



Intel's Product Design Lifecycle Planning



As Intel becomes more aware of the environmental effects of electronics, they decided to improve their processes through all phases of their product lifecycle: production, use and ultimate disposal. The result is a dramatically reduced environmental footprint.

Better Production Plans

Over the past few years, Intel has expanded their focus beyond manufacturing to include the environmental attributes of electronic products. Although their components represent only a small portion of most electronic devices, their efforts help reduce the overall environmental impact of the final product.

Their Environmental Health and Safety engineers help drive the design of products that are lead-free and use less energy, participate in building design plans, calculate environmental performance levels for tools and processes, and set environmental production performance goals for each new manufacturing process technology before they are put into place.

Safety First

Intel reviews chemical use to ensure employee safety and environmental protection in their manufacturing facilities.

- Phase 1: Intel researches chemical regulations and uses restrictions for their manufacturing facilities around the world. This research includes Intel-specific prohibitions (which are often above and beyond regulatory requirements) as well as both local site-specific and country-specific regulations.

- Phase 2: They identify the environment and safety controls needed to protect employees and the environment while chemicals are in use. Materials that are safer & environmentally benign are used whenever possible to replace potentially hazardous or regulated materials.

Disposal and Recycling

Working with the belief that electronic waste should be recycled and managed appropriately, Intel works with the EPA's Plug-In to eCycling campaign, which works to gather public and private support for proper recycling of used electronics. Plug-In to eCycling focuses on two major areas:

- Providing the public with information about electronics recycling and increasing opportunities to recycle unwanted electronics
- Facilitating partnerships with communities, electronics manufacturers and retailers to promote the shared responsibility of recycling electronics

Rethinking What We Do with Our Older Equipment

Intel joined with eBay and other industry partners to collaborate on the Rethink initiative. Rethink brings together industry, government and environmental groups to help educate consumers about electronic waste concerns and to help consumers find responsible solutions for used electronics.

Turning Equipment into Educational Advantages

Most computer recycling programs have similar goals: provide technology to those who need it most and can afford it the least while reducing the waste in landfills. Student computer-recycling programs, such as Students Recycling Used Technology (StRUT), go a step further. Computer equipment donated by businesses and private individuals and managed by the StRUT program provides more than 1,500 students each year with the skills and confidence they need in order to compete in today's high-tech industry.

In collaboration with industry and education organizations, Intel founded StRUT in 1995. End-of-life items are sent for responsible recycling and usable items are distributed to the schools that are most in need where students gain valuable skills as they sort, repair and refurbish the used electronic equipment.

Year after year, this program has diverted tons of electronic equipment from area landfills. Intel works with both StRUT and similar programs to ensure they understand issues associated with obsolete electronics and have appropriate plans in place to properly handle and manage used electronics. Its just another way that Intel can ensure that the end of a product's lifespan is as beneficial and ecologically sound as possible.

