



EMERALD KEEPERS

EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

DIALED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT

Loyal Apple fans have been awaiting the newest phone, the iPhone 15, which will be available on Friday. New features, including USB-C cords, 3-D videos, and additional colors, will entice many to upgrade. But buying a new cell phone has environmental consequences.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

With more than 22 billion cell phones in the world, the impact on our natural resources, air, and land is significant.

- **Natural resource mining.** Cell phones contain valuable metals and minerals, such as copper, lithium, and cobalt. Mining and processing these materials causes environmental destruction around the world and has been linked to child and slave labor.

About 80% of the world's cobalt comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is also a source for copper. The expansion of multinational mining in the Congo has led to human rights violations, according to Amnesty International.

- **Emissions:** Most cell phones are made in China. Manufacturing and shipping phones require a substantial amount of energy, which is often powered by fossil fuels that produce carbon emissions, worsening climate change.

According to Apple's own metrics, 79% of a phone's carbon emissions during its lifecycle are created during production.

- **Pollution.** Discarded electronic devices can release hazardous substances like lead, mercury, and cadmium into the environment. These elements can seep into the soil and the water supply and are harmful to humans and wildlife.

- **Waste.** Discarded electronics are the world's fastest-growing category of waste. In recent years, less than 20% of the world's e-waste was collected and recycled — the rest is often dumped in landfills.

REUSE

If you plan to buy a new phone, the best

use for your old one is to gift or sell it to someone who will use it as a phone.

Trading in your old phone to your carrier or manufacturer will ensure it is refurbished for reuse or recycled properly. Be sure to erase all data with a factory reset.

RECYCLING OPTIONS

If your cell phone is not working, recycle it. Don't be tempted to put it in a drawer. The longer it is out of circulation the more difficult it is to recycle.

Coronado's department of Public Services accepts cell phones and other electronic waste at Household Waste Collection events held the second and fourth Saturday of the month at Public Services on First Street.

The most environmentally friendly cell phone is the one you are currently using. If you decide to upgrade, gift, sell, or recycle your old phone to keep our planet and Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.



SUPPORT EMERALD KEEPERS

Emerald Keepers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

