



## Printer Cartridges

- More than 1.1 billion inkjet cartridges are used annually around the world - laid end to end this would be 129 times as long as the Great Wall of China
  - Approximately 3.5 litres of oil are required to produce each new laser printer cartridge and 90 ml of oil is used to produce each inkjet cartridge
  - Each discarded empty laser printer cartridge adds approximately three pounds of waste to our landfills
  - The plastic used in a typical cartridge is made of engineering grade polymers and is expected to take up to 1000 years to decompose
- More than 30 million inkjet cartridges are dumped each year in the UK (1800 tonnes) - the same weight as 18 Blue Whales
  - Industry analysts estimate a spent cartridge can be reused or remanufactured between 3 to 7 times - every cartridge remanufactured is one fewer going directly to the landfill
  - 20-30% of all cartridges sold worldwide are remanufactured

## Mobile Phones

- 23 million new mobile phones were purchased in the UK (2004 – LG)
- It is expected that one billion handsets will be sold each year by 2009
- There are about 50 million mobile phone subscribers in the UK
- The average mobile phone user will replace their handset once every 18 months
- It is estimated that less than 20% of all unused mobile phones in the UK are currently recycled
- Estimates state that close to 90 million phones are hiding in drawers and cupboards across the UK (11250 tonnes) - these weigh almost six times as much as the London Eye!
- Mobile phones contain substances which need to be disposed of in safe and efficient manner:



- The Cadmium in the battery from a single old phone could seriously contaminate 600,000 litres of water, enough to fill a third of an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Cadmium is being phased out of new batteries.
- Lead - which affects the immune, endocrine and central nervous systems, and causes serious damage to children's brains - is used to solder components to the printed wiring boards.
- Brominated flame retardants, used in wiring boards and plastic cases, have been associated with cancer, liver damage and problems with the neurological, immune and endocrine systems.
- Beryllium, which can cause serious lung damage, is used in contacts and springs and highly toxic dioxins can be emitted if the phones are incinerated in waste plants.