

Preventing Toxic Trade & Promoting a Toxics-free Future



e-Waste scavengers in the Agbogbloshie dump, Accra, Ghana. For more information read the essay by Jim Puckett entitled ***“AWAY IS A PLACE”***, written for Pieter Hugo’s new book: *“Permanent Error.”*

Exposing the problem...



LEARN MORE
[The history
of the e-waste
crisis](#)

“**Samsung** believes that the **e-Stewards Certification** of our recyclers provides the strongest third party validation that our e-waste volumes are being handled responsibly, according to our principles for protection of people, the environment, and developing countries.”

... creating solutions.



LEARN MORE:

[e-Stewards®](#)
[The Globally](#)
[Responsible Way to](#)
[Recycle Electronics](#)





MISSION

The Basel Action Network advances global environmental health and justice by

- 1 preventing toxic trade, the practice of externalizing risk and harm to developing countries;
- 2 promoting a toxics-free future by advancing green design and responsible consumption; and
- 3 campaigning for global environmental justice, the right to a pollution-free environment for everyone.



DECREASING...

Global Dumping,
Dirty Production
(Externalizing costs)

INCREASING...

Toxic-free, Green
Design, Clean
Production
(internalize costs)

LEADS TO...

Cradle to Cradle
Sustainability

Overview

We are currently operating three campaigns. First, we are reforming the production, use, and disposal of electronic equipment to ensure life cycle responsibility. **Second,** we are working within the US and within our global NGO Shipbreaking Platform coalition to ensure the same type of stewardship takes place for obsolete ships in the massive global shipping industry. **Third,** we work diligently to defend and implement the Basel Convention and the Basel Ban Amendment anywhere in the world. We aim to substantially reduce global dumping of toxic waste through market and legislative reform to ensure upstream responsibility leading to sustainable toxic-free life-cycle thinking, instead of downstream dumping leading to exploitation.



“Wells Fargo chooses e-Stewards® Recyclers because it’s the best way to make sure discarded electronics stay out of the hands of children. It’s that simple.”

Letter from the Board of Directors

We are pleased to report that 2010 was a year of continued growth and success for the Basel Action Network (BAN). What began as a small, scrappy environmental watchdog with few staff is rapidly maturing into a globally recognized organization widely sought out for its investigative reporting of toxic exports, market-shaping reform products and services, and its opinion and leadership.

In last year's report we announced our own rebirth with optimism: BAN had just re-formed as an independent 501(C) 3 after a decade as part of another organization. This year, we may justly observe that this optimism was warranted.

While BAN remains a vocal advocate for toxics reform and a frequently cited opinion leader around sustainable business practices, BAN's research, reports, and near continuous media presence have gained the support of an increasing number of companies, organizations, and governments, who are learning they must properly manage the many risks and liabilities created by their electronic waste. And now, because of BAN's leadership in the e-recycler certification marketplace, there is a simple way to properly and pragmatically manage these liabilities. 2010 saw our electronics recycler certification program, e-Stewards® Certification, capture significant market share. e-Stewards® Certified recyclers will NOT be dumping the waste they receive in municipal landfills in Africa or China, or using domestic prison labor.

By the end of 2010, over thirty electronics companies with approximately 100 processing facilities nationwide had either completed e-Stewards® Certification or signed a contract to do so. The roster of companies includes many of the largest in the industry, an encouraging sign that e-Stewards® Certification is fulfilling its promise as the gold standard for all who recycle electronics.

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Importantly, BAN is about much more than reforming the e-waste industry. We are one important spoke in a gratifyingly large wheel, part of an extensive network of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), encompassing the fields of health, human rights, development, environment and technology, working on a broad reform agenda. BAN continues its deep international presence to push for full ratification of the Basel Agreement, the international law to permanently end the movement of toxics from rich to developing nations. BAN provides the policy expertise to the Electronic TakeBack Coalition to seek a US federal legislative solution to the e-waste export crisis. And BAN is a leader in a global coalition making promising strides to end the dumping of toxic ships on Asian beaches, another disturbing example of how developed nations use poorer ones as their trash bins.

