

# WEEE Sector Overview: Where are We and What Does The Future Hold?

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# Who We Are



WEEE Compliance



Battery Compliance



Packaging Compliance

**Delivering excellence in compliance today, we aim to play our part in  
shaping the circular economy of tomorrow.**

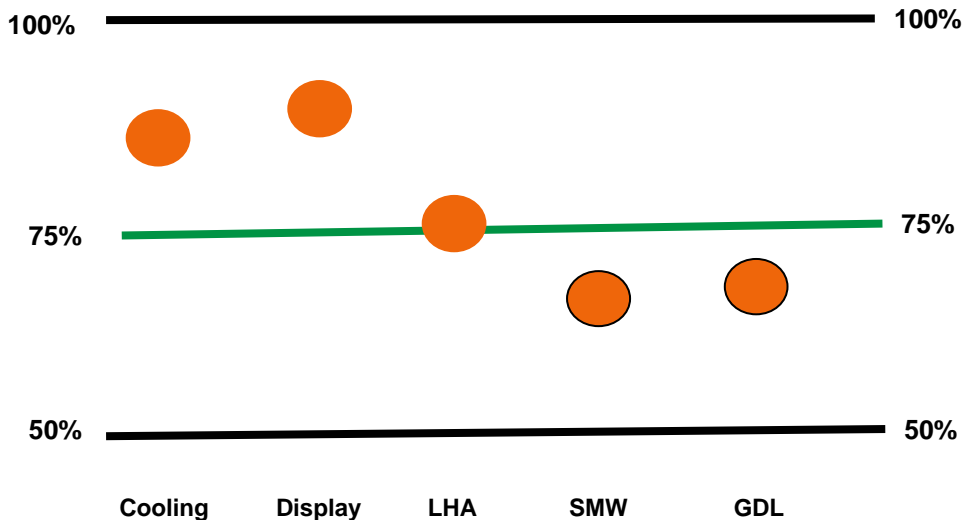
# What We do



- Arrange collection and treatment of WEEE to meet our members obligations
- Work with over 90 local authorities throughout the UK, facilitating collections and adding value
- Arranged the collection and treatment of over three million tonnes of WEEE to date
- Strong relationship with government at all levels, both through working groups and individually
- Member of the WEEE Forum, consortium of 36 international not-for-profit producer led schemes

# The UK WEEE Sector 2021

# WEEE sector overview

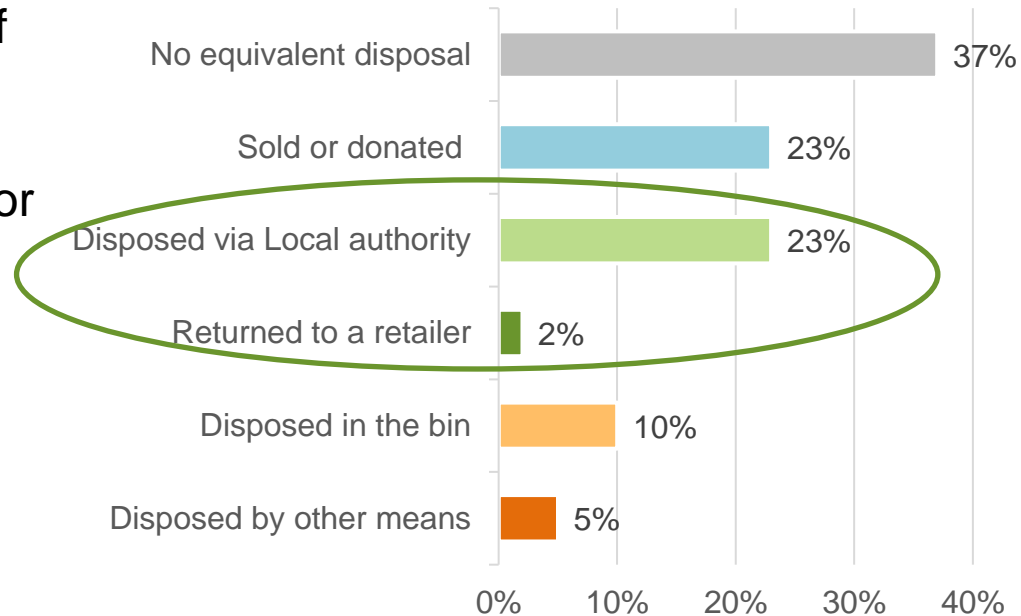


- Q3 2021 data shows collections are at 74.3% of target YTD
- Promising progress to reaching targets
- Collections are typically lower in last quarter of the year
- Collections ahead in Cooling and Display and on target for LHA
- Behind pro-rata rate – SMW and GDL

# Consumer Behaviour Example – Small Kitchen or Household Appliances

- 57% of respondents had purchased a new appliance in the last 12 months
- 36% of respondents had disposed of one
- Current regulations do not account for the 23% that was resold / donated
- The recorded WEEE through recognised channels equates to a likely returns rate of 25% POM

