

E-WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

E-Waste Governance: Legal Dimensions

E-waste encompasses the discarding of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) by consumers, bulk consumers, or as rejects from manufacturing, refurbishment, and repair processes. The term "e-waste" is commonly used for discarded electronic and electrical items. While items like refrigerators, televisions, LEDs, LCDs, computers, laptops, printers, etc., listed in Schedule-I, are not inherently hazardous, they acquire hazardous characteristics during the dismantling and processing stages. Regulating e-waste is crucial to mitigate potential threats to both health and the environment arising from improper disposal and recycling practices.

The E-Waste (Management & Handling) Rules of 2011, implemented in 2012, were succeeded by the E-Waste (Management) Rules of 2016, effective from October 1, 2016, in India. Administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, these rules superseded previous regulations to enhance the management of electronic waste (e-waste) and specify producer responsibilities under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

The second amendment (2023) to the e-waste management rules delineates the obligations for manufacturers, refurbishers, and recyclers of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. Manufacturers of these appliances must ensure the proper disposal of the cooling system fluids.

Institution E-Waste Disposal Protocol

S. A. Engineering College manages electronic waste originating from its computer laboratories, electronic labs, physics labs, academic and administrative offices, ensuring a meticulous separation process. This includes sorting outdated items like lab instruments, circuits, desktops, laptops, printers, charging and network cables, Wi-Fi devices, cartridges, sound systems, UPS, biometric machines, scientific instruments, air conditioner and more. The college ensures proper disposal by consistently dispatching this e-waste through authorized vendors, adhering to established guidelines and routines on a monthly basis.

E-waste is stored in a designated area for exchange offers or disposal at a minimum price. The focus is on optimizing the use of all stored electronic waste. Items that cannot be reused or recycled are disposed of through authorized vendors. In lieu of new procurement, the institution prioritizes the Buy-Back option as a preferred method for technology upgrades.

To instill a culture of responsibility, the institution provides specialized training to personnel handling waste management tasks. Contractors engaged by the institution are made aware of their obligation to adhere to the waste management policy, emphasizing a collective commitment to sustainable practices.

The selection of contractors from an approved government list reflects the institution's commitment to partnering with entities meeting recognized standards. Oversight of daily operations, especially concerning general waste and recycling services, ensures effective waste disposal practices.

Performance evaluations of the institution's contractor align with contractual agreements, fostering accountability and quality service delivery. Operationally, waste management systems across the campus are systematically supervised, emphasizing the proper disposal of non-hazardous waste through designated streams.

Each department designates a "responsible person" to coordinate the disposal of hazardous or laboratory wastes, emphasizing internal accountability. The responsible disposal of waste, following segregation guidelines in line with the institution's policies and procedures, contributes to the institution's commitment to environmentally conscious and sustainable practices.