Yes BAN remains a relatively small NGO that is making positive change worthy of an organization many times its size. But we all recognize that, given the size of the challenges, the organization must continue to grow its programs and its partnerships. This past year was a milestone in such growth for BAN, particularly remarkable in this time of challenging economic conditions. It is the story that continues to engage supporters and friends to join our cause, and we are confident of more growth in the future.

We thank you for your support and your actions to turn back the toxic tide.

Kathy Kelly, Board President of the Board
William L. Donnelly, Board Secretary
Steven Gilbert, Board Vice President



Mother holds photograph of her sons, one of which was killed by explosion in the shipbreaking yards in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Letter from the Executive Director

There were so many encouraging signs of positive change in 2010 that this letter is at risk of growing dangerously long. So I will provide just one example. But it is one of my favorites.

Last August I was invited to a meeting of NGO and environment leaders from Canada, Mexico and the USA, a meeting known as the Commission on Environmental Cooperation. It was my 30 seconds of fame to introduce the electronic waste problem to ministerial level politicians.

At the meeting, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson used the opportunity to announce that, after careful study, she was prepared to define six major international priorities of EPA, ones that would define her term. As she spoke first of institution building and then climate change, I could not help thinking, “wouldn’t it be great if, somehow, e-waste was one of those priorities. But what a long shot that is.”

It had been a decade since we discovered the dirty secret behind the manufacture and sale of technology: millions of tons of discarded e-waste dumped on the poorest communities across the world, poisoning entire communities and desperate workforces abroad. We had taken our cameras to the places where people stood defenseless against a daily stream of shipping containers disgorging trashed technology and its attendant poisons into the air, water, and ultimately the bloodstreams of their children.

We worked tirelessly to publicize the issue and promote our reform agenda, and in 10 years, we had racked up some encouraging victories. We got the story into the New York Times more than once, and we were also fortunate to get it covered by Frontline and a major expose on 60 Minutes. Despite this, most people still didn’t even know e-waste was toxic, let alone that it is routinely dumped in Africa and China. And getting leaders to focus on the gravity of this new threat still appeared to be a long way off. It was deeply frustrating.

So when Lisa Jackson said toxic exposures were her fifth priority, I knew that was as close as we would get. It’s precisely all the toxic chemicals that are used in computers and other technology that is creating such a horrible mess with electronic waste. But there was one last priority. As I sat there in the historic grand old theater in Guanajuato, I was still thinking “There’s no way she’s going to list electronic waste. That is too much to hope for.”

But then—she said it. At the Commission for Environmental Cooperation in Guanajuato, Mexico, US EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announced that EPA will focus on ways to improve the design, production, handling, reuse, recycling, exporting and disposal of electronics.

I was floored. My eyes glistened. We had finally done it. The unsustainable downside of the IT age was getting the attention it deserved. I started frantically texting the news to all of our staff, and there was no small amount of celebration that evening as we toasted the fact that we had finally reached the all-important critical mass.

Of course, we are far from done. To be clear, reform is never ending. In many ways, this is just another beginning. But it felt like a great victory. And in a way it was, because at that moment, I knew that we were going to win this thing.

Thank you for sharing in our progress. And reading my story. My sincere thanks to our generous supporters, and friends, our visionary partners, and to everyone who is now being a lot more careful with how they consume and discard.

Yours,


Executive Director, BAN

We had finally done it. The *unsustainable* downside of the IT age was getting the attention it deserved.



This past year was exciting for both BANs internal and external growth. All the major pieces are now in place to create a sustainable, scalable organization to fulfill our mission and face down obstacles.

