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Ask an Expert

Questions related to electronic waste issues, sustainable electronics design, improving electronics manufacturing processes and related topics can be submitted via [SEI's Ask an Expert](#). SEI staff members will provide one hour of free Internet and/or literature searching related to your sustainable electronics question. Also provided is input from ISTC staff scientists and/or referrals to external contacts for further information on technical questions. Responses can be expected within a week (usually within 1-2 business days). Citizens, organizations, government agencies, businesses, non-profit groups, and academic institutions are all invited to use this free service. The Ask an Expert service answers will be answered individually and the answers will be posted to the SEI blog for future reference. This service is available online at: <http://www.sustainelectronics.illinois.edu/services/askexpert.cfm>

Online Abstract Submission

The abstract submission for the Second Annual Electronics and Sustainability Symposium has been moved to an online form. To streamline the abstract submission process, the call for papers can be answered without the hassle of downloading PDFs and emailing the abstracts. Simply fill out the [online form](#) and click "Submit".

The symposium will be held on **March 23-24, 2011** at the I-Hotel in Champaign, Illinois. This year, we are looking forward to an exciting set of new speakers, as we continue our conversation about sustainable electronics. Join the conversation with us in March!

Symposium Sponsors

The SEI and ISTC are looking for sponsors for the **Second Annual [Electronics and Sustainability Symposium](#)** scheduled for March 23-24, 2011. Sponsorships

can be made in amounts varying from \$500 to \$5,000. We are looking to expand this year's program and develop further networking and collaborative opportunities. If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact Aida Sefic Williams at 217-333-4562 or awilliams@istc.illinois.edu.

International E-Waste Design Competition

The SEI is starting preparations for the [2011 International Ewaste Design Competition](#). The competition is open to anyone 18 years or older who is currently attending college, or who graduated from college since May 2007. The goals of this competition are to learn about ways to reuse e-waste for new and productive means, explore ideas for how to address e-waste problems and contribute to the body of knowledge that advances the practice of environmentally responsible product design for current and future computing technology products.

The competition is divided into two categories: E-Waste Prevention and E-Waste Reuse. Competition registration opens on Jan. 4, 2011, and we are looking forward to the great student designs. The competition finalists will be announced on April 15, and winning teams will receive awards - a Platinum Award of 3,000 USD, a Gold Award of 2,000 USD, and a Silver Award of 1,000 USD, for a total of six monetary awards.

If you are interested in more information about the e-waste competition or would like to participate as a judge, please contact Joy Scrogum at jscrogum@istc.illinois.edu.

E-Waste Legislation

Pennsylvania's House Bill 708 passed on November 23, 2010. This legislation establishes a recycling program for certain covered devices, imposing duties on manufacturers and retailers of certain covered devices, and provides for the powers and duties of the Department of Environmental Protection. Click [here](#) to view the full legislative document.

A Thought for the Holidays

November and December are usually seen as the best times to purchase electronics, thanks to new product launches just in time for Black Friday and other holiday shopping. As prices are lowered, buying new electronics becomes more affordable and much more tempting. Oftentimes, consumers make purchases during this time of the year, which they would not make otherwise - mainly because they can get a great deal on new electronics. Last year, The Onion, a satirical online news website, published an article titled "[New Device](#)

[Desirable, Old Device Undesirable](#)". This article provides a satirical, but true, view on the current consumer culture and our insatiable desire for the best and newest gadgets. Rather than buying new products, which will replace our current devices that are still fully functional, we encourage you all to ask yourself "Do I really need this electronic device?" before making new electronics purchases. If you do have working devices that you are replacing, we highly encourage you all to donate your old electronic devices and allow them a second life with a new owner. Please read our [Electronic Take-Back and Donation Programs Factsheet](#) to find out the best way to dispose of your electronic equipment.

Become a Member of the SEI!

The Sustainable Electronics Initiative (SEI) offers [Corporate](#) and [Individual Memberships!](#) [Join the SEI](#) and work together with us to research and find solutions to the e-waste problem.

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