocessed for reuse, and the remaining small portion, about 1% or 200 grams for every tonne, will be disposed of responsibly.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- Immediate and long-term impacts on human health
- Release of hazardous substances into the environment when e-waste ends up at disposal sites
- Increased demand for use of raw materials
- Increase in energy required for production and use of fossil fuels
- Increase in greenhouse gas from the manufacture, use and disposal of e-waste

STEPS TO HELP REDUCE E-WASTE

- Ask ourselves 'do we need the latest technology?'
- Explore the possibility of upgrading or repairing current equipment
- Check if friends, local groups or charities can use old equipment if still in working order
- When equipment is at the end of its life, dispose of it at a drop-off facility

HOW IS E-WASTE RECYCLED?

E-waste is separated into key components for recycling. Examples are:

MATERIAL	PROCESSING
GLASS (Found in old computer monitors and TV screens)	Crushed and reprocessed for use in lead-based glass products and road base.
METALS (Found in drives, screws and other parts)	Reprocessed into a range of metal products.
PLASTICS (Found in casings and circuit boards)	Reprocessed into electronic housing, packaging, pallets and textiles.
ALUMINIUM (Found in casing and wire)	Remanufactured into various aluminium products.
GOLD & SILVER (Found in circuit boards and keyboards)	Recovered for reprocessing into a variety of products.

E-WASTE MATERIALS INCLUDE: (ACCEPTABLE ITEMS)

COMPUTER MONITORS,
PERSONAL COMPUTER UNITS,
LAPTOPS AND KEYBOARDS
TELEVISIONS
VCR, DVD AND BLU-RAY PLAYERS
VIDEO GAME CONSOLES
MICROWAVES,
TOASTERS
AND COFFEE MAKERS
(SMALL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES)
REFRIGERATORS,
FREEZERS,
WASHERS AND DRYERS
AND DISHWASHERS
(LARGE HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES)
COPIERS,
SCANNERS
AND FAX MACHINES
STEREOS AND RADIOS
CLOTHING IRONS
HAIRDRYERS AND STRAIGHTENERS
LIGHTING EQUIPMENT
ELECTRONIC TOOLS
MOBILE PHONES
ROUTERS

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (CFLS)

Items that are not structurally intact, such as TVs with broken screens automotive and other lead acid batteries.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE E-WASTE WE COLLECT ?

When e-waste is recovered for recycling, the materials are forwarded to markets both locally and overseas and used as raw materials in further recycling and manufacturing processes.

QUICK FACTS

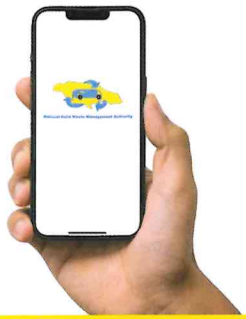
Our growing desire for computers and electronics has led to e-waste becoming the world's fastest growing waste stream. Some contributing factors to this increase are:

- New technologies are developing so quickly and we, the consumers, want to own the latest and the best.
- Analogue TVs are being phased out with many people already switching to digital.
- It is generally cheaper to replace items than to repair them, although this does not consider the long-term costs.

The global reserves of some materials found in electronic waste have only limited life remaining.
Copper – 60 years of global reserves remain
Lead – 42 years of global reserves remain

A recent UN study found that the manufacture of one desktop computer and standard monitor requires:
- 240 kilograms of fossil fuels
- 22 kilograms of chemicals
- 1,500 litres of water

That's the same resources required to manufacture a medium-sized car. Recycling one tonne of computers will prevent three to five tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. Play your part in saving our planet from further environmental degradation which threatens the future of all mankind.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit the NSWMA's website: www.nswma.gov.jm
or call 876-448-3220

WHERE CAN I TAKE E-WASTE?

ITEMS MAY BE TAKEN TO :

NATIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
61 HALF WAY TREE ROAD, KINGSTON 10
TEL: 876-926-5170
CELL: 876-448-3220
EMAIL: nswmacro@nswma.gov.jm

MPM WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
67A HAGLEY PARK ROAD, KINGSTON 10
TEL: 876-754-5963
CELL: 876-448-3301
EMAIL: mpmcro@nswma.gov.jm

WPM WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
LOJ COMMERCIAL CENTRE, UNIT 1A
MONTEGO BAY, ST. JAMES
TEL: 876-953-6281-2, 876-618-2044
CELL: 876-482-3741
EMAIL: wpmcro@nswma.gov.jm

NEPM WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
2 STORMONT ROAD, NEW BUCKFIELD
OCHO RIOS, ST. ANN
TEL: 876-974-4546, 876-974-5465
CELL: 876-291-7713
EMAIL: nepmcro@nswma.gov.jm

SPM WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
4A MANDEVILLE PLAZA, MANDEVILLE
MANCHESTER
TEL: 876-961-0828, 876-962-3270
CELL: 876-463-8467
EMAIL: spmcro@nswma.gov.jm

E-WASTE

61 HALF WAY TREE ROAD
E-MAIL: NSWMA@NSWMA.GOV.JM
888-CLEAN- JA (253-2652)
MOBILE: 876-448-3220
FAX: 876-920-1415