

ARGENTINA

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In Argentina, 2.5 kg of e-waste per inhabitant is generated per year. When multiplied by the country's 40 million inhabitants, this represents 100,000 tonnes of e-waste annually. Of this, 35% comes from computers and telecommunications. In 2009 a major increase was felt in mobile phone volumes: almost 10 million mobile phones were discarded annually over the last two years. This figure quadrupled between 2005 and 2009.



Argentina 2008-12 TIC market. In millions of dollars

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
IT Market	4.640,62	4.649,46	5.545,36	6.743,09	8.139,54
Telecommunication Market	9.250,00	8.918,92	10.131,54	12.444,05	15.654,71
Total TIC Market	13.890,62	13.568,38	15.655,89	19.187,14	24.483,90
% Growth YEAR	23,30	12,90	21,60	31,90	28,40



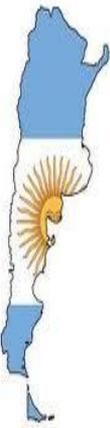
Volume of E-waste TIC (PC) Argentina

	20 years	5 years	3 years
Period	1994-2005	2006-2010	2011-2013
Pc in millions	1,90	2,30	2,80
PC in tonnes	40.000,00	35.000,00	28.000,00



In this context, the following can be said about the recycling and recovery of e-waste:

- One of the few private operators processes between 1,700 and 1,900 tonnes annually, less than 2% of the total amount generated in the country and between 4% and 6% of the e-waste from ICTs alone.
- Participation by the state is rare: less than 5% of the total e-waste processed comes from collection in municipalities or public e-waste disposal companies.
- Social marginalisation and unemployment have created the so-called “waste culture” in which informal recyclers are an important part of the recycling system.
- In their efforts to promote social inclusion, some social organisations have initiated recycling and reuse of technology projects.



Argentina does not have a specific law that regulates e-waste. The current legal framework for this is Law 24.051 on Hazardous Wastes, regulating the creation, handling, transport, treatment and final disposal of the hazardous wastes listed in Appendix I of the Law. The appendix is identical to Appendix I of the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, ratified by Argentina through Law 23.922, and applied when waste undergoes cross-border movements for disposal or recovery.

These regulations present a paradox: while keeping Argentina from becoming a depository of electronic scrap, they also hinder the possibility of expanding local enterprises, and include regulations that prevent the disposal of e-waste, for instance, out of state institution storerooms. Two e-waste bills pending in the legislature lost parliamentary status. Recently a bill that specifically deals with treatment of e-waste was presented in the Senate and awaits consideration.



PUBLIC POLICIES

Campaigns and seminars: The Department of Hazardous Wastes carried out campaigns to collect obsolete electronic devices in 2008 and 2009 in the nation's capital. It also organised two seminars in 2008, which drew broad institutional participation. Buenos Aires government has public policy about e-waste in Buenos Aires public administration (law 2807 decree 705/2011).



PUBLIC POLICIES

Classroom Recycling Project: This is the Ministry of Education's computer recycling programme to benefit public schools. The project has a training workshop for repair and recycling in order to create job opportunities.



PUBLIC POLICIES

National Electric and Electronic Waste Management Programme: Designed by the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI), this is the most comprehensive initiative within the public realm. The programme involves local and national governments working with grassroots organisations to create an e-waste plant.



Recycling industry: There are enterprises that take on this task as a business, and are committed to sustainable development and protection of the environment. Some of them are:

E-scrap: A network of operators working in the refuse market. It advises businesses, governments, organisations and private individuals on reducing final disposal quantities in landfills.

EcoGestionar: A company formed by specialists in environmental policy and management. They provide consultancy, management and treatment of wastes.

Scrap y Rezagos: A company engaged in recycling, reuse and final disposal of ewaste. They offer collection and purchase of discarded technology, and even exchange it for other items the owner might need.

Silkers: A company that provides ewaste collection, separation, assessment and recycling services.

Ecotech: A company that certifies final disposal of ewaste, trains people, donates recovered equipment and disposes of the rest in an ecologically sound way.



- **Equity Foundation:** Engaged in refurbishing computers donated by businesses, which are then given to schools and civil society organisations.
- **Environment and Society Foundation:** Promotes training programmes for urban recyclers to improve management quality and specialisation.
- **Federal Investment Council:** The Computers for Schools Programme involves the creation of Computer Refurbishment Centres in order to strengthen job skills for youth in vulnerable situations. They hold dissemination drives with the goal of sensitising communities.
- **E-waste: Recycling for Social Benefit project:** University extension initiative of the New Computer Technologies Research Lab (LINTI) at the National University of La Plata.



- **María de las Cárceles Second Chance:** Offers rehabilitation opportunities for those who are serving a prison sentence by recycling computers received from companies for donation to schools.
- **Nodo TAU:** Works for digital inclusion of social organisations. Has a Machine Bank which has recovered over 100 computers that were used to equip ten Community Computer Telecentres. Provides technical assistance and training in the use and maintenance of the machines. Holds a workshop on computer recycling and refurbishing in the Santa Mónica Special School for differently abled children in the city of San Lorenzo.



News !!!

Law 7345 Province of Chaco

Project MERCOSUR

The project is a pilot experience which aims at converging transverse strategies of each State party in feasible and coherent regional strategies. Furthermore, this project articulates four courses of action, which are integrated and complementary among each other:

- Promoting sustainable production and consumption (PCS)**
- Combating desertification and drought effects (DyS)**
- Advances for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemical Products (SGA, for its name is Spanish), defined by the SGT N° 6.**
- The convergence of regulation and statutory basis – quality and safety – of products in selected specific areas – wood and furniture, electrical products, metallurgical industry – and the creation of regional capacities of conformity assessment, defined by the SGT N° 3.**

