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In a printing media conference, it was revealed that every second around eight to ten cartridges are dumped into the landfill. The scenario is very alarming when we consider the amount of damage it can cause to the natural resources stored inside the heart of the earth.

Hence, it will not be wrong to say that recycling used and discarded empty toner cartridges should be mandatory. To overcome this nasty problem, responsible authorities should come up with some sort of plan to declare stop the awful act of dumping. Already, a number of Giants in printing industry have decided to design their cartridges with holes to facilitate the activity of cartridge recycling.

It is estimated that only 10 percent of the 250 million printer toner cartridges are recycled by the people annually. Nearly 225 million cartridges are sent directly into the landfill and they are causing significant damages to the environment. Decay of cartridges under the surface of the earth releases harmful gases including Carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide .

It should be noted that every recycled cartridge will play its role in improving the environmental conditions of this planet. Therefore, the idea of recycling cartridges should be promoted at all levels to achieve better rates of oxygen in the atmosphere. Three most commonly used methods to recycle toner printer cartridges are discussed below.

Recycling facilities for recycling toner printer cartridges: In most cases, cartridges are supplied with free return stickers on their back side so that the users can send the empty ones to the recycling facilities by means of a working collection system. At mechanical plants, the collected cartridges are then heated and molded into different plastic material products. However, everybody should step up and show their commitment towards the idea of cartridge recycling to enhance the efficiency of this process. Considerable reduction in the amounts of rubbish in the landfills could be reached by adapting to this simple plan.

Toner refill kits. Using toner refill kits to minimize dumping of empty toner cartridges is perhaps the most commonly used method of recycling. In this method, empty cartridges are not thrown away but they are filled with toner. Most cartridges can be refilled for up to three times, which contributes towards to reducing the production processes and lowering the levels of harmful gases in atmosphere. Furthermore, by recycling cartridges, considerable amounts of processing oil could also be used.

Recycle by remanufacturing the cartridge. However, this method is probably the most cost effective and efficient of the three as it extends the printing capabilities of toner cartridges by remanufacturing it after four life times. Usually, a cartridge starts missing prints after reaching four lives but the re-manufacturing process increase its printing capabilities. Traditionally, the cartridge is dismantled and the working parts of it are kept and placed in a new frame, whereas the damaged parts are replaced by the new ones.

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