CHAPTER 2

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING

Skills
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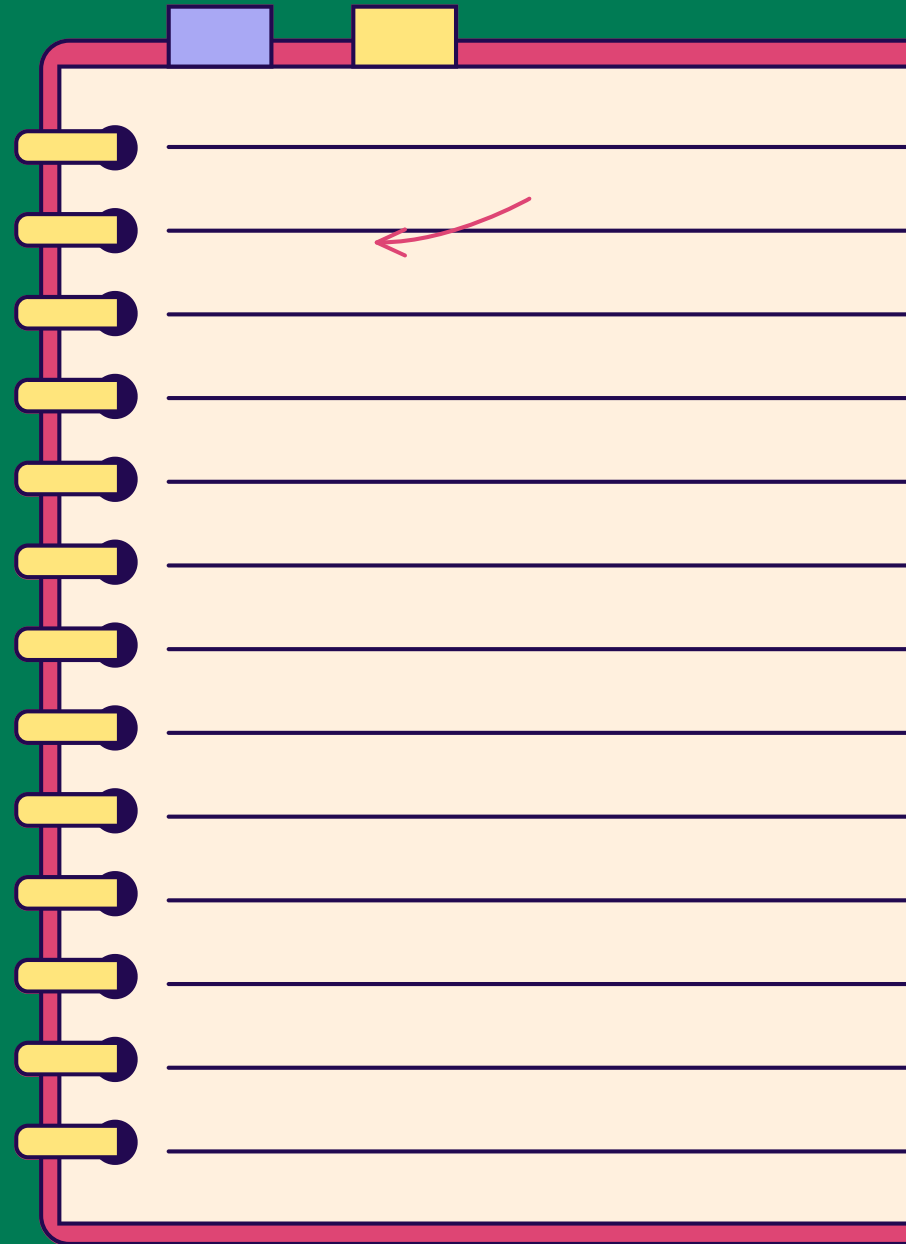
INTRODUCTION

Did you know that each year, a European citizen generates approximately 16 kg of electronic waste, equivalent to the carbon footprint of over 200 kg of CO_2?

Did you know that only 20% of this waste is properly recycled? Waste management and digital recycling are crucial issues for reducing the environmental impact of the technology sector.

But what exactly is meant by digital waste management?
It involves the collection, treatment, and recycling of end-of-life electronic equipment, such as smartphones, computers, and other high-tech devices.

The goal is to minimize environmental impact while recovering valuable materials. Most environmental damage occurs during the production and disposal of devices. Therefore, extending the lifespan of these devices and ensuring they are recycled appropriately is essential to protecting our planet.

In this module, you will discover effective strategies for managing your electronic devices, extending their lifespan, and contributing to responsible recycling.

① WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING

Here's how you can manage and recycle electronic waste like smartphones and computers, in 5 steps:

1. Collection of electronic waste:
- Gather together your old smartphones, computers and other electronic devices that you no longer use.
- Some stores, municipalities or associations organize special collections for this waste. You can drop it off there.

2. Sorting the different components:
- E-waste contains several materials like metal, plastic and sometimes hazardous substances like mercury. It is important to separate them properly for recycling.
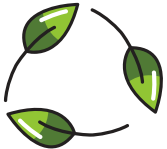
3. Recycling of components:
- Specialized companies dismantle the devices to recover precious materials such as gold, silver and copper.
- Plastic is recycled to make new products.

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4. Treatment of hazardous substances:
Batteries and other components containing hazardous substances are handled safely to avoid pollution.

5. Reuse and repair:
If electronic devices are still functional but you no longer use them, consider donating them to organizations that can reuse or repair them.

② THE JOURNEY OF A DEVICE TO BE REFURBISHED

À leur arrivée à l'usine, les smartphones considérés comme des déchets sont démantelés et envoyés en recyclage. Les autres intègrent le processus de reconditionnement.

Remise en vente

Les smartphones reconditionnés sont remis en vente sur Internet et en magasin (opérateurs, grandes surfaces alimentaires, grandes surfaces spécialisées)

Identification (IMEI) et diagnostic de l'état esthétique et fonctionnel du téléphone (écran, micro, connectique, batterie...)

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6 Emballage et expédition

2 Effacement des données et mise à jour logicielle

RECONDITIONNEMENT

3 Nettoyage, réparation, remplacement des accessoires

4 Test et contrôle qualité

5 Qualification du grade (A+, A, B, C...)