On the internal side, we hired two new senior staff, experienced and successful business people to drive the businesses they know well to step up and become leaders. Lauren Roman, a widely respected e-cycling industry veteran, coordinates our efforts with electronic recyclers. Mike Enberg, a gifted communicator and business development executive, is in charge of expanding the ranks of companies, organizations, and governments who commit to using e-Stewards® Recyclers, thus earning the designation of an e-Stewards® Enterprise.

With these two in place, BAN has the necessary leadership to expand our e-Stewards® Certification and grow the ranks of e-Stewards® Enterprises to turn the e-recycling marketplace away from dumping and exporting and toward safe and green domestic practices. Their work is supported by an extensive refresh of our database and accounting practices and new office space to support our growing staff. In sum, we've completed the mundane but essential work of instituting internal processes and systems that will support continued growth.

Externally, our e-Stewards® Initiative is increasingly accepted by influential leaders in the marketplace. 2010 brought us convincing evidence that e-Stewards® Certification is becoming one of the influential eco-labels or brands that is changing the world. Over thirty of the leading electronics recyclers committed to undergoing this independent, globally accredited audit, the most comprehensive and robust available, and the first half dozen have already passed it completely.

With the assurance that e-Stewards® Certification represented the most principled and practical way to manage the many liabilities associated with the generation of electronic waste, major corporations



such as Samsung, Bank of America and Wells Fargo expressed their preference for e-Stewards® Certified Recyclers and were thus recognized as e-Stewards® Enterprises. Joining them was the first municipal government to become an official endorser: Santa Clara County, the home of Silicon Valley.

It was also a year that brought major victories in our campaign against the dumping of toxic ships on poor villages in Southeast Asia. BAN's ongoing work as a member of the NGO Platform on Shipbreaking provided critically important evidence to the High Court of Bangladesh, which decided to halt the importation of future ships until they were cleaned of toxics. This victory, major in the both the symbolic and practical sense, was a serious blow to those that profit from toxic dumping—and a progress marker in the battle to end toxic dumping all together.



LEARN MORE:
[Becoming an e-Stewards® Enterprise](#)

January

- BAN announces that the new e-Stewards® Certification is available in 41 countries: the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), the EU (European Union) and EFTA (European Free Trade Association) nations.
- BAN featured in Time Magazine story on electronic waste, “E-Waste Not.”
- BAN conducts first e-Stewards® Auditor training session, providing certification bodies and recyclers with detailed training on the new e-Stewards® Standard.
- BAN delivers presentation on e-Stewards® Certification at the International Electronics Recycling Conference in Salzburg, Austria.

February

- The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) announces its formal endorsement of e-Stewards® Certification.
- BAN praises Hewlett-Packard’s new no-export e-waste policy.
- BAN delivers speech at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Conferences of Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Bali. Holds International Press Conference with UNEP head Mr. Achim Steiner and Basel Convention Executive Katharina Kummer-Perry on global e-waste problem.
- BAN delivers presentation to Global Conference of the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society.
- BAN’s alerts allow Indonesian authorities while in Indonesia to intercept nine sea-going containers of illegal hazardous electronic waste tracked from sham recycler in Massachusetts. Shipments were returned to US.
- BAN provides information to the High Court in Bangladesh, moving the court to halting the future import of toxic ships until they can be shown to have been pre-cleaned of toxic wastes.
- Industry veteran Lauren Roman appointed e-Stewards® Business Director.

April

- BAN officially launches e-Stewards® Initiative! 3 fully Certified e-Stewards® Recyclers, a12 other recyclers contracted to become certified, 45 qualified pledged e-Stewards® Recyclers, 80 e-Stewards® Recycler locations and 14 Enterprise companies including Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Samsung and 72 environmental groups supporting e-Stewards® including Sierra Club, Greenpeace USA and NRDC.
- New e-Stewards® website launched.
- Feature article in The New York Times announces the launch of the e-Stewards® Certification

May

- BAN attends Basel Convention Open Ended Working Group meeting.
- BAN’s Sarah Westervelt gives presentation to the Basel Convention delegates on e-Stewards® Certification for the first time in a well attended side event.



