

# Electronic waste and the circular economy

How a growing problem has a simple  
and profitable solution.



## A circular economy benefits the environment and the IT industry

As IT resources become harder to find and environmental damage becomes exponentially worse, it's more critical than ever to embrace a circular economy.

A circular economy simply leverages existing resources and puts them back into the supply chain instead of using them once and throwing them away.

The economic advantages of employing a circular model in the electrical and electronics sector could be enormous. A circular economic model in IT could reduce costs for consumers by 7% in 2030, and 14% by 2040<sup>1</sup>.

Fortunately, the opportunities to enable a circular economy to exist in a way they haven't before with the development of technological solutions and resources that are revolutionizing supply chains, product design and materials.

Keeping products and parts in secondary markets after repair and refurbishing or as raw materials in manufacturing is an important element of an effective circular economy strategy for the IT industry.

**Proper e-waste management can help mitigate global warming and be good for the bottom line.**

### What is E-waste?

E-waste — an electronic equipment that's being thrown away — has a huge negative impact on our global environment. And it's getting worse every year. Companies face increasing demands for innovative products and solutions even as resources are becoming scarcer—and more expensive.

E-waste makes up **70%** of our overall toxic waste.<sup>2</sup>

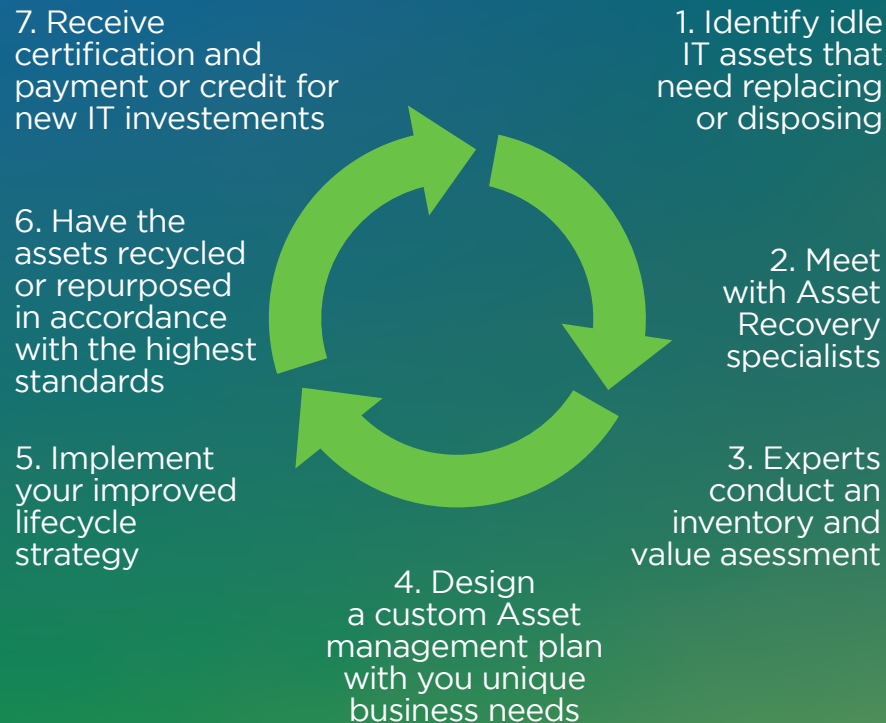
The world produces more than **50 million** metric tons of e-waste a year, weighing more than all the commercial airliners ever made.<sup>3</sup>

Only **20%** of e-waste is formally recycled.<sup>3</sup>

The e-waste produced annually is worth around **\$60 billion**.<sup>3</sup>

There is **100 times** more gold in a ton of e-waste than in a ton of gold ore.<sup>3</sup>

## Smarter Circular Return



## The Solution: Lenovo Asset Recovery Services

Not only does **Smarter Circular Return** ensure compliance from an environmental and security standpoint. It also allows for offsetting new infrastructure costs, helping you to innovate and keep up with digital transformations in a sustainable, profitable manner.

At Lenovo, our **Asset Recovery Services** team are building processes, with our partners, to maximize the reuse potential of IT assets globally. Lenovo's suppliers follow the hierarchy of reuse first then recycle.

IT equipment that cannot be repaired and resold in secondary markets is evaluated for potential reuse of parts and components. Recycling the products is key to getting the raw materials back into circulation for the manufacturing of new products.

89% of IT professionals state that security is the number one consideration when setting up and managing ITAD programs.

**We provide certified data destruction services, standard compliant data erasure, serial number scanning and reporting, or reconciliation of serial numbers against provided asset lists.**

Since 2005, Lenovo has used around 241 million pounds of post-consumer recycled content plastics and 17 million pounds in 2019 alone.

We further contribute to circular economy by using recycled plastic sourced specifically from electronic devices, closed loop post-consumer recycled content, in 66 products.



Smarter  
technology  
for all

Lenovo

## Smarter breathes new life into the IT lifecycle.

Find out more about Lenovo's Asset Recovery Services. Visit:  
[www.lenovo.com/asset-recovery](http://www.lenovo.com/asset-recovery)

For further information on Lenovo's efforts and performance in pursuing  
a sustainable future, please visit:  
[https://investor.lenovo.com/en/sustainability/sustainability\\_reports.php](https://investor.lenovo.com/en/sustainability/sustainability_reports.php)

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1. Morlet, A. et al "The Circular Economy Opportunity for Urban and Industrial Innovation in China", Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2018
2. [www.epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling](http://www.epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling).
3. [www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-report-time-seize-opportunity-tackle-challenge-e-waste](http://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-report-time-seize-opportunity-tackle-challenge-e-waste).

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