

## Uruguay, Montevideo: Reclaiming neighborhoods by cleaning up electronic waste toxic hot spots

Low-income earners in Montevideo burn electronic trash and electrical cables to obtain copper for resale. By burning e-waste over open pit fires they created “toxic hotspots” in their own communities, sites where contamination from heavy metals and other toxins are so high, it is a danger to human health. The Global Alliance on Health and Pollution teamed up with the City of Montevideo and successfully identified and remediated some of the worst toxic hotspots of the city.

<b>Location</b>	Montevideo, Uruguay
<b>Pollutant</b>	Lead, heavy metals, and other toxins.
<b>Source</b>	Burning and dismantling of e-waste
<b>Population affected</b>	15,000
<b>Health and environmental impacts</b>	Air pollution from piles of e-waste lit up to burn off plastic-coated wires; Soil pollution with heavy metals from irregular dumping of waste materials
<b>Intervention</b>	Locating toxic hotspots in the community; remediating contaminated sites.
<b>Outcome</b>	The goal is to remove contamination without having to relocate entire communities.
<b>Co-benefits</b>	Government has the tools and know-how to tackle other toxic sites in Montevideo and in the surrounding; Government is also willing to share knowledge with other cities in Uruguay.