BAN delegation in attendance at United Nations Basel Convention meeting.

June

- BAN presents to special meeting of INTERPOL on halting illegal trafficking in e-Waste held in Alexandria, VA.
- BAN meets with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. Jackson Calls for legislation to limit e-waste export that are happening under the name of legitimate reuse, refurbishment and recycling.
- BAN meets with EPA in Washington at Deputy Level meeting of EPA staff concerned with e-Waste Trafficking. EPA announces that “There are existing recycling certification programs, such as R2 and E-Stewards® that EPA believes advance environmentally safe practices...”

July

- e-Stewards® Certification receives formal recognition and praise from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

August

- EPA Chief Administrator Lisa Jackson declares at annual Council for Environmental Cooperation in Guanajuato that preventing e-waste and its irresponsible management was one of the US Environmental Protection Agency’s top six newly announced global priorities. BAN gives short address on the subject.
- Mike Enberg joins the Basel Action Network as its E-Stewards® Enterprise Relationship Manager

September

- Redemtech EU, of Cranleigh, Surrey, UK has become the first electronics recycler outside of the United States to be e-Stewards® Certified.
- e-Stewards® Leadership Council established. It is a group of multistakeholder experts to help advise and shape the e-Stewards® program including representatives from ERI, Capstone Wireless, CloudBlue, Surplus Exchange, WeRecycle!, Philips Services Corp., Samsung, Wells Fargo, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and government representatives from King County, WA and the Washington Department of Ecology.
- BAN lauds the introduction of new federal legislation by U.S. Representatives Gene Green and Mike Thompson, the Responsible Electronics Recycling Act of 2010. The bill would stop U.S. “recyclers” from dumping electronic waste on developing countries.



Proper disassembly and recycling taking place at e-Stewards® Recycler.

October

- Santa Clara County, home of Silicon Valley, becomes the first US municipality to become an e-Stewards® Enterprise.
- BAN alerts and stops the Mexican Government from exporting three Mexican flagged tankers owned and operated by Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) from being exported to the beaches of South Asia for breaking.
- BAN's commentary on the improper use of domestic prison labor for processing electronic waste is highlighted in New York Times after the US Department of Justice, releases a scathing report on UNICOR prison recycling operations.



November

- Popular educational short film "Story of Electronics" released highlighting e-Stewards® Certification as a solution to the e-waste crisis.
- BAN attends International Electronics Recycling Conference in Hong Kong and delivers speech on Economics of Waste Trade.
- BAN's work with Coloradan investigative journalist reaps a series of stories catching illegal e-waste exporters shipping waste to Asia.

December

- BAN's Jim Puckett appears on NPR's "Fresh Air with Terry Gross" and reaches over 5 million in the United States with the message about e-waste and e-Stewards® Certification.
- BAN releases major report, "Jobs and Dollars Overboard: The Economic Case against Dumping U.S. Naval Vessels at Sea." Report says failure to recycle the last 73 ships that were scuttled at sea in the past decade alone equates to the loss of 20,000 U.S. jobs and 560,000 tons of recyclable steel, copper and aluminum, worth around half a billion dollars.
- BAN attends meeting of the United Nations Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) in Beijing, China.
- At year's end, BAN had licensed 23 e-Stewards® Enterprises, and 6 Fully Certified Recyclers in 16 locations. But companies with contracts with certifying bodies to become certified totaling 23 additional companies. Certified Recyclers are: WeRecycle, Redemtech, Newport Computer Services, ESCO, CloudBlue, Cascade Asset Management.



