In this modern society that is ruled by technology, we see examples of technology everywhere. Our very phones, which are the most common, are the best example of current technology. Others include, computers, CRT televisions, LCD televisions, plasma televisions, and even refrigerators when disposed of or obsolete they are XXXX as e-waste, or Electronic waste. The problems with these, is that they are made with substances, which while not dangerous in small amounts, are very dangerous in large amounts. The way that these hazardous materials compile

Into large amounts is through disposal, when they are tossed into landfills or burned, not disposed of in the correct manner. These hazardous materials include: mercury, lead, cadmium, beryllium, and other harmful substances. When burned, it can release dioxins and carcinogens into the air. This is devastating to the environment that it is introduced to.

Exporting of toxic e-waste by the U.S. to countries who do not have the facilities to properly recycle it should be banned. When E-waste is sent to a facility (in this case located in a country that doesn’t have the correct facilities to dispose of it.) it is not properly recycled. This waste is usually burned, or just thrown into landfills. This is extremely harmful to the environment because of the harmful substances released once disassembled or burned. These can be absorbed by fish and animals, and humans. Workers are often at risk for coming into direct contact with these chemicals. Chemicals such as arsenic can cause infertility and damage to development. At 100mg it’s fatal. Lead causes neurological damage. When these workers have to burn these materials, dioxins and carcinogens are released, which affects the lungs. When these chemicals are released, fish and animals on absorb them. Therefore, when people eat the animals or fish they come into contact with it. The same goes for when it travels into air and water. Even when if indirectly affects us, it will affect us. Everyone and everything is at risk for coming into contact

with them, either directly, or through animals, fish, air, or water.

“Even though it is harmful to the environment, it is cheaper to dispose of these in underdeveloped countries.” While this may be true, it is still very dangerous to the workers there and the environment. It is not worth the trade off for money vs. environmental dangers. “Even though it is bad for those countries, it isn’t hurting anything over here in America.” This is untrue. When these chemicals get into the soil or water, crops will become contaminated. When these crops are exported, they can come into direct contact with us when we import them. This is but one example of how these elements can come into contact with us, even though it may be cheaper and we think that we are not directly affected, sometimes we are.

In conclusion, E-waste can be very dangerous if not disposed of or recycled properly. It is not in our best interest to allow the exporting of electronics that contain these harmful substances to countries not capable of properly disposing/recycling them. Even if we think, “hey, its 8000 miles away” it an still affect us negatively and is no less dangerous.

Sources:

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