ESG REPORTING FOR THE ELECTRONICS VALUE CHAIN

For more than 15 years SERI has successfully led the multi-stakeholder development of the global R2 Standard and implemented an independent certification program for the electronics value chain. As an independent and charitable non-profit organization, and ANSI Accredited Standards Developer, SERI is uniquely positioned in the role of convener and facilitator to lead the development of an ESG reporting standard for the electronics value chain.

PROBLEM TO ADDRESS:

ESG reporting is fast becoming as necessary as financial reporting for businesses. Mandatory or voluntary ESG reporting is required in around 70% of countries globally. Despite the increased focus, measurement of impacts is self-reported and typically imperfect, inconsistent, and even inaccurate. While there are efforts to standardize many elements of this, and requirements in some regions for third-party assurance of claims, there are currently no industry specific guidelines for the electronics sector, and an absence of third-party oversight to that reporting.

AN ESG STANDARD FOR ELECTRONICS:

SERI proposes that we convene and facilitate stakeholders to develop a standard that will systematically measure and report ESG metrics through the electronic value chain that will meet or exceed regulatory requirements globally and enable consistent and reliable metrics to benchmark and measure negative and positive impacts. Following the publication of said standard, SERI will implement a third-party verification program in accordance with ISO 17029 to verify the claims made by organizations.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE WORK:

The outcome is a method for standardizing and verifying ESG claims in the electronics value chain having the following goals.

- Standardize common categories for types of equipment, components, and materials being measured.
- Standardize how to calculate sustainability metrics of reverse supply chain operations - transportation, energy usage, and relevant factors unique to typical operations in this supply chain.
- Standardize how to calculate impacts avoided by repair, extended use, reuse, or materials recovered.
- Standardize where in the value chain that impact is measured. i.e., when to take credit for recycled materials? When to take credit for reused electronics? Who gets the credit?
- Identify governance policies and procedures.
- Identify methods for verifying reporting - where is the data reported? Who can validate the data? What is the protocol for verification?

OUR ASK:

SERI is requesting your demonstration of support and interest in adopting this standard in your electronics value chain. SERI will make a formal announcement for stakeholders interested in participating on the technical committee to develop the standard.