

# Data Erasure's Role in the Circular Economy

Shifting end-of-life IT from hazardous disposal to secure reuse

Increased digitization and a slower rate of formal recycling are fueling global e-waste

62m

A record 62 million tons

of e-waste was produced in 2022—up 82% from 2010

78%

Of this, 78%

goes to landfills or is treated outside of formal recycling arrangements

18%

Approximately 18%

of e-waste is made up of computers, screens, smartphones, tablets, TVs, and other such devices

24%

Only 2.5 billion kg

of screens, telecommunications, and small IT equipment is formally recycled from a total of 10.5 billion kg

82m

By 2030, global e-waste is expected

to increase to 82 million tons

## Improperly discarded technology can produce



### Toxic pollutants

Mercury, lead, cadmium, and arsenic can pollute land and water, and fumes from improper recycling contaminate the air



### Carbon emissions

Incineration generates carbon dioxide, and mining new materials often emits more gas than recycling from used devices



### Materials scarcity

Concerns over availability of materials for new electronic devices is rising



### Unauthorized data access

36% of the world's largest organizations use inappropriate data removal methods at disposal, leaving data unprotected

## With 83% of organizations having a CSR or ESG policy in place, why is this happening?



### Lack of education

39%

of surveyed organizations believe physical destruction is **"better for the environment"**

52%

of surveyed organizations believe destruction is **more secure** than other data solutions



### Lack of ownership and communication

91%

of CSR policies address end-of-life equipment, **but implementation responsibilities can be vague**

33%

of surveyed organizations have **yet to communicate** existing CSR policies across their organizations



### Lack of robust regulations

Environmental regulations are often **non-existent, patchworked, poorly enforced or difficult to fulfill**

## Kill data, not devices

Securely sanitize data storage devices, then confidently keep them in the circular economy



## Treat e-waste responsibly with Blancco secure data erasure

Ensure data is **100% gone** from your IT assets—for good—and have the **Certificate of Erasure** to prove it. Blancco offers certified, secure data erasure software for servers, desktops and laptops, mobile devices, loose drives, removable media, and more.

Understand secure disposal options at device end-of-life:

Visit ["Technology Recycling vs. Reuse"](#) to discover a greener option for end-of-life IT assets.



[www.blancco.com](http://www.blancco.com)

#### Sources

Global e-Waste Monitor 2024 (UNITAR, March 2024)

Poor Sustainability Practices – Enterprises are Overlooking the e-Waste Problem (Blancco, Apr 2020)

A False Sense of Security (Blancco, Nov 2019)