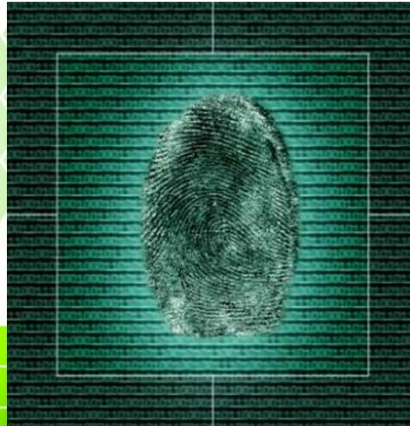


**Sustainability**



**Security**



**Technical Innovation**



**Community**



**Signs Made from e-Waste**  
*Protecting the Environment and Saving Money While  
Reducing e-Waste Plastic in Landfills*

# e-Waste—an Ever-Growing Problem

- e-Waste is growing faster than any other type of waste, with an annual volume close to 40 million metric tons globally<sup>1</sup>
  - That's 88,200,000,000 pounds!



<sup>1</sup>Press Release, "Basel Conference Addresses Electronic Wastes Challenge." November 27, 2006, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Available at: <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=485&ArticleID=5431&l=en>

# The Growth this Decade is Mind-Boggling

- A 2010 UN<sup>1</sup> study reports that the growing amount of e-waste could grow exponentially—as much as 500 times over the coming decade
- That adds up to over 44,100,000,000,000 lbs!



<sup>1</sup>Press Release, “Urgent Need to Prepare Developing Countries for Surge in e-Wastes”, February 22, 2010 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Available at: <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=612&ArticleID=6471>

# Now, How Much of That is e-Waste Plastic?

- Plastic accounts for 23% of all e-waste<sup>2</sup>
- That's over 10 trillion pounds of e-waste plastic
- Contains UV inhibitors and brominated flame retardants
- Virtually non-biodegradable in landfills

*How much waste is in 500 million computers? <sup>1</sup>*

Plastics	6.32 Billion Pounds
Lead	1.58 Billion Pounds
Cadmium	3 Million Pounds
Chromium	1.9 Million Pounds
Mercury	632,000 Pounds



<sup>1</sup>Source: "Exporting Harm, the High Tech Trashing of Asia", Basal Action Network, 2002

<sup>2</sup>Source: "Exporting Harm, the High Tech Trashing of Asia", Basal Action Network, 2002

# What Do We Typically Do with All That Plastic?

- “Dirty” plastic is generally considered valueless in the downstream recycling supply chain
  - Typically ends up in a landfill
  - Some is actually incinerated
  - A large percentage is exported to developing countries
- What does this cost us?
  - Environmental costs
  - Landfilling costs
  - Transportation and material handling costs



# 10,000,000,000,000 Pounds!

- How do we make that number smaller?
- How do we deal with this sustainably?
- How do we deal with this economically?
- How do we overcome the limitations of the material?
- What industry could benefit from products made from e-waste plastic?



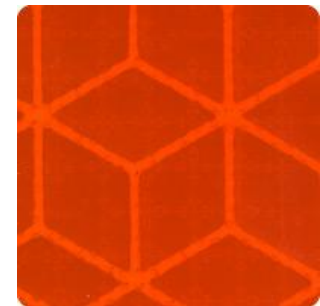
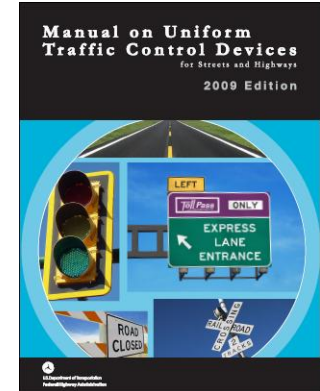
# The Aluminum Roadway Sign Industry

- In the 1880s, the League of American Wheelmen (bicyclists), lobbied for better roads and signs.
- Increased with early automobile clubs in the 1900's
- Scattered effort resulted in a wide variety of
  - Sign designs
  - Materials
  - Messages in different sections of highway
- Caused confusion among motorists



# History of Roadway Sign Industry

- In 1924 Bureau of Public Roads takes first steps toward national uniformity
- In 1935 the federally approved *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) standardized dimensions and colors
- The development of retroreflective sheeting in the 1940s changed the face of traffic signs forever
  - aluminum substrate became the standard
- Updated with new retroreflectivity and private property standards in the 2000s
- Over 500,000,000 square feet of retroreflective sheeting sold annually in the US—that's a lot of signs!





# Think About 500 Million Square Feet of Signs

- That's the size of the roof area of Walmart's combined 2,700 US Super Centers
  - What if we could replace the carbon footprint and expense of aluminum with e-waste plastic?
  - What if we could replace theft-prone aluminum with e-waste?
  - What if we could develop a product that is tougher, and less expensive than aluminum?
  - What if we could help reduce e-waste plastic while doing so?



# Years of Research and Investment Yields Results

- Established research and testing partnership with Texas Tech University to create technology
- Developed proprietary grinding and compounding process
- Retrofitted 75 ton presses
- Developed custom compression molding process



# An Endless Supply of e-Waste Plastic

- Receive e-waste from major OEMs, retailers & others



- Receive spent printer cartridges from consumers



# MicroStrate™ Is the Result

- Signs and road marker substrate material created in 2010 named MicroStrate™
- Coat with high intensity prismatic sheeting
  - TxDOT approves 1<sup>st</sup> product 2010
- Lower cost than aluminum
- Not theft prone
- Reduces landfilling
- LCA performed by TTU—  
MicroStrate™ is 1/4<sup>th</sup> the carbon footprint
- Recent TTU Tests reveal material performs as good as *if not better than* aluminum



# Project Supports the Deaf Community

- We partner with the Texas School for the Deaf
  - Paid internships while in school
  - Eligible for full-time employment upon graduation
- 40% of workforce are deaf or special needs workers
- Translators and VRS in-house
- Inspire us daily with their dedication and appreciation



# About Image Microsystems



Since 1992, our innovative technology solutions securely refurbish, reuse, and recycle electronics equipment to help you:

- Increase Your Bottom Line
- Reduce Your Risk
- Protect the Environment

We are the only certified zero landfill asset recovery and reverse logistics provider that also manufactures and markets quality, environmentally friendly products made from recycled e-waste plastic components



# Thank You

**Sustainability**



**Security**



**Technical Innovation**



**Community**

