What next? (for those in tech)

For software: Learn more about software updates, obsolescence and backwards compatibility:

- Repair and Software: Updates, Obsolescence, and Mobile Culture's Operating Systems, Discard Studies
- Device sustainability through long-term software support, Privacy International
- Sustainable software products—Towards assessment criteria for resource and energy efficiency, Future Generation Computer Systems
- Green Mode Design & Graceful Degradation, LOCOS Seminar #16

Software considerations: Software support and performance affects the obsolescence of hardware.

- How long software should last? How long should hardware last?
- What types of devices do our users have? How will the software perform?
- How do we code and test for backwards compatibility?

For hardware: Look into clean supply chain initiatives, e-waste, and e-waste recycling:

- GoodElectronics
- Responsible Sourcing Network, minerals program

What next? (for everyone)

Civic action:
Participate in the right to repair movement so that we can make our devices last as long as possible:

- Repair Association (US)
- Right to Repair (EU)

Local action:
Find out if there are any mines near you and community groups that you can join.

Get involved with projects that support citizen science, like KoboToolbox.

Consumer action:
If repairing isn't an option, buy refurbished or second-hand when possible.

When shopping for a new device, ask customer service if the device is ethically produced and free from conflict minerals. They may not be able to answer, but it will send a signal to the company that customers are aware of unfair practices in the supply chain.