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“CLEANER PRODUCTION INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD”

## Electrical and Electronic Wastes: A Challenge for Sustainable Development and the New National Policy for Solid Wastes

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### Abstract

The growing concern with the generation of solid wastes in Brazil and worldwide has challenged managers in several areas due to the scope of the emerging impacts, being either environmental, economical, social or cultural. The 12.035 Act which establishes the National Policy for Solid Wastes demonstrates how the Brazilian leaders are worried about this issue. The growth in the generation of electric and electronic wastes is due mainly to the growing technological revolution in the past years which has produced equipments in large scale, with varied uses. This growth results in an increase of the amount and diversity of equipments, which for becoming obsolete fast, represent a significant percentage of discarded wastes today. These electric and electronic wastes are considered dangerous due to their diverse composition, mainly heavy metals which cause serious problems to human lives, animals, vegetables, water beds, among others. In this perspective, this work tries to cooperate to broaden the knowledge about this kind of residues and find possible solutions which could minimize their environmental impacts. Companies cases are presented and analysed which have already properly managed their electro and electronic residues. Other cases such as some companies which have not yet implemented any kind of management of the residues they produce and their difficulties to discard these wastes are also presented.

**Keywords:** *Electrical and electronic wastes, sustainability, recycling, reuse, National Policy for Solid Waste*

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