



# Academic<sup>th</sup>

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP  
ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“CLEANER PRODUCTION TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION”

## Public Policies: Their Contribution to Reuse and Recycling Process of Small and Electronic Medium-Sized Enterprises

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### Resumo

It is estimated that 80% of companies in the electronics industry are micro and small enterprises. Waste production processes of these companies have similar characteristics to electronic equipment (WEEE). These wastes require proper disposal in order to minimize environmental impacts. Public policies and government programs could be the link to leveraging the reuse and recycling of waste from production processes of the electronics industry. This study examined how public policies contribute and encourage reuse and recycling process of waste generated in micro and small enterprises in the electronics industry. A multiple case study was conducted with 12 micro and small enterprises located in southern Brazil. It is observed that: (i) companies are unaware of the legislation on the treatment and disposal of waste; (ii) do not notice the presence of financial and non-financial incentives that could encourage reuse and recycling practices, (iii) their wastes are predominantly sell for the informal market of scrap; and, (iv) interviewers do not observe a proactive role of officials in charge of public policy. The current public policies for micro and small enterprises studied do not consider the needs of businesses. Besides, they are not easily accessible. Interviewers commented that laws are punitive instead of instructive. It was not observed stimuli to the articulation of each member of the production chains to induce the use of best practices of reuse and recycling processes. On the other hand, companies consider that their waste have little commercial value, which generates little commitment to seek information about reuse and recycling alternatives.

**Keywords:** WEEE, electronic wastes, small and medium-sized enterprises, public policy.