

E-waste shredder on wheels comes to city

Now, firms can recycle e-waste within their premises without the fear of data loss

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Recycling of e-waste is a major concern for corporates in Bangalore. Many corporates do not opt for recycling due to the fear of data loss. To address this problem, a city-based company has launched a mobile shredder.

V Ranganathan, managing director, Cerebra Integrated Technologies Ltd, said, "E-waste recycling has been a major issue. With the introduction of the mobile shredder, we think that the problem would be solved. It's the first of its kind in India. Now we can go to companies instead of them coming to us." Ranganathan explained that many companies did not want to send their products outside their premises for recycling due to fears about data loss.

"With a mobile shredder, we can go to the firms, recycle the waste in front of them, give the destruction certificate and carry the recycled waste. Since the process happens in front of them, they know that their data is safe," he said.

According to him, "The city produces around 200,000 tonnes of e-waste every year. With 30,000 computers alone being discarded, this figure is expected to grow by at least 40 per cent every year."

As for the response, he said, "Companies have been waiting for something like this. We are in touch with around 250 companies. We will commence operations once we get a



Projected increase in e-waste: 40% every year

license from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board."

The mobile shredder has been brought from Singapore. It is 12 feet high, 12 feet long and 10 feet wide. It can recycle one tonne of e-waste every hour. It is part of a Rs 50 crore project with the main re-cycling plant located in Peenya. The plant can recycle 90,000 tonnes every year. "The plant will be fully functional in

five months," Ranganathan said.

Individuals too can avail the services of the company, which is planning to collect e-waste at malls or other such spots. In some cases, you can get paid for offering e-waste.

For example, you can expect Rs 6 to 10 per kg for computers and mobile phones. But for refrigerators and printers, citizens will have to pay a charge for the company to come



V Ranganathan, MD of Cerebra

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V RANGANATHAN, MD, CEREBRA INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES LTD

and collect the waste. The charge is waived off if the items are delivered to the recycling plant.

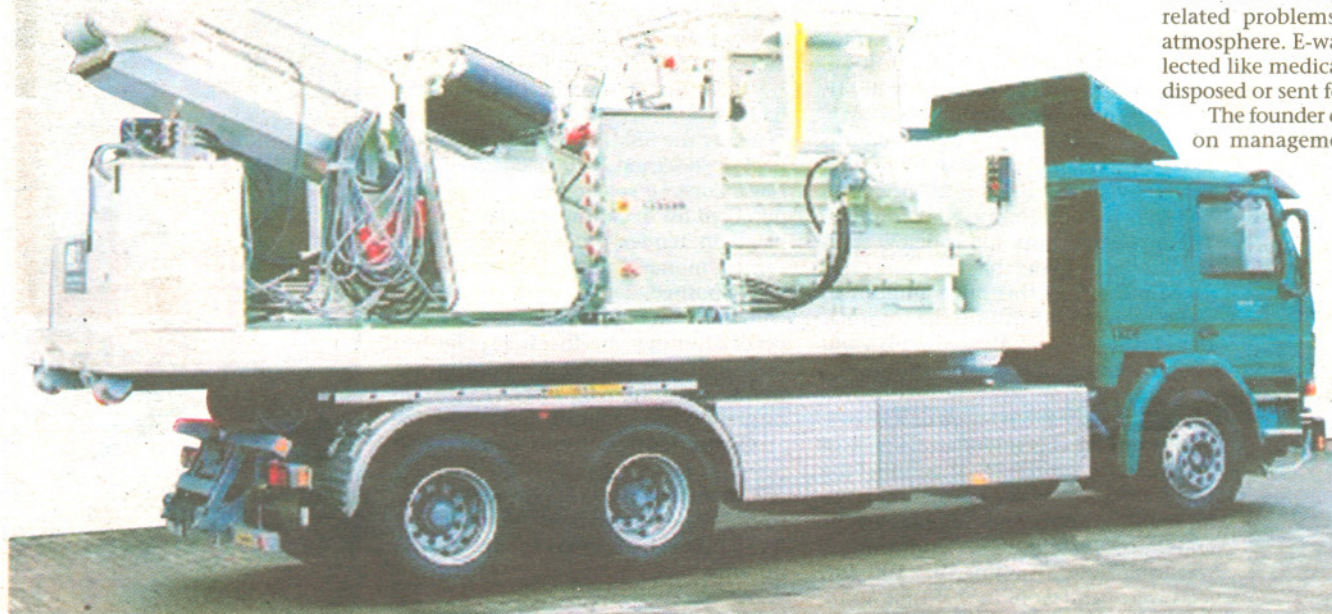
WHAT IS E-WASTE?

It constitutes loosely discarded electrical or electronic equipment, including computers, floppy disks, CDs, mobile phones, land line phones, refrigerators, transistors, ACs and radios. These can cause health-related problems and pollute the atmosphere. E-waste should be collected like medical waste and either disposed or sent for re-cycling.

The founder of an NGO working on management of waste said,

"Electronic equipment have a lot of heavy metal content.

"Once they are disposed, metals like mercury and lead seep into ground water, soil and mix with the air. This can cause serious health problems. It is like slow poisoning, as it can lead to brain damage, cancer, liver problems."



The mobile shredder has been imported from Singapore. It reached the city earlier this month