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A new dynamic model for WEEE – a report by Lancaster University

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Objectives of the study

- Improve intelligence on the relationship between EEE placed on the market POM and WEEE generated
 - Produce more accurate forecasts for WG
 - Support future Government policy and target setting
 - Support industry planning and investment
- Produce an enhanced flow model for the UK
 - Inclusion of socio-economic factors
 - Link 'top down' data generation with 'bottom up' real world data
- Identify further work to improve data for unreported WEEE and produce a dynamic flow model



Targeting WEEE

- To set sound targets we need to know the WEEE that is available
 - Quantify flows for desirable and undesirable WEEE
 - Recognise the factors that determine WEEE or end of first life EEE
 - Most advanced model *Dutch WOT* doesn't have socio-economic variables and is not tailored to the UK WEEE market
 - Requires a new dynamic model with an increased number of variables

WOT Waste Over Time





WEEE collected against compliance targets UK

- EEE POM reported by
 Producer Compliance Schemes
- WEEE collected through
 Producer Compliance Schemes
- Defra target for Producer
 Compliance Schemes



Variation in return rates – display included



esponsible

ecveling

R

FF



Variation in return rates – without display



oonsible

ecvclinc

R



Future Directive targets are challenging



REPIC responsible recycling

How targets are set



New dynamic model for POM and WEEE



 Current models: POM estimated from the actual data; residence times distribution set at the moment t' of sales and does not respond to market fluctuations:

$$W(t) = \sum_{t'=1980}^{t} P(t') \varphi(\underbrace{t - t', k(t'), \lambda(t')}_{\text{Weibull}})$$

Weibull
distribution

• New model: POM (**units per year**) consists of stock changes and replacement market. The latter produces WG. Residence times distribution responds to market fluctuations at the current time *t*:

$$P(t) = \frac{dS}{dt} + W(t); \quad W(t) = \sum_{\substack{t'=1980}}^{t} P(t') \psi(t - t', t'(t))$$

Stock Stock replacement changes = WG Residence times distribution responding to market shifts

WOT and WOT enhanced prototype outputs



Cooling Category Placed on the Market



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Dynamic factors in the new model

- Socio-economic
 - Inflation adjusted GDP per capita
 - Consumer Confidence Index
 - Inflation Indices
 - Number of households
 - Wealth distribution
 - Number of products in households and business
- EEE market
 - Inflation adjusted prices of given products
 - Market drivers affecting trends in sales
 - Trends in unit weight
- Mass balance and product residence time
- Unreported flows





What does this mean for target setting?

- Improve data and intelligence through
 - Improved data with a higher confidence on other flows (complementary, unreported, reuse, second hand sales, substantiated, legal and illegal)
 - Better modelling of WEEE generated
 - Better understanding of the relationship between POM and WEEE generated including missing POM
 - Inclusion of more dynamic economic factors and impact on purchase and discard patterns
- Identify 'available' WEEE
- Tactical policy and target setting e.g. where they can have most effect
- Support planning and investment



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