LEARN MORE:

[Hear BAN's Executive Director on NPR's Fresh Air with Terry Gross.](#)

2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

BAN Profit & Loss Statement

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2010	2009
Donations, Individual	\$19,483.23	12,010.26
Donations, Corp	118,704.25	318,462.30
Grants Unrestricted	545,325.42	165,923.74
Audit Fees (Pledge program)	780.00	28,180.00
Licensing Fees, Recyclers	342,892.34	230,425.00
Licensing Fees, Enterprises	32,200.00	0.00
Standard Document Purchases	8,675.00	5,000.00
Reimbursed Expense Income	28,308.98	1,590.42
In-Kind Donations	15,000.00	0.00
Interest Income	1,093.81	1,670.62
Dividend Income	206.52	2.69
Rental Income, Sublet	4,550.00	5,400.00
Asset transfer*	0	236,240.22
Total Support and Revenue	1,117,219.55	1,004,905.25
Expense		
Staff Salary	285,558.26	210,865.31
Taxes & Benefits	76,796.79	46,330.51
Total Staff	362,355.05	257,195.82
Professional Fees		
Prof Services, Accounting	10,868.38	7,161.24
Prof Services, Legal	27,829.26	19,820.39
Prof Service, Website	11,890.00	21,716.06
Prof Service, Certification	20,520.87	15,972.00
Total, Professional Fees	71,108.51	64,669.69
Consulting & Research		
Consultant, Ship Research	60,000.00	30,975.00
Consultant, Auditor (Pledge)	2,637.67	34,003.13
Consultant, Cert Program	82,250.00	80,860.71
Consultant, Int'l Program	0.00	427.50
Consultant, Website	5,875.00	0.00
Consultant, Business	76,800.00	65,900.00
Consultant, Grants	1,505.00	2,388.75
Consultant, Marketing	55,359.00	20,702.30
Total Consultant & Research Fees	284,426.67	235,257.39
Development		
Development Expenses	1,350.00	111.72
Books, Film, Publications	174.64	0.00
Total Development	1524.64	111.72

Other Program Expenses

Marketing	6,827.09	0.00
Film, Video, Photo Service	2,086.60	6,756.50
Printing & Copying	5,047.36	2,265.27
Conference Expense	5,456.62	2,302.78
Reimbursable Expenses	6,916.74	1,464.42
Research & Investigations	2,339.90	7,374.00
Travel	83,314.11	44,638.72
ANSI Licensing payments	4,076.80	2,329.60
Total Other Program Expenses	116,065.22	67,131.29
Operations		
Auto, Parking	2,210.74	1,020.98
Bad Debt Pledge	0.00	46.75
Bank Fees	669.54	351.82
Fees, Paypal	468.38	647.35
Donation	0.00	2,500.00
Dues & Subscriptions	2,066.00	148.00
Equipment < \$500	831.28	0.00
Insurance, Liability	2,311.44	2,291.44
IT Subscriptions & Software	24,918.33	0.00
License and Permits	1,321.45	895.52
Meals/Entertainment	1,450.62	1,299.72
Office Expense	4,563.92	3,654.41
Office Cleaning/Maint.	559.73	0.00
Postage and Delivery	1,584.09	3,101.59
Rent	15,237.33	20,638.80
Repairs & Maintenance	324.23	835.52
Telecommunications	9,416.72	6,012.17
Taxes, Excise	0.00	515.17
Total Operations	67,933.80	43,959.24
Total Expense	903,413.89	668,325.15
Transfer to Reserve	213,805.66	336,580.10
Total Expense	1,117,219.55	1,004,905.25



TRANSPARENCY

Notes: (*) From 1997 to 2008, BAN operated as a discrete business unit of another non-profit. Upon becoming an independent 501(C)3 in 2009, these funds, BAN's current use account, were transferred to BAN and applied toward 2010 expenses.



A gathering of e-Stewards Recyclers at most recent face-to-face meeting in Chicago (2011).

