

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON  
ELECTRONIC WASTE MANAGEMENT  
INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, NEW DELHI  
MARCH 15, 2004**

**PROPOSED WAY FORWARD**

1. The need for proper management of E-Waste is well recognized – recycling and resource recovery has to be environmentally compatible.
2. The study in Delhi has confirmed possible environmental impacts of unorganised recycling of computer wastes, however, assessment needs to be done on National Level covering other important e-waste processing center and for all compounds of E-Waste.
3. It is proposed to adopt a two-way strategy :
  - a) Study at National Level
    - Assessment of present scenario i.e. quantification, characterisation, disposal practices and environmental impacts by taking up rapid supplemental assessments as above.
    - Projections for future generation of PCs, Mobile phones, TVs, ACs, Refrigerators and other electronic equipment.
  - b) Formation of a Working Group consisting of :
    - Regulatory agencies
    - NGOs
    - Industry Associations/Industry Representatives
    - Experts in the field.
    - Recyclers proposing to set-up state-of-the-art facilities.

The Group will look into the following matters :

- i Desirability of continuing with the present traditional system of e-waste collection in the informal sectors :
  - Upgrading current recycling practices,
  - Evolution of standards for recycling operations,
  - Fiscal incentives to promote recycling.
- ii In the context of extended producer responsibility, assessment of suitability and need for legislation with regard to the following options :
  - Buy Back Schemes
  - Fixed Recycling Price
  - Flexible Refund Schemes
  - The responsibilities of various stake holders – end users, recyclers, manufacturers and those responsible for collection should be spelt out clearly
- iii Dialogue with industry with regard to cleaner production aimed at eliminating use of hazardous substances such as cadmium, mercury, hexavalent, chromium and halogenated flame retardants from electronic products.
- iv Steps required to check illegal import of E-waste, if any; consider the proposal to ban e-waste imports rather than classify e-waste under restricted category.
- v Problems posed by significant presence of non-branded products, particularly in the PCs segment.
- vi Incentives needed, if any for setting-up of state-of-the-art facilities for recycling.