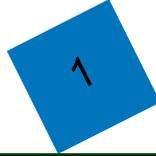UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

StEP
SOLVING THE E-WASTE PROBLEM

Basel COP StEP Event

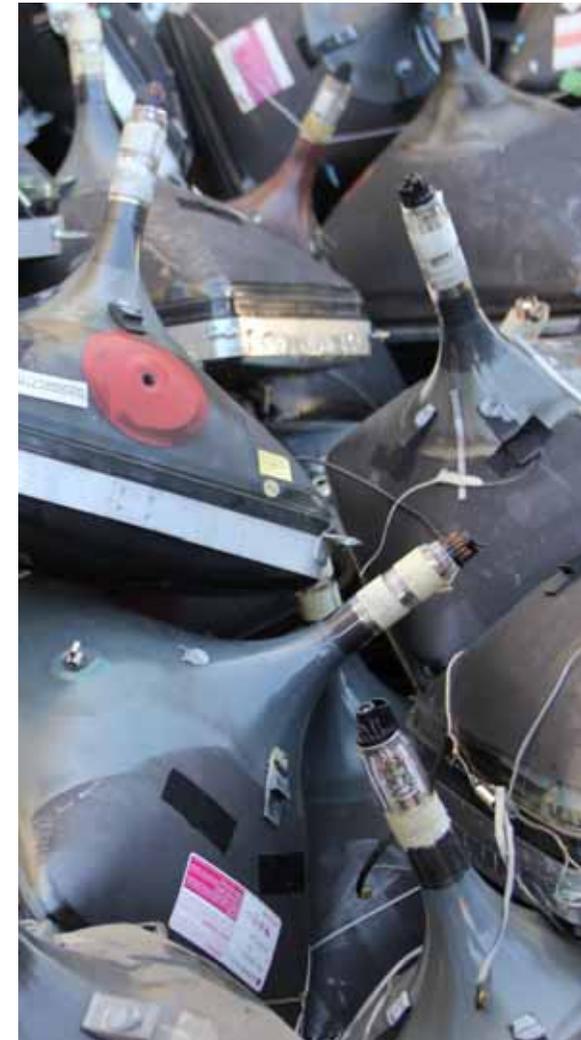## The Definition of E-Waste

Jean Cox-Kearns

Global Director of Compliance | Dell

StEP Steering Committee Member

- The definition of e-waste is essential to StEP's organisation and activities, having e-waste already in its title and contributing to a world-wide solution of the e-waste problem.

- The term E-Waste can be understood differently, varying by region, country or jurisdiction.

- The aim is to define e-waste and ensure that other terms used within the definition are clarified thus fully supporting the definition.

- Once finalised the definition and supporting text will become the StEP e-waste definition.

- ## Structure of White Paper

  - ### Definition of e-waste
    - *"E-waste is a term used to cover items of all types of electrical and electric equipment (EEE) that have been discarded."*

  - ### Sub definitions and explanations of key terminology using examples.
    Key areas of focus:
    - Perceptions of e-waste
    - Non-Legislative clarity on EEE
    - Households and consumers
    - The act of discarding waste
    - Impacts on environment and human health

- A significant ecological impact in the electronics lifecycle takes place at the manufacturing stage.

- Extending the lifetime of electronics through reuse and repair reduces the impact

- Definitions have the ability to encourage less re-use and more e-waste due to:

  - All untested product being classed as waste for trans-border shipment.
  - Would include all functional untested product destined to be tested for reuse

- Impact areas will be:

  - Notification time required to ship product
  - Cost prohibitive to repair parts
  - Repair facilities often being located in non-OECD countries, potential loss of jobs, closure of business
  - Reverse logistics organisations

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