BAN Balance Sheet

	2010	2009		2010	2009
ASSETS			LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Assets			Liabilities		
Checking/Savings			Current Liabilities		
Checking	28,648.39	56,360.68	Payroll Liabilities		
Savings	0.00	5.19	FW & FICA Payable	7,584.10	3,920.74
Money Market	67.90	182,185.32	SUTA Payable	426.93	208.08
Reserve	35,463.23	2,694.44	L&I Payable	389.42	210.04
Petty Cash	300.00	500.17	Total Payroll Liabilities	8,400.45	4,338.86
Paypal	3,042.60	1,241.64	Other Current Liabilities		
Total Checking/Savings	67,522.12	242,987.44	Deferred Licensing Fee Revenue	342,534.00	244,635.00
Accounts Receivable			Sales Tax Payable	23.76	0.00
Accounts Receivable	61,506.67	25,908.51	Total Other Current Liabilities	350,958.21	248,973.86
Pledges Receivable	383,550.28	66,000.00	Total Liabilities	350,958.21	248,973.86
Total Accounts Receivable	445,056.95	91,908.51	Equity		
Other Current Assets			Unrestricted Net Assets	323,276.92	0.00
Deferred Licensing Revenue	342,534.00	244,635.00	Net Income	213,345.92	336,580.10
Expense Advance	8,925.73	3,251.24	Total Equity	536,622.84	336,580.10
Employee Advance	225.00	325.12			
Undeposited Funds	15,078.25	1,375.00	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	887,581.05	585,553.96
Total Other Current Assets	366,762.98	249,261.24			
Total Current Assets	879,342.05	584,157.19			
Fixed Assets					
Furniture & Equipment	5,417.60	0.00			
Total Fixed Assets	5,417.69	0.00			
Other Assets					
Security Deposits	2,821.31	1,396.77			
Total Other Assets	2,821.31	1,396.77			
TOTAL ASSETS	887,581.05	585,553.96			

Charitable Gifts to BAN in 2010

BAN extends its most sincere thanks to the individuals, organizations, agencies, and companies below that have so generously supported BAN's work by making a charitable contribution. We apologize for any errors or omissions: please contact inform@ban.org with any corrections.

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|--|---------------------|---|
| Altruist Partners | Jeff Clark | Ombingo Inc. |
| anonymous | Jennifer De Rooter | OpenTV |
| Arash Tavakkolijou | Jennifer Petterson | Parminder Plahe |
| Bad Dog Investments, LLC | Jeremy Nelson | Patricia Jones |
| Britta Scullion | Jill Moran | Paul McAuslan |
| Bryan Geraldo | Joan Harwood | Pierre Pereira |
| Byron Woollen | Joe Dwyer | Redemtech, Inc. |
| California Electronic Asset Recovery, Inc. | Jonathan Beeton | Robin Barnes |
| Carol Hand | Karen Lucchesi | Sabine LeBel |
| Cascade Asset Management, LLC. | Kathy Kelly | Salesforce.com Foundation |
| Catherine Schwoerer | Kelly Cho | Sandra Swenson |
| Cengage Learning Australia | Kevin Kelly | Scott McCarty |
| Cher Beilfuss | L Dang | Seena Nassiri |
| CK Kim | Laura Fields Beer | Sego Jackson |
| Clara Sheffer | Laura Kretschmar | Sigrid Rausing Trust |
| Complex Elements Corporation | Liberal Country Fan | Staci Beavers |
| Dozier Bell | Lisa Crosby | Steven Gilbert |
| Electric Embers Cooperative | Luke Soules | Steven Schwartzberg |
| Electronics TakeBack Coalition | Lynn Walford | Susan Termini |
| Emmalinda MacLean | Marcia J. Mason | The John & Wendy Neu Family
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| Graham Harrison | McGraw-Hill Ryerson | William Taylor |
| Hannah Jones | Nadia Jabri | Xavier Claveria |
| iFixit | Nicholas Gerber | |



BAN chooses battles that spotlight the biggest issues of our time—design, consumption, fair trade, globalization, equity, materials use, green chemistry and more.

e-Waste scavengers in the Agbogbloshie dump, Accra, Ghana. For more information read the essay by Jim Puckett entitled *“AWAY IS A PLACE”*, written for Pieter Hugo’s new book: *“Permanent Error.”*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, now and in the important days to come.