Blank is enlightening

Physically destroying assets, while at times necessary, can also be harmful in some truly astounding ways.

Physically destroying assets—**while at times necessary**—can also be **unsustainable**, **inefficient**, **insecure**, and even **non-compliant**. To accurately quantify the severity of these problems and put a number on the negative impact of **physical data destruction**, we have created a series of four data-driven infographics, each focusing on a particular drawback of this controversial approach.

Below, you'll find a series of navigation links to help you view our findings by your chosen focus area.

Security

Are your device destruction policies leaving you exposed?

Compliance

Are you breaching data regulations by destroying your devices?

Efficiency

Is physical destruction really an efficient answer to data sanitization?

Sustainability

Are your device destruction policies costing the earth?

Security

Are your device destruction policies leaving you exposed?

Device destruction has often been perceived as the most secure method of data erasure, but the surprising reality is that this eco-unfriendly method is increasingly risky business for millions of data storage assets every year.
How risky? We sought to find the answer.

Research shows that millions of hard-disk drives, solid-state drives, advanced NVMes and other data storage assets are decommissioned annually.

THE U.S. ALONE COULD USE MORE THAN

50M HDDS

every year by 2025.
Most of these will be shredded.[1]

1IN SHREDS

are common, posing security risks for modern HDDs, SSDs and NVMes.[2]

Consider:

2MM SHREDS

have been recommended by the NSA for optimal security in data destruction since 2014.[3]

But with the increased density of data in all types of media, this recommendation is quickly becoming outdated, as even

1MM SHREDS

of a magnetic drive can contain readable data equal to 15 sets of Encyclopedia Brittanica.[4]

It's enough of an issue that:

SHREDDING & PULVERIZING

were named obsolete by the newest global sanitization standard, IEEE 2883.[5]

That doesn't even include the storage and transport chain of custody vulnerabilities along the process itself.

To summarize, the reputation of shredding as an ultra-secure means of data erasure is nothing more than a falsity. It could *actually* place your organization at more risk.

To account for this, consider an approach that embraces **faster**, **more immediate**, and **more thorough** data sanitization strategies to render your data completely unrecoverable.

Embrace a better way to minimize your risk exposure.

Learn more

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1. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921344921007102
2. https://securis.com/news/why-does-size-matter-for-ssd-shredding/
3. https://www.nsa.gov/Resources/Media-Destruction-Guidance/NSA-Evaluated-Products-Lists-EPLs/
4. https://www.snia.org/educational-library/ieeetm-2883-sanitization-storage-2022 | Slide 41, Video: 31:16
5. https://standards.ieee.org/ieee/2883/10277/

Compliance

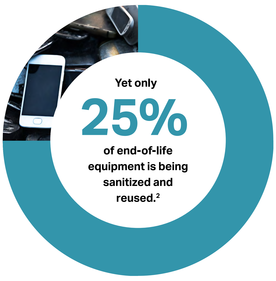
Are you breaching data regulations by destroying your devices?

In the wake of ever-expanding regulations, physical destruction is trending towards a non-compliant future.
What does this mean for data sanitization strategies moving forward?
We wanted to find out.

OUR RESEARCH FOUND:

78 COUNTRIES

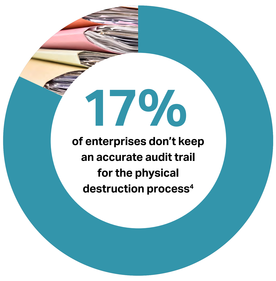
have national e-waste policies as part of corporate social responsibility initiatives.[1]



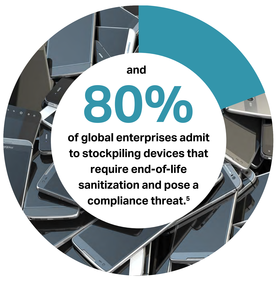
Yet only **25%** of end-of-life equipment is being sanitized and reused.[2]

83% of the world's largest organizations have a CSR policy.[3]

