



Core units: Exemplars – Year 9
Illustration 4: E-Waste

E-waste campaign

If we have explored the issues of e-waste and consider that there is a problem, we need to encourage people to take action. Your task is to join with the class and prepare a campaign for awareness and change in your school.

Student activities

1. Conducting investigations

Investigate what happens at your school:

- Explore your classroom (or a number of classrooms in your school) and count the electronic devices which will be potential e-waste. You should look for things like computers, televisions, electronic white boards, telephones and projectors, for example.
- Interview the people responsible for purchase and disposal of electronic equipment. This may be the librarian, the network manager or a school administrator. Find out what your school actually does with e-waste.



Potential and actual classroom e-waste

Source: © Mark D Manuel.

2. Planning a campaign

Plan an awareness-raising campaign for your campus. This is a class exercise and you should select tasks which will work for your school.

The campaign should have at least the following:

- an article for the school newsletter
- an audiovisual presentation for assembly
- a talk to younger students about what they should do with mobile phones
- posters for placing around the campus
- an effective slogan
- stickers which could be placed on electronic equipment
- a themed T-shirt
- a piece of art using e-waste which can be displayed in the library or computer room.

3. Taking action

Plan to have a day on which people can take e-waste to the campus so it can be collected and safely disposed of or recycled.

Explore who may be able to help with this collection and disposal (usually this will be the local council or a company which specialises in e-waste). Contact the council to find out what they can do. Be aware that some councils will assist with this and may not charge, but others will direct you to a commercial company and there may be a small cost per item for disposal.

Ideally you will actually manage to collect the e-waste, but if not, at least you have understood the problems involved.