

Agbogbloshie: the world's largest e-waste dump – in pictures | Environment | theguardian.com

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Adam Nasara, 25, uses Styropor, an insulating material from refrigerators, to light a fire

[Agbogbloshie: the world's largest e-waste dump – in pictures | Environment | theguardian.com.](http://theguardian.com/environment/2014/feb/28/agbogbloshie)

Discarders of electronic goods expect them to be recycled properly. But almost all

such devices contain toxic chemicals which, even if they are recyclable, make it

expensive to do so. As a result, illegal dumping has become a lucrative business.

Photographer Kevin McElvaney documents Agbogbloshie, a former wetland in Accra,

Ghana, which is home to the world's largest e-waste dumping site. Boys and young

men smash devices to get to the metals, especially copper. Injuries, such as burns,

untreated wounds, eye damage, lung and back problems, go hand in hand with

chronic nausea, anorexia, debilitating headaches and respiratory problems. Most

workers die from cancer in their 20s