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**For Immediate Release**

### **WHERE DO OLD ELECTRONICS GO WHEN THEY DIE?**

Watch *The Circuit* - a KCTS 9/EARTHFIX special report - to find out

**SEATTLE**—What happens to old electronics when they die? Many recycled electronics are not actually being recycled: hazardous electronic waste is being dumped into developing nations. On May 9, KCTS 9's EarthFix team reveals how dead, toxic electronics make up the world's fastest growing source of waste, and how the U.S. is the planet's biggest source of e-waste, generating almost 8 million tons a year.

*The Circuit* airs May 9 on [PBS NewsHour](#), and may be viewed online on [KCTS 9](#). In a special report, EarthFix—a Northwest public media partnership for environmental journalism—investigated what happens to electronic waste in its afterlife. Research revealed that waste taken to recyclers, in many cases, is actually being exported from the United States. KCTS 9's EarthFix reporters Ken Christensen and Katie Campbell travelled to Hong Kong during the course of this investigation.

"It really hit close to home," Campbell said. "We travelled across the world to see what's happening to our electronic waste and we saw all these labels from schools, libraries, businesses that are right here in the Pacific Northwest."

Christensen got in touch with Jim Puckett, executive director of the Basel Action Network (BAN), a Seattle-based nonprofit focused on eliminating trade in toxic waste. BAN partnered with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to put tracking devices on electronics destined for the recycling bin to see where they actually go.

"[BAN] had been trying to follow e-waste all these years, staking out electronics recyclers, following shipping containers from recycling facilities to ports and then traveling overseas to try to intercept the shipping containers on the other side," Christensen said. "But it's a slow process that often didn't answer all of their questions about where this stuff went and what happened to it."

***The Circuit*: a special report from [KCTS 9](#) and [EarthFix](#), airs Monday, May 9 on [PBS NewsHour](#); online at [KCTS9.org/thecircuit](#); radio reports on [OPB](#) and [KUOW](#).**

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