



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

**APR 15 2005**

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Mr. Larry Chalfan  
Executive Director  
Zero Waste Alliance  
One World Trade Center  
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 210  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mr. Chalfan:

Thank you for your letter dated March 11, 2005. I am glad to know that EPA's "Plug-In to eCycling" Guidelines will be used as a basis for the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool's (EPEAT) End-of-Life (EOL) requirements for used electronic equipment.

In your letter you state that EPEAT's Development Team needs further clarification from our office in order to provide guidance to Plug-In to eCycling participants. Specifically, you ask for a list of countries which are parties to the Basel Convention and a list of those which are members of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD). Further, you ask how these two agreements affect cross-boundary shipments of used electronic materials. Our response is provided below.

### **Basel Convention**

As of April 8, 2005, 165 countries were parties to the Basel Convention. Enclosure 1 provides a list of those countries. Please note that Afghanistan, Haiti, and the United States of America are signatories to the Basel Convention but have not ratified the Convention. Up-to-date information on Basel countries can be found on the following website:  
<http://www.basel.int/ratif/frsetmain.php>.

### **OECD**

Thirty countries are members of the OECD. Enclosure 2 provides a list of those countries. This list of OECD member countries can also be found on the following website:  
[http://www.oecd.org/countrieslist/0,3025,en\\_33873108\\_33844430\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/countrieslist/0,3025,en_33873108_33844430_1_1_1_1_1,00.html).

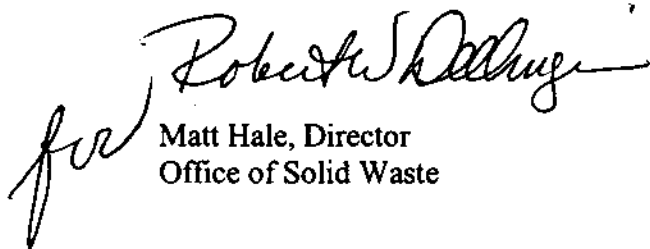
Other than what is found on the main OCED and Basel websites, we do not have a list of "live links" to guidance from other countries on used electronic imports. For information regarding guidance and requirements for specific countries, we recommend contacting the competent authorities in the countries where proposed exports are destined. The OECD and Basel websites identify the competent authorities for each country.

### **Transboundary Shipments of Electronic Scrap**

Your letter asks a series of questions regarding how the Basel Convention and the OECD agreement might affect transboundary shipments of various categories of electronic scrap. My office is currently in the process of developing clarifying guidance and questions and answers on this topic and will be happy to provide this information to you as soon as it is available.

I hope these answers are of assistance to you and to the promotion of the eCycling Guidelines. Please feel free to contact Robert Tonetti of the International and Transportation Branch at (703) 308-8878 or me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

  
for Matt Hale, Director  
Office of Solid Waste

Enclosures