



Responsible Recycling  
Official Statement

InterConnection is committed to ensuring environmentally responsible recycling. We are disturbed at the revelations of the Basel Action Network and condemn the abhorrent practice of exposing others to potentially dangerous substances.

We work in good faith with certified 3rd party processors to handle material unsuitable for reuse and distribution through our charitable programs, in this case based in California. R2 compliance is at the core of our recycling standards. We demand this material be processed via R2 certified compliant procedures, require documentation stating such and that our partners are audited for compliance. As is now evident, one of the organizations to which we had sent material has breached our recycling contract and elected, for greater profits and convenience to endanger others in less fortunate circumstances.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, our belief is that all people, regardless of circumstance should be given the opportunity to thrive and progress through access to technology. This is our mission. It is fundamentally contrary to our beliefs to endanger another or to act outside of the law.

After learning of this breach we immediately contacted Washington Management and Financing Authority in order to stop sending e-waste to the identified professor, indefinitely.

As we strive earnestly to create opportunity for others and bridge the digital divide, we are grieved at this betrayal of our trust and poor decision making of one of our partner recyclers. We hope that this does not hinder our ability to help others, often in so great a need.

It is our privilege to serve the Seattle community and organizations throughout the world in providing access to affordable technology. We will continue to demand the highest standards of integrity in all of our partner organizations.

We will be conducting thorough audits of our partners in the wake of these revelations and should we discover any lack of compliance to the R2 standards for safe recycling, we will cease to work with them immediately.

InterConnection is currently pursuing legal action against those found in violation of our contract and internationally recognized standards for recycling.

We thank the Basel Action Network for highlighting such poor practitioners within our industry and hope to unite against unsafe practices and poor moral judgement.

*For further inquiries please contact: [pfraser@interconnection.org](mailto:pfraser@interconnection.org)*