

Synopsis

Massachusetts currently does not have a law regarding the recycling of e-waste. In order to fix this problem, an optimized piece of legislation was developed based on research of established e-waste recycling laws. The recommended policies for the state of Massachusetts are: Require consumers to pay a tax on electronic devices purchased that is refundable upon recycling. Require manufacturers of electronic devices to fund the recycling of their products. These recommended policies are in the process of being sent out to people in positions of influence in legislature.

Background

In Massachusetts currently:

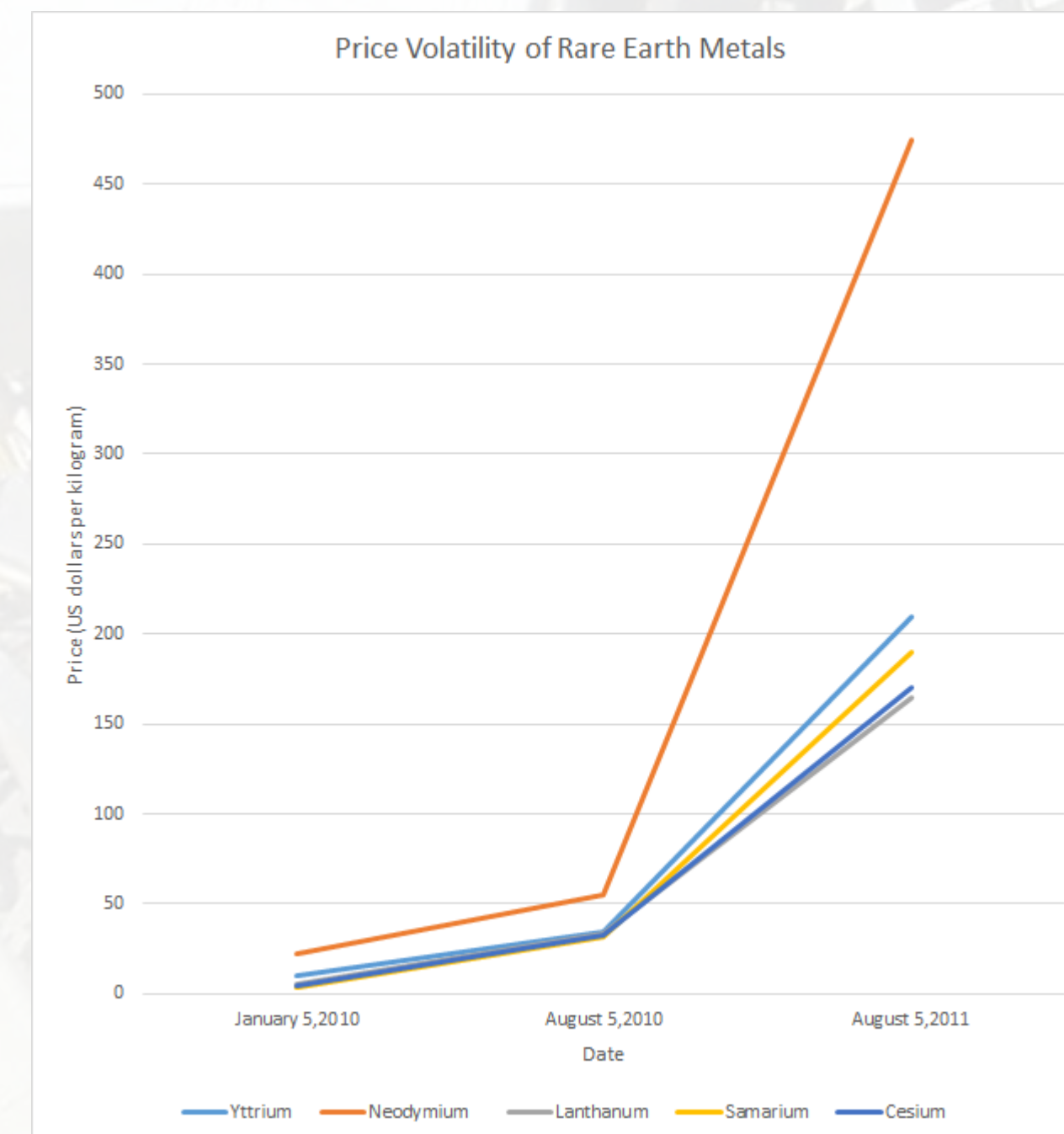
- There are no laws in place regarding the recycling of e-waste and limited regulation regarding the disposal of e-waste.^[8]
- Emission of toxins through improper recycling techniques.
- The loss of rare materials found in electronics.

