



Toxics Link  
for a toxics-free world

## Establishment of E-waste Recycling Bin in Kolkata

5<sup>th</sup> June '12

On the occasion of World Environment Day

Initiated by

Toxics Link

Under the project



**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



**MAIT**



**adelphi**



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## **Background**

The city of Kolkata is a major hub of e-waste generation and recycling. Several studies have indicated the huge increase in the generation of e-waste in the city in the last few years. Though high estimates of e-waste generation have been established, a strong and collective action has not been forthcoming for safe management of E-waste in the city and the state. Most stakeholders have identified lack of awareness and a robust collection system as a key bottleneck.

To address this, Toxics Link with active support of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) has launched a drive to set up collection mechanism for E-waste in the city of Kolkata. This is under the European Union commissioned SWITCH Asia project for **Establishing E-Waste Channels to Enhance Environment Friendly Recycling (WEEE Recycle)**.

The project plans to install 20 collection bins in the city, which will serve a dual purpose of establishing collection mechanisms and creating awareness on promotion of environment friendly e-waste recycling in the city. These bins will be placed in important public locations for maximum visibility and impact.

## **Initiatives**

West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB), Indian Museum and Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM) were approached to establish recycle bins at their premises on the occasion of World Environment Day. It was decided that the first bin will be inaugurated at WBPCB Head Office, Paribesh Bhawan. The West Bengal Pollution Control Board is responsible for implementing all environmental related rules & laws in the state. People from different sectors like govt., corporate, social, media, industry etc come to this office on a regular basis. Therefore E-waste collection bin here would get a lot of visibility among relevant stakeholders.

Indian Museum & BITM are located at the important location of the city. People of all categories, for e.g., students, teachers, parents, young adults, aged people etc. visit these institutions for recreational as well educational purpose. Placement of collection bin here would ensure our reach to common public, especially students.

An authorized recycler will be picking up the waste from these bins periodically and ensure safe recycling of E-waste.

## **Activity**

On **5<sup>th</sup> June, 2012** on the occasion of **World Environment Day**, e-waste collection points were launched in the above mentioned three locations of the city in the form of recycling bins.

## 1. Paribesh Bhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata

Prof. Binay K. Dutta, Chairperson, WBPCB inaugurated the bin. Other eminent personalities like Sri Sandipan Mukherjee, Member Secretary, Mr. Shyamal Adhikary, Sr. Environmental Engineer along with all the staff members of WBPCB were present in this inaugural programme. In his speech, Prof. Dutta presented some facts & figures regarding E-waste generation in Kolkata. He said that but 10-15 years ago nobody was concerned about these facts & figures. Even people did not know about E-waste & its adverse effects. He mentioned that the establishment of E-waste recycling bin is the first ever kind of an initiative implemented in the state. The first bin has been launched by the WBPCB in the city & subsequently more bins will be



Figure 2: E-waste recycling bin placed at Paribesh Bhawan, Salt Lake, Head office of WBPCB

## 2. Indian Museum, Kolkata

Mr. Sumanta Roy, Security Officer, Indian Museum inaugurated the bin by disposing discarded electrical & electronics goods like CFL, telephone receiver etc. Posters (in English, Bengali & Hindi) for generating public awareness on E-waste have been displayed on the board & at the entrance of the Indian Museum.



Figure 2: Inauguration of E-waste recycling bin at Indian Museum, Kolkata by Mr. Sumanta Roy, Security Officer



Figure 1: Inauguration of E-waste recycling bin at Paribesh Bhawan by Prof. Binay K. Dutta, Chairperson, WBPCB

placed at different locations of the city. He appreciated the efforts of Toxics Link for this initiative. After his speech, Prof. Dutta inaugurated the bin by disposing discarded toner cartridge in the bin. Then Sri Sandipan Mukherjee, Member Secretary, dropped discarded CDs in the bin. Mr. Shyamal Adhikary & other staffs of WBPCB disposed different kinds of small discarded electronic devices like, floppy, CD, computer mouse, keyboard etc. in the bin. Posters (in English, Bengali & Hindi) for generating public awareness on E-waste have been displayed on the notice board of the WBPCB.

### 3. Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM), Kolkata



Figure 3: Inauguration of E-waste recycling bin at BITM, Kolkata by Sk. Emdadul Islam, Director, BITM

Sk. Emdadul Islam, Director, BITM inaugurated the bin. Students, teachers from different schools of Kolkata, parents, other visitors & staffs of BITM were present in the programme. They dropped different discarded electrical & electronics goods like computer mouse, floppy, CD, CFL, IC board etc. in the bin.

### Conclusion

Almost twenty locations are being identified for placement of these collection bins in the city to facilitate citizens to drop their waste which will also create awareness and help change attitudes and mindsets on E-waste. So far we have been successful in establishing three bins & process has already been initiated to place the other bins at other important locations.