



What is e-waste?

Items of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and its parts that have been discarded as waste without the intent of re-use¹



E-waste as a waste stream



50 million tonnes

of e-waste will be generated in 2020²



E-waste represents 2% of solid waste streams, yet

70% of hazardous waste

that ends up in landfill is e-waste³



80%

of global e-waste is not documented, i.e. not recycled following international standards or ends up in landfill⁴

According to GSMA research* the 85 countries studied produce

17.7 million tonnes of e-waste per year



Equivalent to the weight of:

285 million people

The population of Germany, UK, France, Spain and Switzerland



150,000

Blue Whales



100,000

empty Boeing 747s



Managing global mobile waste as a specific type of e-waste



9%

Small IT including mobile phones will account for 9% of the 2020 e-waste production⁵



1/85

Out of the 85 countries studied, only 1 country has an upcoming law specifically pertaining to waste from mobile phones

Policies that **support collection and processing of mobile waste** are needed in emerging markets.

The mobile waste produced in the 85 countries studied, equates to over

1 billion phones



Which contains:

16 million kilograms of Copper = €91.2m

15,000 kg of Palladium = €1.3bn

350,000 kg of Silver = €194m

35,000 kg of Gold = €1.75bn

Recycled metals are **2 to 10 times** more energy efficient than metals smelted from virgin ore.

A strong e-waste policy

Out of the 85 countries...

95% operate under global e-waste legislation

63% are beholden to regional legislation

22% have national legislation on e-waste

36% are working on a new e-waste policy



Formal e-waste recycling rate⁶



Highest Europe 35%

Lowest Africa 0%⁷

Unless there is **solid implementation of e-waste policies and strong processes to support them**, the e-waste problem will remain the same.

What is extended producer responsibility (EPR)?

A policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer product⁸

EPR is seen as a means to control and address e-waste management across countries

Our study showed that **11% of countries have an EPR policy**

with a **further 14%** working on the development of one



EPR processes have recently been introduced in emerging markets as an approach to manage e-waste. **MNOs and other ecosystem partners should review this as an opportunity to support the national e-waste management systems.**

Better management of e-waste is a global phenomenon that needs our attention.

* 2020 GSMA study of the e-waste policy environment in 85 emerging markets in Africa, South and Southeast Asia

1 Step Initiative, 2014

2 WEF, The world's e-waste is a huge problem. It's also a golden opportunity, 2019

3 WEF, A New Circular Vision for Electronics: Time for a Global Reboot, 2019

4 ITU, The Global E-waste Monitor 2017

5 ibid

6 E-waste management activities, which are formally approved and follow all licensing processes required by national and sometimes international policies.

7 ITU, The Global E-waste Monitor 2017

8 OECD

To learn more about our e-waste study and the mission of the GSMA CleanTech programme visit:

www.gsma.com/CleanTech