

Meeting the Challenge of E-waste in Africa



Start:

1st of November 2009

Division:



[Sustainable Products & Material Flows](#)

Description:

E-waste contains many valuable metals such as gold, silver, palladium, aluminium, steel and copper. Recovery of aluminium, steel and copper from e-waste is an important livelihood strategy for many poor people in West Africa. However, e-waste also contains many hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium, brominated flame retardants and PVC. Due to a lack of recycling and waste management infrastructure, some of the toxic parts of e-waste can not currently be managed safely in most developing countries, and hence cause damage to the environment, and the health of the workers and local communities. In the process, many valuable metals entailed in e-waste are also lost. In projects carried out in Ghana (commissioned by Inspectorate of the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and the Dutch Recycling Association) and Nigeria (commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme), the Öko-Institut cooperates with local research partners to study the socio-economic impacts of the informal e-waste sector as well as the currently practiced recycling systems in comparison with the best-available recycling technologies. Drawing from these analysis, recommendations to improve the environmental and social profile of the sectors are given.

Authors involved:

[Prakash, Siddharth](#)

[Manhart, Andreas](#)

Publications List

Reports

[Socio-economic assessment and feasibility study on sustainable e-waste management in Ghana](#)

Prakash, S., Manhart, A., 2010

Presentations

[Informal e-waste recycling sector in Ghana: An in-depth socio-economic study](#)

Prakash, S., Manhart, A., 2010

[Towards Environmentally and Socially Sound E-Waste Management in W-Africa: Results from a Survey in Ghana and Europe](#)

Prakash, S., Manhart, A., 2010

[E-Waste Africa Project - Informal e-waste recycling in Ghana: a socioeconomic assessment and feasibility study on international recycling cooperation for sustainable resource efficiency](#)

Prakash, S., Manhart, A., 2010

[E-Waste Africa Project - Introduction to the study on the feasibility of international e-waste recycling co-operations between Ghana and Europe](#)

Prakash, S., Manhart, A., 2010

[E-waste Africa Project - Status report for Component 3 - Second Advisory Board Meeting](#)

Prakash, S., Manhart, A., 2009

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Brochures

[Meeting the Challenge of E-waste in Africa](#)

BASEL CONVENTION, UNEP, 2009

Articles

[Informal e-waste recycling sector in Ghana: An indepth socio-economic study](#)

Prakash, S., Manhart, A., 2010

[Towards Environmentally and Socially Sound E-Waste Management in W-Africa - Results from a survey in Ghana and Europe](#)

Prakash, S., Manhart, A., 2010