

Abstract

The decision problem faced by the consumer in a market economy is present with every purchase. The politics and policy of social and environmental sustainability of the agents selling in the market are still becoming more important when a consumer makes their decisions what to choose and buy. Waste management is a great part of this problematics. It is linked with every purchase we make, with all the things we use. Not just packaging, but the goods itself, the emissions behind the process of producing and transporting the goods (and services) - all of it can be now quantified and measured.

In this thesis a Neo-marxist and environmentalist theoretical framework is elaborated with thoughts by Karl Polanyi to understand the problematics of waste management. When the gain is privatised, but the costs are inherently imposed on the public it is a good think to recognise the weak spots and try to evaluate and find a possible way for improvement.

The following paper is designed as a case study of e-waste trading and tries to verify the hypothesis that the commodification of negative externalities such as waste brings along negative effects. These effects and impacts on society will be discussed further.