OPENING PICTURE OF CHILD AT EWASTE DUMP

As people acquire more and new technology devices, the problem of e-waste grows and grows.

PICTURE OF E-WASTE BY COUNTRY

Nearly 40 million tons of e-waste was generated in 2012, most of it coming from the United States and Europe and this year that number is estimated to reach 72 million tons in 2017.

GHANA VIDEO CLIP 1 MUTED

Much e-waste ends up in 3rd world countries, turning into toxic waste dumps that pose serious health risks for children and others who comb through the dumped goods for small bits of copper and other metals. Highly toxic mercury, brominated dioxins and furuans are released into the air when the plastics are burned away so copper and other metals can be scavenged.

VIDEO CLIP - 2ND PART WITH AUDIO

SHIPPING CONTAINERS FULL OF OLD TECH

The practice of shipping old technology overseas as supposed donations needs to be banned.

STATES WITH EWASTE LAWS GRAPHIC

And Legislation that requires consumers to recycle goods is vital along with provide programs that make it easy for consumers to drop off their old technology for recycling. Right now only about half of our states have laws in place regarding e-waste.

POLITICAL CARTOON

Computers and cell phones are just a part of our lives and offer great benefits; however, we need to come up with a better long term solution (cut for time)

VIDEO ON MUTE OF E-WASTE FROM US SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Text on screen) The UN estimates that up to 40% of America's e-waste ends up overseas. We must stop shipping our junk to other countries when we upgrade to new devices before we end up with an irreversible environmental catastrophe.

RECYCLE EWASTE PICTURE (2)

Minimize your e-waste by dropping it off at recycling locations & never ever throwing it in the trash and push your state reps to address the problem instead of shipping old tech from homes, schools and business to other countries.

IMAGE OF WASTE MOUNTAIN

This problem is just too big to hide.

Sources CBS News

Lundgren, Karin. "Electronic Waste Is a Serious Environmental and Health Hazard." The Environment, edited by Lynn M. Zott, Greenhaven Press, 2014. Opposing Viewpoints. Opposing Viewpoints in Context, link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ3010132407/OVIC?u=lsc&xid=c4d0dcfd. Accessed 8 Nov. 2017. Originally published as "The Global Impact of E-Waste: Addressing the Challenge,", 2012.

2012- 40 million tons of e-waste

2017 - 72 million tons of e-waste