E-Waste, ESG & Scope 3

What Australian businesses need to know

Smarterlite

Sustainable Light for Safety

The E-Waste problem in Australia

17.4%

of e-waste is responsibly collected and recycled on a global scale

E-Waste in Australia accounts for

70%

of the toxic substances found in landfills

Fewer than

20%

of ASX200 companies mentioned e-waste in their sustainability reports

As technology becomes more embedded into our professional and personal lives, e-waste has become the fastest growing waste stream in the world.

E-waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the world, yet only 17.4% of e-waste is responsibly collected and recycled on a global scale.

In fact, e-waste in Australia accounts for 70% of the toxic substances found in landfills and can have a long-lasting impact on the environment and communities due to their inability to biodegrade.

The problem of e-waste is one we all own, including governments, businesses and communities.

One recent snapshot of Australia's largest trading companies is sobering.

The Sircel Report – Plugging Australia's E-Waste Gap, **shows that fewer than 20% of ASX200 companies mentioned e-waste in their Sustainability Reports, despite their broader environmental, social, and governance (ESG) commitments.**

Likewise, while 88% mentioned recycling in their sustainability reports, only 15% included e-waste in their definition of recycling.

Why E-Waste is a business & ESG issue

65-95%

of a company's carbon impact often comes from Scope 3 activities

The impacts of inaction are huge and result in financial, environmental and reputational harms. These harms include environmental degradation, increasing commodity prices as mining becomes increasingly problematic and a widening gap between public expectations and company performance.

Less than one in five (19%) ASX200 companies mentioned e-waste in their most recent sustainability reports.

So whether you're involved with an ASX200 company or the millions of other trading businesses, you can play a role to reduce e-waste.

You can also better manage indirect Scope 3 emissions from activities outside a company's control, like waste disposal.

75% of ASX companies are already addressing Scope 3 emissions, and the balance of Australia's businesses will turn their attention to these emissions over the coming five years.

An increased focus on e-waste is a no-brainer, especially given that 65–95% of a company's carbon impact often comes from Scope 3 activities.

Many businesses don't know where their e-waste goes for disposal, some don't treat it with the same urgency as paper and cardboard recycling, while others don't bother disclosing the amount of e-waste they produce.

In the same Sircel Report, less than 1 in 5 (19%) ASX200 companies even mentioned e-waste in their most recent sustainability reports.

Can you imagine what the rates would be for the majority of Australia's smaller businesses?

So, while the concept of e-waste has been around for some time, it is not being taken seriously despite the obvious financial, environmental and reputational damage.

Luckily, there are alternatives that significantly reduce e-waste, lifecycle emissions and the potential for environmental harm.

What's a practical alternative to reduce e-waste?

Smarterlite's Battery-free Photoluminescent Environmental exit signs are one such alternative, removing the need for frequent battery replacement and disposal while supporting Scope 3 emissions reporting and ESG goals.

Speak to our team about reduced e-waste options today!

Contact Us info@smarterlite.com