Stricter 'green' reporting requirements are also increasing. But it's not just climate requirements that are suffering. We also found that:

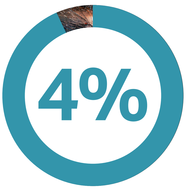


17% of enterprises don't keep an accurate audit trail for the physical destruction process[4]



and **80%** of global enterprises admit to stockpiling devices that require end-of-life sanitization and pose a compliance threat.[5]

And, most shockingly



4%

of enterprises admit they don't sanitize data at all—leaving them wide open for attacks and data breaches.[4]

A lack of strategic and verified data destruction is also in direct contradiction to

GDPR
PCI DSS
ISO 27001

and other directives that reference data privacy, protection, and security.

To future-proof your data destruction policies, be sure to consider approaches that meet today's data privacy best practices and that focus on innovation for tomorrow.

Stay ahead of the compliance curve.

Learn more

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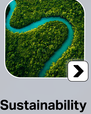


Sustainability
Are your device destruction policies costing the earth?

1. https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Environment/Pages/Spotlight/Global-Ewaste-Monitor-2020.aspx
2. https://www.blancco.com/enterprises-failing-to-comply-with-sustainability-policies/
3. https://www.blancco.com/enterprises-failing-to-comply-with-sustainability-policies/
4. https://www.blancco.com/research-a-third-of-the-worlds-largest-enterprises-use-inadequate-data-sanitization-to-prevent-data-breaches-at-end-of-life/

Efficiency

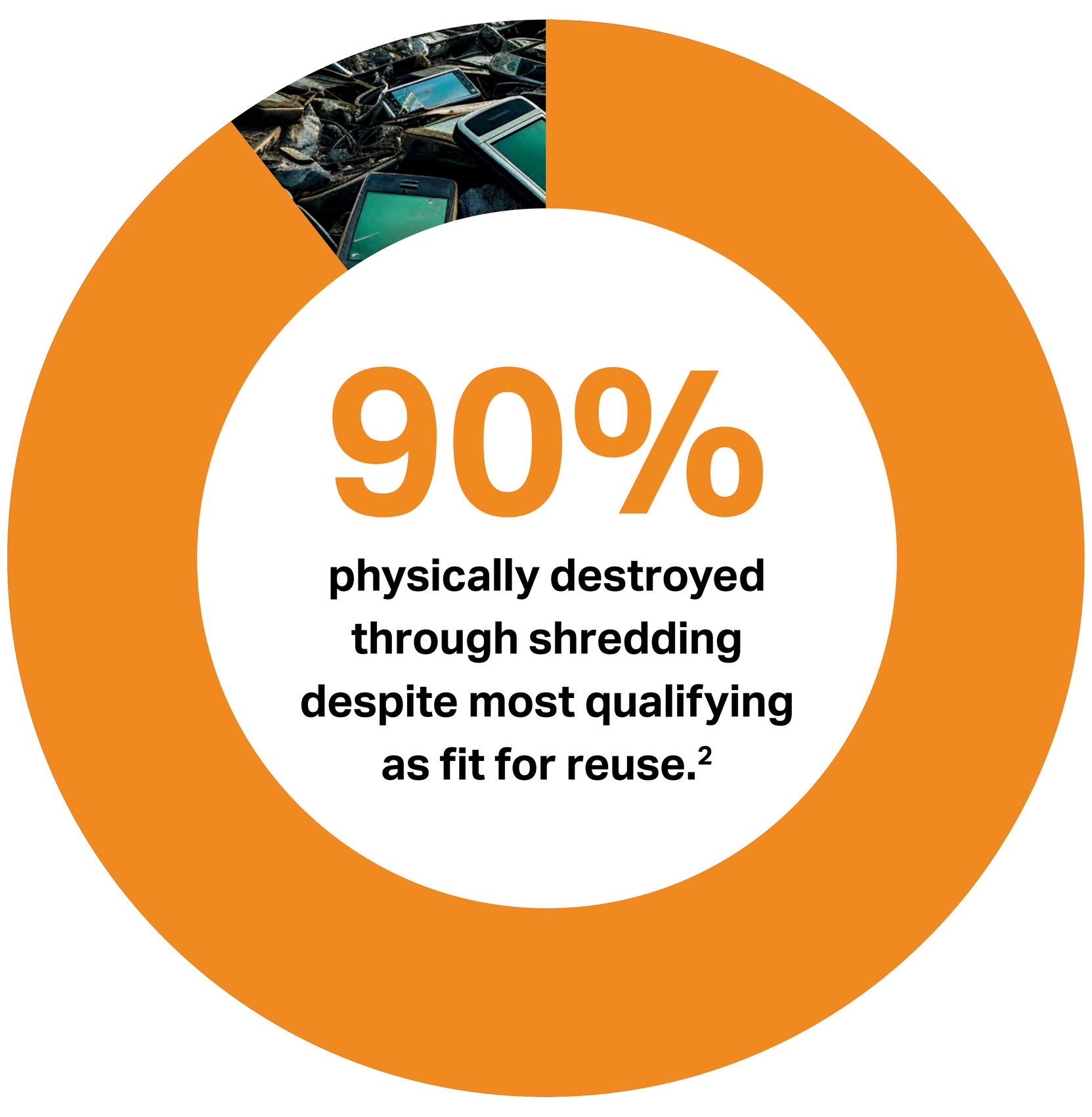
Is physical destruction really an efficient answer to data sanitization?

