4R
ASSOCIATION
OF ELECTRONIC
WASTE RECYCLERS

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How **LARGE** is
your computer's
footprint?

YOU can
make the choice!

Electronic waste is the term used for discarded computers, mobile phones, fridges and several other electronic goods. It is one of the largest growing new waste streams in India. Approximately 1,44,000 tons of e-waste was sent into the recycling system in 2007. The good news is that about 80% of it was refurbished. Only about 20% was actually recycled.

One of the most active recycling hubs in India is Delhi. Almost 25,000 workers here handle e-waste. Of these, 95% work in the informal sector. This means they have no social security, no credit-worthiness and are not recognized for their work. Instead, their poor working conditions force them to compromise on a safe and secure livelihood. Everyday of work is a challenge, a test of resilience.

We know this because we were once one of them.

We're moving away now. Our platform is 4R, an abbreviation of **Responsible Reduction, Reuse and Recycling.**
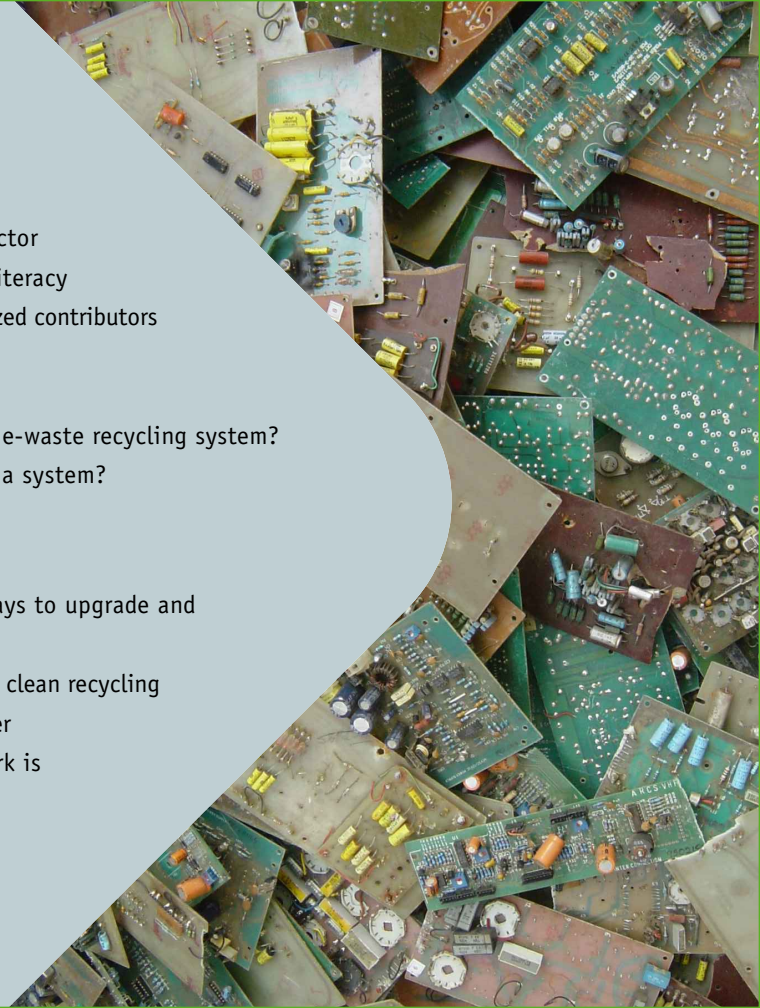
Why 4R?

◆ We believe our work has the potential to generate green jobs instead
of unsafe ones

◆ We want safer working conditions for ourselves and everyone in the sector

◆ Our work is essential for a society with increasing levels of computer literacy

◆ We'd like to shift from being informal to being formal, and become recognized contributors
to the economy

◆ Clean recycling is a recognized route to sustainability.

◆ How can India-with over 200 million cell phone users-not have a good e-waste recycling system?

◆ How can 95% of all existing recyclers of e-waste not be a part of such a system?

What Are We Doing?

◆ 4R is involved in the first of its kind organization in Delhi, finding ways to upgrade and
formalize the work of the informal sector.

◆ We are also educating other e-waste recyclers about the opportunities in clean recycling

◆ The model we are developing will be relevant to and replicated by other
e-waste recyclers in Delhi and the rest of India. In other work, our work is
likely to generate a ripple effect.

◆ 4R expects that all this work will result in more inclusive and
informed policy.

How Can You Join Our Efforts?

◆ Organize your colony or office to give your old computers and other e-waste to us. We can pick up bulk quantities.

◆ Don't just discard your computers-try to upgrade them and extend their useful life.

◆ Think about the after-life of your electronics. Ask questions. Surf the net. Ask us to help you understand. Educate yourself so that you can find your own ways of being greener locally.

Contact Us

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4R
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Our Partners:

COOPERATION
REPUBLIC OF
INDIA
FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY

gtz

CHINTAN
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH
AND ACTION GROUP

The **GTZ** is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations.

Chintan addresses issues of urban sustainability, green jobs and environmental justice in India though grassroots partnerships, research and advocacy.