

Team Name & School: The Gangreen Gang - Elite Scholars Academy

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Green Heart Action Plan

Problem Definition/ Problem Statement

In the world we live in today, we see many of our friends and family members wanting the latest tech and the newest updates. The “need” to get the newest products because it’s trending often promotes overconsumerism. Phones promote desires for social status and the “thrill” of new technology to keep up with the latest trends. But people often aren’t aware of the problems that happen behind closed doors. Right now, only about 17% of e-waste is properly recycled. The rest of it ends up in landfills or is handled poorly, releasing toxic substances into the environment and wasting valuable materials like gold, copper, and rare metals that could be recovered. Electronic waste is a growing crisis because it contains toxic heavy metals that contaminate soil, water, and air when dumped. Watching our Earth become unnoticed and unsupported is a poor sight to see. Instead of just watching this happen, let’s collaborate and fight against electronic waste to make our Earth green again!

Root Cause of the Problem

People often fail to discard e-waste properly due to a lack of awareness and limited access to recycling facilities. Hoarding old devices, high recycling fees, and complex, non-recyclable product designs also lead people to throw electronics in regular trash.

List at Least Three Credible Resources that Support Your Problem Statement

[Why e-waste is becoming an issue - Greenly](#)
[The Growing Environmental Risks of E-Waste](#)
[Cleaning Up Electronic Waste \(E-Waste\) | US EPA](#)

Proposed Solution

To be a part of the solution, we will bring awareness to the e-waste we see in our community by educating people on how it harms the environment. We will also organize community collection drives and partner with companies to promote repairing and donating of electronics.



How We Will Measure Our Success

We will measure the percentage of e-waste that goes to landfills compared to the percentage that is properly recycled or refurbished. An increase in recycling rates and a decrease in landfill waste will show progress. We can do this for Clayton county by collecting data from companies like Reworx Recycling or Beyond Surplus or use the Clayton County Open Records Request Form to ask for specific tonnage reports on electronics collected at county-run facilities over the last 3–5 years.

We will also compare air and soil quality data before and after our e-waste awareness efforts. Improvements in pollution levels will help show whether our actions are making a positive environmental impact. We could buy an air sensor for ~\$200 or check websites for one already. If there's none, we'll buy and place it near a recycling hub or landfill to monitor particulate matter over several months.

Additionally, we can track community participation in recycling programs and the number of devices collected during clean-up or recycling events.

Who are Decision Makers We Need to Reach

Our goal is to reach city council members by forming a dedicated e-waste club. Together, we will work toward a solution, raising public awareness, hosting recycling and donation events, and advocating for systemic change. If we establish an e-waste team, we can petition manufacturers for longer product lifespans while pushing for stronger environmental laws. Government officials can pass and enforce legislation that instructs proper recycling and restricts hazardous disposal. Environmental and electronic companies can monitor local pollution levels and ensure companies strictly follow safety regulations, while electronic companies can design durable devices and provide easy trade-in programs. School Administrators can provide the necessary support recycling programs directly in our neighborhoods and classrooms.

Our 3-5 Step Plan for Change

We will bring awareness to e-waste by educating the community through school workshops on the hazards of improper disposal. We can inform and invite our community to participate through ClassDojo and by gaining a presence in social media. We will partner with local recycling centers and businesses to organize a community donation event and inform them about the recycling centers so drop-off locations for old electronics can be convenient. We will create a team that will help continue to post regularly on our social media about the importance of handling e-waste correctly to bring more attention to our plan. We will work with certified recycling centers around our area and businesses to



educate ourselves on how to make sure electronics are properly recycled or refurbished. Afterwards, we will measure how much e-waste is collected and recycled to see the positive environmental impacts our plan has made.

Impact & Equity

This plan promotes impact and equity by ensuring all communities have access to safe, convenient recycling options. Often, underserved areas are disproportionately affected by waste and pollution. By spreading awareness, opening nearby free drop-off locations, and encouraging the donation of electronics, we help reduce environmental harm from fire risks and toxic metals that take centuries to decompose. We are making a difference—one piece of waste at a time!

What Help We Need to Be Successful

We need guidance on establishing partnerships with local certified recyclers and donation centers so that we can gain expert guidance on planning, organizing, and safely handling old devices. We need community support to help spread our message about e-waste so that it reaches the right people as well.