Electronic waste is currently the fastest growing division of waste.^[1] Twenty-five states in the U.S. have regulations regarding the recycling of e-waste but Massachusetts is not one of them.^[2]

Methodology

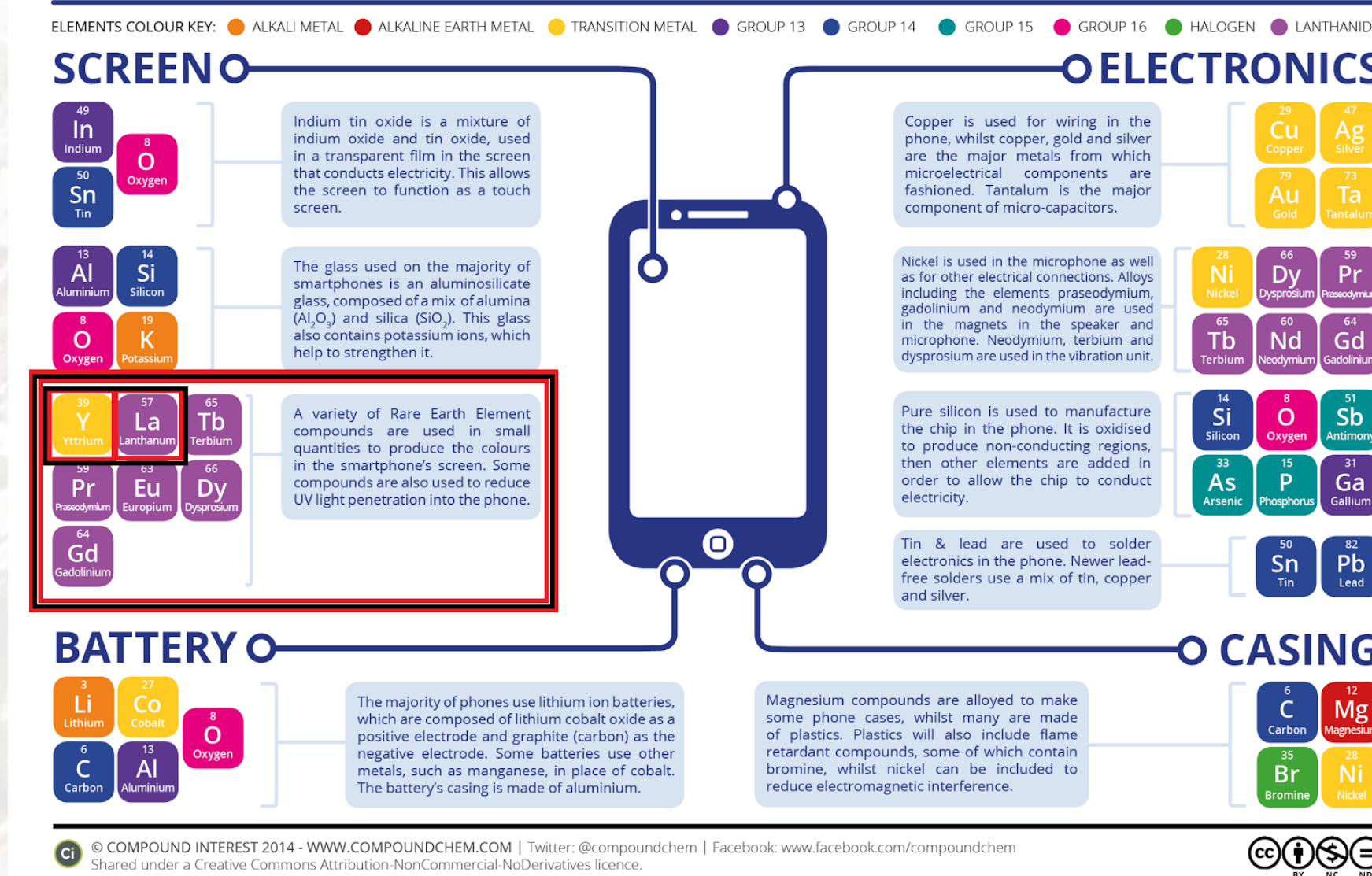
To Address the problem one must first understand that problem. Researching is then done on the policies currently in other states and evaluating the success of the states. After gathering the research one will draft a set of recommendations for the state of Massachusetts regarding e-waste.

