

# Litter levy on appliances

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ANTI-LITTER body KESAB wants a new levy added to the cost of new electrical goods to fund recycling of the environmentally dangerous materials that they contain.

KESAB says a 1 per cent levy could be used to fund hard waste recycling initiatives to deal with the disposal of 20 million computers, fridges, televisions

and other electrical goods in use across Australia.

It says 99.9 per cent of these items are sent to landfill and that most contain small amounts of toxic chemicals.

These include lead, mercury, zinc and cadmium in circuit boards and casing, which can pose a health hazard if they leach into water or absorbed by animals.

One teaspoon of mercury, for example, has the potential to dangerously contaminate 30,000 litres of water.

Television and monitor cathode ray tubes contain up to 3kg of lead. KESAB executive director John Phillips said it was time to apply the state's recycling ethic to such goods.

"This (idea) is not just theory anymore. We are just starting to work on a practical approach on how we can do this," he said.

"South Australia has a real opportunity to lead the nation on recycling.

"The community already provides overwhelming support

for the container deposit legislation and this is a huge opportunity to make people understand the impact they have on the environment."

Several Adelaide recyclers charge about \$18 to dispose of electronic waste.

E-Cycle Recovery's business manager Michelle Morton said the SA public had the "recycling psyche" and more people would recycle if given the choice.

"It is probably not a problem for our generation, but at the rate we

are going it will be for the next," she said.

"Every 18 months, technology is increasing two-fold because we are updating our electrical appliances every 18 months at a minimum."

Environment Minister Gail Gago said the State Government had not been approached by KESAB over the levy idea.

She said the Government was already developing a waste disposal arrangement with the television industry.