In the savings-seeking modern-day enterprise, physical destruction is increasingly finding itself on the wrong side of the balance sheet.
But just how far short does this end-of-life IT asset disposal method fall?
We took a detailed look.

OUR RESEARCH FOUND THAT AT LEAST

30M HARD DRIVES

are decommissioned across America and the EU every year[1] with



This equates to roughly

$73 MILLION*

worth of shredding costs on top of replacement hardware costs[3]

But it's not just bottom lines that take a hit.
The process of

PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION

is complex and time consuming, requiring hands-on dismantling, securing, executing, tracking, and documenting.[5,6]

By contrast, data erasure software can sanitize

1000s OF ASSETS

simultaneously, automate compliant processes, be performed remotely, and minimize touch time.

In short, physical destruction can cost your organization more both in terms of time and money. You should therefore be considering a method which ensures full data sanitization, but which makes devices eligible for reuse to drive additional savings for your organization.

Streamline your data erasure strategies.

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1. https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2022/10/why-big-tech-shreds-millions-of-storage-devices-it-could-reuse/
2. https://www.simslifecycle.com/blog/2023/developing-a-comprehensive-program-for-data-destruction/
3. https://www.ft.com/video/1dff98ba-b73e-40b1-83db-96c9c6bbd209
4. https://www.ft.com/content/31185370-87f3-4ecb-b64d-341bbc4e5c22
5. https://www.cxtec.com/blog/5-tips-optimize-it-asset-decommissioning-process-itad/
6. https://securis.com/news/what-is-a-hard-drive-shredder/

Sustainability

Are your device destruction policies costing the earth?

In today's eco-sensitive era, the environmental cost of physical destruction is quickly becoming unfit for purpose.
But how bad is the problem? We set out to find the answer.