Research and Analysis

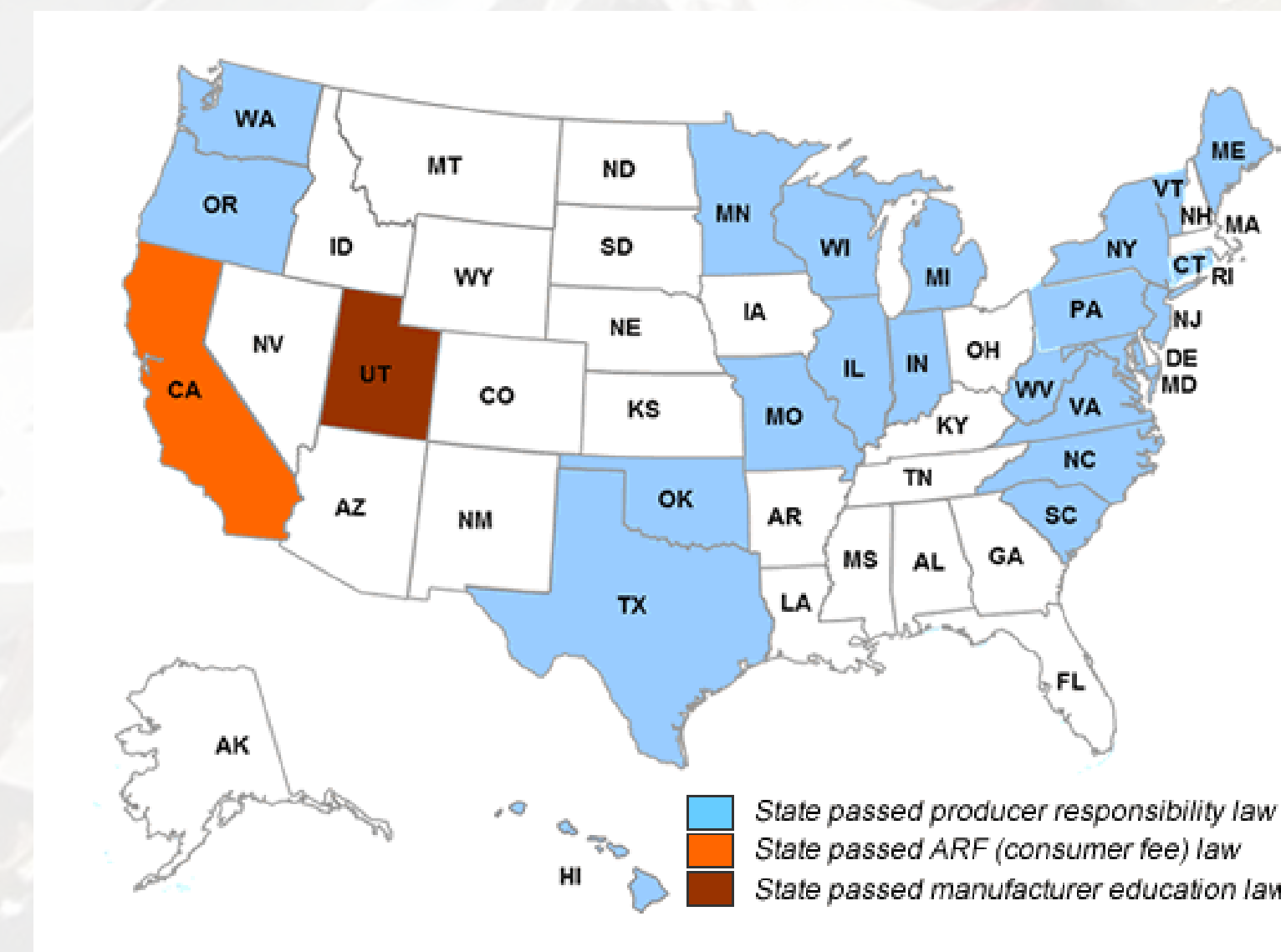


The price of rare earth metals are rising dramatically.^[3]

ELEMENTS OF A SMARTPHONE



Cell phones use many different types of elements all of which are lost when the product is discarded.^[4]



Massachusetts is one of 25 states that does not have an e-waste recycling law.^[5]

E-waste Recycled in California Since Law Implementation



After the first year of legislation there was a rapid increase in the amount of e-waste recycled.^[6]

Recommendations

Combine both a producer based and consumer based policy.

- Require consumers to pay a tax on electronic devices purchased that is refundable upon recycling.
- Require manufacturers of electronic devices to fund the recycling of their products.

Goals

- Create recommendations for the state of Massachusetts to help facilitate the implementation of an e-waste recycling initiative.
- Raise awareness regarding the recycling of electronics.
- Reduce the magnitude of e-waste in landfills
- Encourage manufacturers to create more recyclable products.
- Encourage Massachusetts legislature to create a policy regarding e-waste recycling.

Project Statement

By creating legislation in the state of Massachusetts, the amount of e-waste brought to landfills will decrease and the public will become more aware of the importance of electronic waste recycling.

Acknowledgements

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References

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