

7479c | Using Blockchain to Reduce Electronic Waste and Boost Recycling to Become Commercially Viable

18 million children, 12.9 million women, including an unknown number of women of childbearing age, may be at health risk because of informal disposal of electronic waste, says the report Children and digital dumpsites: e-waste exposure and child health by WHO from June 2021. And the amount of informal disposed e-waste is raising: In 2019 we produced 53.6 million tons of e-waste, less than 20% reached formal waste management or recycling systems, according to the UN report Global e-waste monitor 2020. The report also predicts global e-waste will reach 74 million tons by 2030.

How can we make sure to achieve SDGs about gender equality, decent work and sustainable consumption and production patterns under these circumstances?

On the basis of current insights and studies 7479c started to examine the relation between ethical consumption, transparent supply chains and reduction of the amount of e-waste this year. The result is a model that uses gamification and scientific knowledge about digital community building to build awareness for the problems of e-waste and boost formal waste management. The model also examines the impact a transparent reverse supply chain based on blockchain could have: Still the fate and whereabouts of 82.6% (44.3 Mt) of e-waste is still uncertain and undocumented.

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