## Extrapolated Disposal Behaviour of Consumers Buying a New Small Kitchen or Household Appliance



- Covid restrictions -Fluctuating collections
- WEEE Regulations review delayed
- A unique 2020 compliance fee mechanism
- POPs in WEEE
- Appropriate Measures consultation for permitted facilities
- Lithium batteries – increased fire risk

# Challenges



# WEEE Sector Positives

- UK has made great strides in reducing the amount of WEEE being sent to landfill and increasing the amount being recycled
- Significant milestones have been reached
- Addressing a fluctuating marketplace - economic, market and technological factors
- Underpinned by an EC framework that's remained unchanged for 8+ years



# New collection initiatives

- Drive to make WEEE recycling easier
- Free in-store takeback
- Boost uptake with clear education messages
  - Encourage responsibility
  - Focus on circular economy
- Increased producer takeback initiatives
  - Product-as-a-service
  - Refurbishment schemes
  - Use of recycled product
- Careful consideration to the wider benefits of increasing collection points

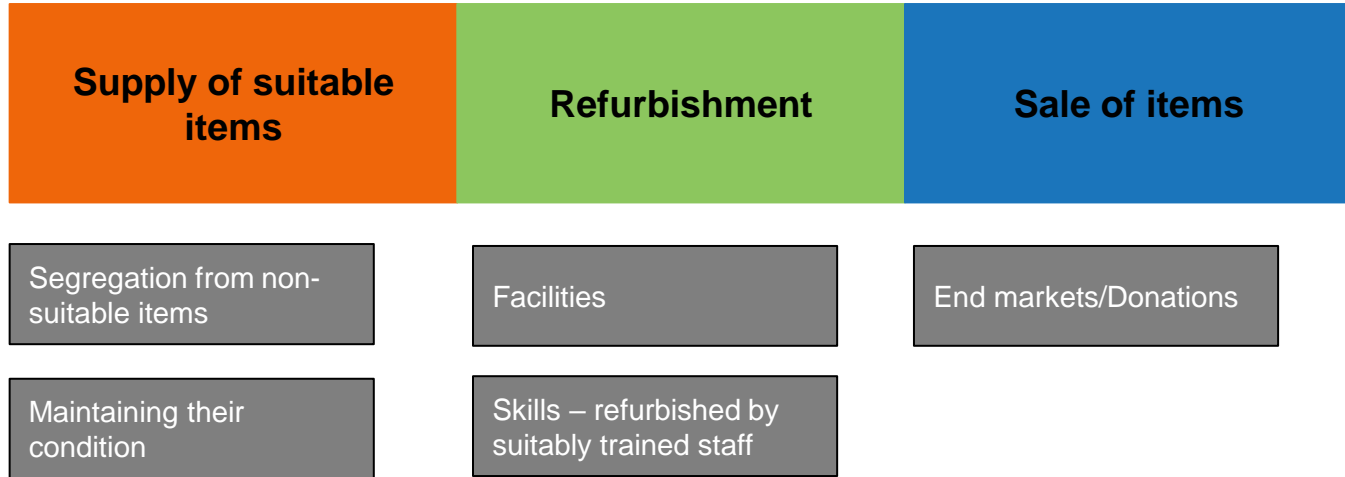


# WEEE Reuse

# Benefits of WEEE reuse

- Moves waste up the waste hierarchy
- Makes electrical items more accessible to lower income households
- Creates employment opportunities and skills training
- Refurbishment is predominantly viable for:
  - Large domestic appliances
  - Refrigeration
  - Display
  - IT and telecommunications

# Considerations around WEEE Reuse



As a PCS we often need to join up the dots.....

# Case Study - Saughton Prison & HomeAid



## **Reuse partnerships provides for disadvantaged families while upskilling inmates**

- Through the partnership with West Lothian Council, REPIC provides Saughton Prison with large domestic appliances that are deemed suitable for repair
- Inmates are then trained on repairing each type of appliance
- Reconditioned products are then donated to HomeAid, a local charity, to distribute these products and second-hand furniture to local disadvantaged families
- Providing a valuable service to the local community while developing transferable skills of the inmates to be better prepared for life beyond prison

# Future WEEE Management

# Future WEEE management

- Needs to be agile to cope with varying, ever evolving factors
- Improve on information and data gathering to understand how products and markets are changing
- Look beyond targets as no demonstrable correlation between targets and collections
- Explore opportunities to increase collections, identify legitimate alternative end-of-life product flows and prevent unwanted or undesirable activities





# A need to change the narrative

COP26

Awakened interest in the environment

Narrative

But negative coverage of WEEE, despite 7 million tonnes collected and recycled in the UK since 2007

Increasing disposal options

In-store takeback widened, kerbside options being reviewed, reuse initiatives supported

Carbon reporting

Will highlight the good work of our sector

# Circular Economy

- Focus needs to broaden
- All encompassing approach to EPR
- Dealing with WEEE is only part of this picture
- We need to include all actors and assign clear responsibilities
- We can all help contribute to policies that minimise our use of resources whilst ensuring WEEE is dealt with appropriately at end of life



Thank you for your time today

Visit Resource Hub at [repic.co.uk](https://repic.co.uk) for all the latest WEEE insights