



# 4 sustainable practices every successful telecom supply chain should include in their hardware repair strategy

First edition

**Headquarters,  
Operations & Sales**

**Phone: +44 (0)1291 623 813**

**Email: [hello@txo.com](mailto:hello@txo.com)**

**[TXO.com](https://txo.com)**

Registered in England & Wales:

Company Registration No: 05479601

VAT Registration No: GB840431165



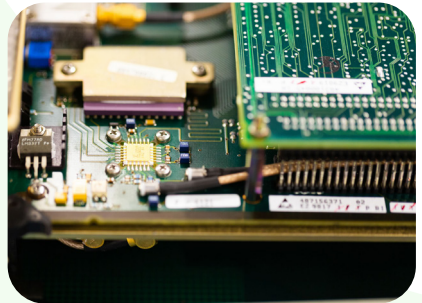
## Background

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Every year, we generate around 40 million tonnes of electronic waste (e-waste) worldwide.

The waste that isn't recycled ends up in either landfills or incinerators to be burned, releasing harmful toxins into the air. It's no secret that e-waste is extremely dangerous to the earth's health.

At TXO we recognise that the telecommunications industry is a contributor to this waste. In today's age of being more environmentally aware, industry bodies are rightfully taking positive steps to protect the environment and support the circular economy (CE). For example, the European Commission (the governmental body responsible for legislation in Europe) has put forward an industrial strategy called the circular economy action plan. The idea of the plan is to force companies into making their supply chain more environmentally friendly and sustainable. We are set to see more countries make legislative changes going forward in order to support the CE.



## Principles of the circular economy

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In essence, the circular economy aims to reduce waste as much as possible and keep resources in use for as long as possible. As time goes on, more people are becoming better-educated on the topic of sustainability, hinting that the importance of CE principles is only going to grow.

**Here are the three basic factors which define the circular economy:**

1. Reduce waste
2. Sustain natural systems
3. Elongate the life-span of resources

The CE encourages people to move towards a heightened version of the commonly known 'reduce, reuse, recycle' method. The overall purpose of sustainability in the telecoms sector is elongating the life of products and avoiding waste. Here at TXO we want you to feel good about sustainability. We also want challenge your current processes to make your supply chain more sustainable.



If you manage a telecoms supply chain, this guide will outline some of the practices you can follow to ensure that your organisation's current supply chain processes supporting the circular economy.

## 1. Internal redeployment

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Our asset recovery team can help you catalogue your equipment and get clarity on your stock list.

The easiest way to avoid your existing equipment going to waste is finding use for it elsewhere. To find a useful reuse option the first step is to thoroughly investigate and inventurise your spare equipment. This is crucial as your existing list may be inaccurate – it may be a while since the stock was last audited or your parts may have been catalogued by complete system rather than by individual units/cards. This is where working with a knowledgeable telecom services partner can really add value. Your partner can assist with cataloguing each item by OEM part code, serial number descriptions and hardware revision. This will give you clarity on your stock list to find the best option for what to do next. You may find a hidden gem that you knew nothing about!

There is a huge amount of electronic equipment involved in a telecoms supply chain. This makes it so important for managers to ensure that it is optimised to be as sustainable as possible. Internal reuse is a cost-effective way to keep spares from being disposed of unnecessarily and a good practice for stock organisation.

## 2. Resale

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If you no longer have a use for your equipment in your organisation, remarketing is a great option for you. Reselling parts to someone who needs them more is beneficial not only for your budget, but also keeps the equipment in use.

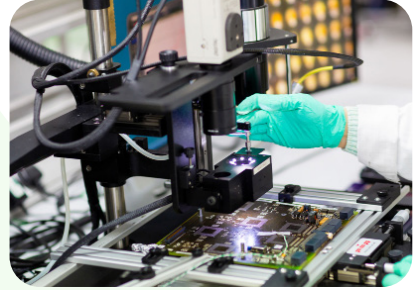
With access to an experienced reseller you will be able to remarket your equipment with ease. A good reseller will offer benefits such as having a global network of partners. Also having partners that are multilingual is key for contacting people globally to offer equipment for sale. Furthermore, a good resale partner will invest in marketing so you don't have to. For example, here at TXO we invest significantly in digital marketing including pay per click (PPC) activity which means that we're more likely to find a market for any given item. We have been experts in sourcing used telecoms equipment for over 15 years and have a finger on the pulse of international market demand.

We invest heavily in digital marketing which makes your equipment more accessible to online shoppers.

Every month we perform thousands of multi-vendor telecom repairs covering a full spectrum of equipment

## 3. Repair

There is often an argument that repairing faulty equipment is costly and that it would be more cost-effective to just replace the part. This isn't always the case because it is completely dependent on individual situations. Not only can repair be more effective on your budget than buying a brand new part, it is prolonging the life of the equipment and keeping it out of landfill. In addition, a good repair partner can test and stage the repaired equipment before deploying to site to ensure that all is working as intended so it can be plugged straight in to your network with no issues.



Repair is undoubtedly a great sustainable process for your organisation to adopt to ensure a more environmentally-friendly supply chain. If repair is not an option, ensuring that you are buying second-hand equipment is equally a greener option.

## 4. Recycling

Aside from the environmental aspect, there is another reason why unnecessarily trashing electronic waste is irresponsible. A lot of equipment contains precious metals that are difficult to source. These metals include Gold (Au), Silver (Ag) and Palladium (Pd), all that are valuable. In addition to this there is an increasing demand on primary sources and the energy needed to produce the metals. A key principle when it comes to unwanted equipment is responsible recycling.

Sustainable recycling of telecoms assets means ensuring that all items are disposed of safely and responsibly with minimum impact on the environment. In addition, hazardous and non-hazardous materials should be recovered in an environmentally friendly manner and in line with current legislation. Moreover, any data left on a device should be securely wiped without a trace. Secure data wiping and hard drive destruction is imperative to avoid data breaches.

An efficient recycling partner should also issue you with any relevant certificates e.g. detailed Certificate of Destruction (CoD). Our expert repair team here at TXO can support you to keep your organisation in line with the latest sustainable recycling and data security requirements

As Europe's leading recycler of telecoms equipment, we recycle over 250T per month.



## The outcome of acting more sustainably

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It is clear that adopting these sustainable practices is crucial to protecting our environment. With the involvement of so many electronic assets in a telecoms supply chain it's very important for supply chain managers in the industry to abide by the principles of the circular economy. In doing so you will:

- Reduce waste
- Save energy
- Reduce carbon footprint and environmental impact
- Drive greater resource productivity

Now that you've read this guide it's time to put these green processes into action! Please get in touch for more information about any of the sustainable practices or services mentioned. Equally, for advice on how to get started please reach out to a member of our team today by phone, email or [online contact form](#).

### Phone:

EMEA: +44 (0)1291 623 813 | USA: +1 410 766 4540

APAC: +61 (0) 2 9513 8818 | BRAZIL: +55 43 3253 4695

Email: [hello@txo.com](mailto:hello@txo.com)

[TXO.com](https://txo.com)