



## **GET YOUR HOME READY FOR SUMMER AND HELP THE PLANET WITH WEEE IRELAND**

With summer in the air, there has never been a better time to overhaul your home, tidy out the garage and recycle all of those unwanted electrical products. WEEE Ireland, the Irish compliance scheme for electrical and battery recycling, helps to make recycling old electrical junk lying around your house very easy, as they offer numerous collection and drop off points around the country. Any household item that requires a plug or battery to function and is at the end of its life is considered waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and should be recycled. So to find out the nearest collection point to you, why not log onto [www.recyclefree.ie](http://www.recyclefree.ie) and see for yourself how easy it is!

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), includes everything from old fridges and washing machines to remote controls, TVs, electric toothbrushes, hair straighteners, batteries and even old bicycle lamps. Over the last 10 years, the amount of WEEE in Europe has grown at a staggering pace with consumers using more and more electronics in their day-to-day lives. Last year, WEEE Ireland collected over 30,000 tonnes of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), which translates to over 9kg per person, more than double the EU target of 4 kg. These figures place Ireland as one of the top electronic recycling nations in Europe, as we recycled over 725,000 large household appliances and 4.5 million small household electrical items in 2008.

Ireland needs to continue to keep on top of recycling WEEE, as when not disposed of properly, it can be harmful to our health. For example, TVs can contain lead which can be toxic to the kidneys, nervous and reproductive systems, when not properly disposed of at the end of their lives. Fridges and freezers contain gases such as CFC (chlorofluorocarbon), HCFC (Chlorodifluoromethane) and HFC (hydrofluorocarbon), which can be extremely harmful to the planet. Recycling old electrical goods is a great way of contributing to the fight against climate change, as it helps stop the emission of greenhouse gases, which damage the o-zone layer and encourage global warming.

'Recycling reduces our dependence on depleting natural resources, as electrical and electronic equipment and batteries contain metals, plastics and even glass that can be used again if recovered properly through recycling', says Leo Donovan, CEO of WEEE Ireland. 'Recycling is an important part of creating a sustainable world, as it benefits society and the environment'.

For further information on WEEE Ireland, to find the nearest collection point to you and for more information on recycling waste electrical and electronic equipment, check out [www.recyclefree.ie](http://www.recyclefree.ie)

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For further press information and interviews please contact Claire Feely, Niamh Hickey or Mary Crawford at Elevate PR at +353 (0)1 662 5652 or [Claire@elevate.ie](mailto:Claire@elevate.ie) / [Niamh@elevate.ie](mailto:Niamh@elevate.ie) / [Mary@elevate.ie](mailto:Mary@elevate.ie)

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## Notes to Editors

### About WEEE Ireland:

A not for profit organisation and approved by the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, WEEE Ireland provides a cost effective solution for producers of household EEE and batteries in compliance with Irish regulations on the recycling of electronic waste. WEEE Ireland organises for the treatment and recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment and batteries and accumulators from authorised collection points around the country. The corporate website, [www.weeeireland.ie](http://www.weeeireland.ie), is utilised by producers and distributors looking for practical guidance on how to understand and comply with the WEEE and Battery Regulations. The consumer focused website [www.recyclefree.ie](http://www.recyclefree.ie) can tell members of the public how and where they can recycle their old appliances.

### Upcoming WEEE Ireland Collection Days:

Date	County	Location	Time
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Kildare	Tesco Maynooth	10am – 4pm
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Kildare	Tesco Celbridge	10am – 4pm
9 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Kildare	Naas Racecourse	10am – 4pm
16 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Offaly	Tesco Tullamore	10am – 4pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2009	Cork	Wolfetone Square, Bantry	10am – 4pm
30 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Cork	Dunmanway Council Site	10am – 4pm