Managing e-waste: How to dispose of old appliances

e-Waste from electrical and electronic appliances and devices is becoming a major problem for South Africa. According to the Gauteng government website, the country produces around 360 000 tons of e-waste every year, with the province accounting for 55% of that.

Patricia Schröder, spokesperson for the official producer responsibility organisation (PRO) Circular Energy says, "If we are to avoid an environmental catastrophe, consumers need to be better educated on how to dispose of their appliances properly."

New Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation puts the onus on importers and/or manufacturers of these electrical and electronic products to ensure environmentally sound management of their products – which could include recycling of their products. However, this could be severely hampered if consumers don't know what to do with their old appliances.

e-waste includes most electrical and electronic appliances or devices found in the typical South African