

NEWS RELEASE

28 April 2008

Ireland Doubles EU Electronic Recycling Target

WEEE Ireland collects over 28,000 tonnes of electronic waste in 2007

Figures released today by WEEE Ireland, the national compliance scheme for electrical recycling, show that the scheme collected almost 9 kilogrammes of WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) per person for recycling in their collection area during 2007 – over double the 2008 4kg target set for Ireland by the EU.

WEEE Ireland collected over 28,000 tonnes of e-waste in 2007 - the equivalent in weight of about 200 jumbo jets - and an increase of 12% on 2006 figures. This 9kg figure is the equivalent of 5 old electric kettles for every man, woman and child.

Since WEEE Ireland was established in August 2005, more than 50,000 tonnes of electronic waste have been diverted from landfill for recycling – equivalent in weight to all of the household waste generated by Cork City or by Wexford County in 2006.

In terms of waste product type, since August 2005 WEEE Ireland has collected for recycling the equivalent of one large domestic appliance e.g. washing machine, cooker etc. per household.

Other highlights from the report show the following volumes were collected for recycling during 2007:

- 100,000 fridges and freezers
- 1 small household electrical item (kettles, toasters, radios, hair dryers, keyboards, remote controls etc.) per person
- 1/4 million TVs and computer monitors
- 2 million lamps (including fluorescent tubes and energy saving CFL bulbs)

77% of the material collected in 2007 was initially processed for treatment on the island of Ireland with the remainder going to dedicated WEEE treatment plants in the UK and Europe.

Speaking at the launch of the 2007 annual report Leo Donovan, CEO of WEEE Ireland, said he was delighted with the results to date which rank Ireland among the top electronic recycling nations in Europe: "WEEE Ireland would like to thank consumers for bringing back their old washing machines, cookers, computers, televisions and all other e-waste for recycling in 2007 and helping us achieve the 9kg figure for last year."

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). Such items can be deposited at any of 79 civic amenity sites nationwide for free recycling. Location details and opening hours of recycling centres throughout the country are available at: www.weeireland.ie In addition, consumers can take back old electrical items to electrical retail shops when equivalent items are being purchased or bring their WEEE to one of the many public collection events WEEE Ireland runs throughout the country which are advertised in local press and radio.

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About WEEE Ireland

WEEE Ireland is the largest of two authorised national compliance schemes for electrical recycling. The scheme was founded in 2005 by producers of electrical and electronic appliances to comply with the WEEE Directive. WEEE Ireland organises the processing and recycling of household waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) on behalf of its members from recycling centres, electrical retailers and other collection points covering over 80% of the geographic area of the Republic of Ireland.

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