



## **Our aim:**

**to develop strategies  
to solve the e-waste  
problem**

- **An initiative  
founded by various  
UN organizations  
and coordinated by  
the UN's research  
arm, the UNU**
- **Global, regional &  
local projects**
- **Prominent members  
from industry,  
government,  
international  
organizations, NGOs  
and academia**



## **E-waste: threats and opportunities associated with an increasing problem**

Every day a vast number of electrical and electronic devices end up as waste. Some of them no longer function; others are obsolete. Pressure is mounting to manage our resources more sustainably.

StEP was founded to offer an impartial global platform for developing sustainable solutions for e-waste management. We work to reduce environmental risks and increase resource recovery worldwide.

StEP engages with all aspects of e-waste management, bringing together political, social, economic and environmental issues through collaboration. Stakeholders and project partners range from multi-national companies to academic and research centres.

Our name is our programme.

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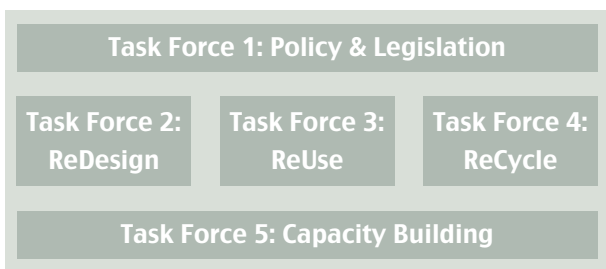
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### **StEP's prime objectives are:**

- To act as a knowledge hub on e-waste for industrialized and industrializing countries
- To increase re-use of electrical and electronic equipment
- To increase materials recovery from e-waste
- To support the safe processing of e-waste
- To encourage life-cycle thinking
- To develop clear policy recommendations

## Initiative organization:

The core work is done by the members of the five StEP Task Forces (TF): Policy, ReDesign, ReUse, ReCycling and Capacity Building. These TFs are devoted to research, analysis and facilitation of pilot-projects. The day-to-day managerial work is executed by a Secretariat hosted by the UNU. Progress is monitored by an international Steering Committee representing key stakeholder groups.



## A strong network – StEP and its global partners

As a science-based initiative founded by various UN organizations we create and foster partnerships between companies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

StEP is open to companies, governmental organizations, academic institutions, NGOs and NPOs and international organizations which commit to proactive and constructive participation in the work of StEP by signing StEP's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). StEP members are expected to contribute monetarily and in kind to the existence and development of the initiative.





## **StEP's core principles:**

1. StEP's work is founded on scientific assessments and incorporates a comprehensive view of the social, environmental and economic aspects of e-waste.
  2. StEP conducts research on the entire life-cycle of electronic and electrical equipment and their corresponding global supply, process and material flows.
  3. StEP's research and pilot-projects are meant to contribute to the solution of e-waste problems.
  4. StEP condemns all illegal activities related to e-waste including illegal shipments and re-use/recycling practices that are harmful to the environment and human health.
  5. StEP seeks to foster safe and eco/energy-efficient re-use and recycling practices around the globe in a socially responsible manner.
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## Members of the Initiative:

### International Organizations:

Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations University (UNU)

### Government and Development Cooperation:

German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Swiss State Secretariat of Economics (SECO), US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA)

### Business & Industry:

AER Worldwide, Cisco Systems Ltd., Dataserv Ltd., Datec Technologies, Dell, Ericsson, Flection, GOAB mbH, Hewlett Packard, Micropro, Microsoft, Nokia, Philips, promotion team wetzlar, Sims Recycling Solutions, Taizhou Chiho Tiande, UMICORE Precious Metal Refining, Wellington Green

### Academia & Research:

Austrian Society for Systems Engineering and Automation (SAT), Chinese Academy of Sciences – Research Center for Environmental Sciences, Delft, University of Technology, ENDA Europe\*, Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research (EMPA), GAIKER Foundation, Griffith University, Institute for Applied Ecology (Öko-Institut), Fraunhofer Institute for Reliability and Microintegration (FHG-IZM), Korean Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) – Materials Systems Laboratory, National Center for Electronics Recycling (NCER), Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Rifer Environmental, Technische Universität Braunschweig – Institute of Machine Tools and Production, TELECOM & Management Sud Paris, Electrical and Electronic Institute (EEI), University of Limerick, University of Melbourne – Faculty of Engineering, WASTE\*, 3P Institute for Sustainable Management

\* Associate Member

## What benefits does StEP membership offer?

- StEP participates in and initiates research projects to fill gaps in current knowledge
- StEP actively engages in the development of e-waste policies around the world
- StEP builds dialogue towards implementation of appropriate policies
- StEP is developing the first and only worldwide e-waste solutions database
- StEP provides support and counsel on e-waste problems
- StEP offers a framework for undertaking e-waste projects and peer-reviewing new ideas
- StEP increases the visibility of members' e-waste-related efforts

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### StEP Secretariat

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