A RECORD-BREAKING

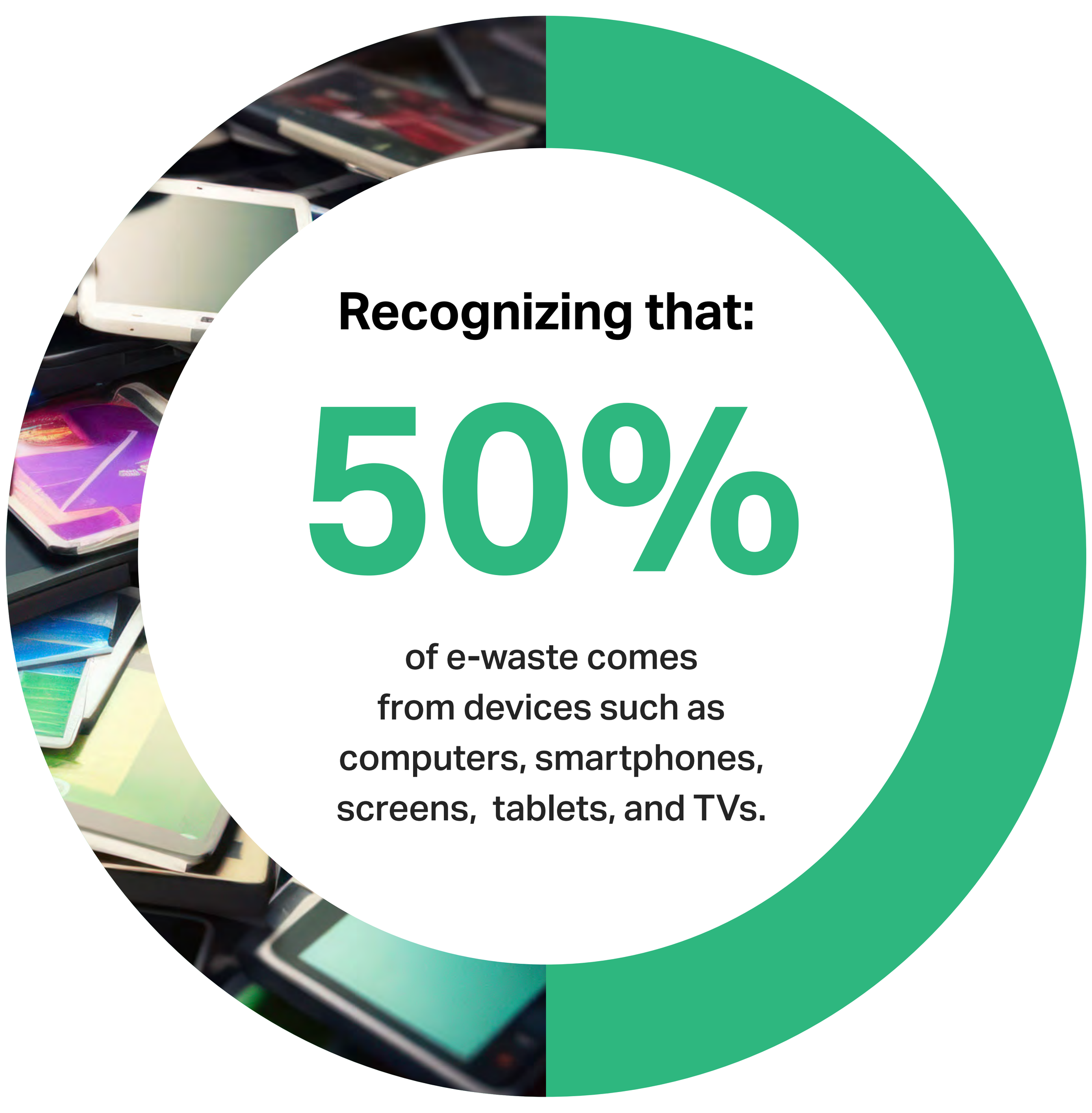
62M TONS

of e-waste was produced in 2022[1]

Just how big is that number?
Well, it's equivalent to the weight of:

And, worse, it's getting even bigger.
Today, experts predict e-waste will reach

75M TONS BY 2030[2]



In other words, the high turnover of information technology products is a large reason e-waste is increasing. And our planet is paying the price. Now, the time is right to consider an approach with sustainability at its heart, that treats IT asset destruction as an alternative, but not a default.

Take your first steps today.

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1. https://ewastemonitor.info/the-global-e-waste-monitor-2024/
2. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/01/repair-recycle-waste-circular-economy/