iNEMI Reuse and Recycling Metrics FAQ

Q: Has the project published any reports?
Yes. There are several project updates and papers/presentations available online:
https://community.inemi.org/reuse_recycling_2

Q: How is repair integrated into the tool — e.g., the challenges of low data about repair, the diffuse nature of repair infrastructure etc.?
Repair/refurbishment and life extension are included in a few places in the tool itself. We have included questions (factors) on whether parts are able to be removed for repair, whether chassis/cabinets can be removed, the length of the warranty, how long spare parts are available post-sale, and more. We would expect to add to this and refine in the next phase of the tool.

Q: Most of this metric is e-waste related. Is there any analysis, metric or rating on recycling and reuse for the manufacturing process?
The tool is focused on the e-waste, not the internal reuse/recycling within the manufacturing process. We believe that manufacturers should have visibility and knowledge of their own internal systems and can improve them.

Q: What products are “in scope” for the tool? Can the tool be expanded or used for other products?
The tool was designed for use with ICT products, specifically: cell phones, printers, tablets, servers, laptops and network equipment. Other products could be included in the future or a separate tool based on the general framework of the ICT metric tool could be developed. Expertise with those products will be needed to adequately develop and test those tools. Potential products for tool expansion include electric vehicles, photovoltaics and televisions.

Q: Does the tool consider where the e-waste needs to be transported for recycling? For example, cellphones need to go back to Asia for recycling and then sold into the US again.
The metric asks you to identify the region a product is sold into with the assumption that the product will also be recycled in that region. However, there is the option to input a different region where the product will be recycled. It is not a perfect fit in that the tool doesn’t include factors for logistics from one region or area to another.

Q: Is software support considered in the tool at all? Is this part of the product lifetime metric (e.g. that software often ends product lifetime prematurely)?
There are factors around product longevity which could be impacted by software update issues but there is no software factor included today. Inclusion of software and security patch availability for a device could be added in future phases of the development of the tool if applicable.