into secondary products that have to be disposed of eventually.

The final solution will be to have the OEMs (the original equipment manufacturers) bear the responsibility for the materials they choose to use, and for designing construction methods which allow easy dismantling. We're not there yet, though there is political action to require an OEM "take-back" clause or to build a recycling fee into the initial purchase cost.

What can you do to help?
Please choose to be proactive;

◆ verify that your local solid waste authority contracts the recycling of the techno waste stream with a North American recycler who follows BASEL conventions and Health & Safety regulations,

◆ ask questions of your local school board/organization about how the large scale techno-trash is handled and whether a "take-back" clause is required,

◆ recycle your home computer "basement dinosaurs", dead cell phones and old electronic equipment with your local recycler and pay the fee if you have to.

◆ support OEMs which are moving to less toxic products, even if the products cost a bit more.

As you move forward with new technology, be sure you can look back with a clear conscience.

Great sites to explore if you want to know more

Canada's E-waste problem needs a cleanup
www.interconsolutions.com/ computer_dealer.htm

It isn't easy being green Complex composition of PC components, home electronics makes disposal a growing crisis
www.hubcanada.com/story_10806_35

Schoolnet Article -
Computers to Africa scheme criticised
globalcn.tc.ca/pipermail/aflug/ 2003-May/000268.html

Product Take Back / Recycling Program - Canada
www.ibm.com/ibm/environment/ products/ptb_canada.shtml

CBC MARKETPLACE:
Environment » High-Tech Trash
www.cbc.ca/consumers/market/files/ environ/hitech_trash/ old_computers.html

Ten Tips for Donating a Computer
www.microsoft.com/Education/ TenTips.aspx