

Treehugger central

For 'pop' net entertainment and good cutting-edge bytes on some of the latest 'eco' products and initiatives, visit US-based website Treehugger.com.

It describes itself as 'A fast-growing web magazine, dedicated to everything that has a modern aesthetic yet is environmentally responsible – well designed products that are also ecologically sensitive.' It's been 'Serving design-obsessed, undercover bleeding hearts

since 2004.' Saturated advertising and endorsement may give away the commercial motive of this project, but at least the sustainable living message is being helped along.

Treehugger combines short articles by a swag of young-at-heart international contributors and reviewers with a blog, a reader postings facility, and an eclectic green products and services directory. The latest quick-



loading multimedia offerings are interspersed through the content making things engaging. All in all it's a

rewarding web stop; perhaps one for your lunch break. **Treehugger**
www.treehugger.com

A shame about your old TV

The promise of the high technology era, it seems, has led us down at least one dead-end street: in line with Moore's Law (which, in 1965, predicted the doubling of computer power every year) and the commercial drive behind obsolescence, discarded electronic items are fast becoming one of the globe's ugliest waste problems.

To most developed-world consumers, unwanted electronic goods become a case of out of sight, out of mind as they are shipped off by a hard rubbish van or given to a

charity shop. The reality is that thousands of redundant products are either partially dismantled and then buried as toxic landfill, or else shipped somewhere else – often to the Third World – to be someone else's concern. Slow progress has been made on recycling and manufacturer take-back initiatives, but behind the scenes, it's no real surprise that e-waste is a complicated and quite alarming global headache.

For a general overview of the problem, read *High Tech Trash* – Elizabeth Grossman uncovers



the sometimes-secret product lifecycle issues behind the consumer electronics industry, and describes the significant toxicity issues that come from

the manufacturing process, the solid waste, by-products and broken down parts.

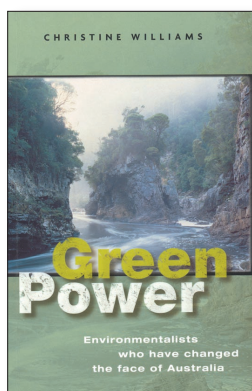
While the book isn't a technical approach, and doesn't offer much insight into solutions or ways forward, it will open minds and should help make more people question the need for our high goods turnover.

High Tech Trash
Digital Devices, Hidden Toxins, and Human Health
Elizabeth Grossman
Shearwater Books, USA
2006, Hardback
ISBN: 1559635541 RRP: \$49.95
Available from CSIRO Publishing:
www.publish.csiro.au

Snapshots of environmentalists

In *Green Power*, lecturer, author and journalist Christine Williams has done convincing and engaging work in providing potted profiles for 18 of Australia's most influential environmentalists.

Together with a brief introduction that touches on some key influences behind the environmental movement, the book provides a brief but enlightening historical sweep of the key episodes through its personable insights into the lives of well-



and lesser-known figures who have made the environment a committed cause.

Williams has aimed to show how the efforts of these select environmentalists have changed Australia, and her inclusion of often very personal anecdotes from her subjects makes the reading poignant and rewarding.

By the book's end, readers are aware of the diversity of backgrounds from which these campaigners have sought to have their message heard, and

are left with inspiration from the lists of challenges that each has faced as ordinary people with extraordinary motivation.

Green Power makes easy reading for anyone with a combined interest in both things environmental and Australian history, and the notes and bibliography section is a good starting place for researchers.

Green Power
Environmentalists who have changed the face of Australia
Christine Williams
Lothian Books
2006, Paperback
ISBN: 0734408986 RRP: \$24.95