

# WEEE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE ON RECYCLING!

Irish consumers and businesses collected over 36,100 tonnes of e-waste and 856 tonnes of waste batteries for recycling last year. The findings are contained in the annual report of WEEE Ireland, which revealed that the largest electrical and battery recycling compliance scheme in the country surpassed national targets yet again in 2018.

The scheme's annual report, published in conjunction with its AGM in mid-June, revealed that WEEE Ireland, its members and partners, recycled the equivalent of 10.2kg of e-waste per head of population last year, signalling a new national record.

At a time when the country is preparing for the roll out of Ireland's 2019 Climate Action Plan, WEEE Ireland's 2018 recycling efforts contributed to a saving of equivalent of 220,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as compared with the same items being diverted to landfill – the equivalent of 865 million kilometres driven by passenger vehicles, or the annual carbon consumption of 4,398 hectares of trees.

With Ireland's national WEEE collection targets under the EU WEEE Directive rising to 65% for 2019, a 65% collection rate has already been achieved on behalf of their members, amid volatile commodity markets and challenging uncertainty in the British and Irish markets.

Among the items recycled were an estimated 3.2 million lamps and lightbulbs, 195,000 televisions and monitors and 13 million small appliances.

48% of all the e-waste recycled was large household appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and washing machines which can be returned to retailers for recycling upon delivery of new appliances.

This is a truly green story as WEEE recycling activity happens close to home. WEEE Ireland supports indigenous recycling facilities with WEELEBEX certified recycling partnerships, including KMK Metals Recycling in Tullamore, and Irish Lamps in Athy.



Leo Donovan



message is hitting home on the contribution that individuals can make."

Mr Donovan added: "We are extremely proud of these results and want to thank every person who recycled even one item of e-waste. As we move towards legislation to implement the Circular Economy principles, it's amazing to see 83% of material collected be recovered for use again in manufacturing. However, we can't become complacent."

He warned that Ireland will only achieve long-term change and benefits for the environment by continuing to manage e-waste responsibly. "At WEEE Ireland, we have a number of programmes and initiatives ongoing to ensure that people are informed and have easy access to recycle their WEEE."

The report reaffirms WEEE Ireland's position as the country's leading electrical and battery recycling scheme, as it continues to surpass EU targets on both e-waste and battery recycling.

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY LEGISLATION

By providing excellence in recycling, WEEE Ireland drives the highest standards in compliance services and yields environmental results that Ireland can be immensely proud of, according to its CEO.

Through the proper environmental management of the 36,131 tonnes of e-waste WEEE Ireland collected, almost 19,000 tonnes of iron were recovered. The 827 tonnes of copper recovered equates to almost 148 million €1 coins.

Ireland and all other European Member States have new Circular Economy legislation to implement over the next 12

## MESSAGE HITTING HOME

WEEE Ireland's CEO Leo Donovan said: "To see such a high level of progress year-on-year is a testament to the commitment to the cause of e-waste recycling on the part of consumers and businesses. In particular, the increased rates of collection through retail outlets and at our local authority sites show that the

months. This will increase municipal waste recycling and recovery targets but also focus activity more on waste prevention, repair and reuse as well as eco-design and recovery.

"It's also reassuring all small electrical waste is recycled at our operator's state of the art facilities right here in Tullamore, recovering resources for use again in manufacturing. All other waste appliances and batteries collected by WEEE Ireland are prepared for recycling in Ireland with final processing carried out at specialist partner plants," Donovan added.

WEEE Ireland also surpassed EU targets in waste portable battery collections, with 48% take back rate which is 856 tonnes of waste portable batteries collected for recycling.

This marks yet another year of success for the LauraLynn 'Small Things Matter' campaign and is testament to how the 'Blue Box' has become synonymous with battery recycling in schools, retailers and businesses across Ireland.

To locate the nearest participating retailer or local authority recycling centre or for more info about what you can recycle visit [www.weeeireland.ie](http://www.weeeireland.ie)



WEEE Ireland (Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment) is a not-for-profit organisation, founded by producers of electrical and electronic appliances to comply with the legal obligations imposed by the EU Battery Directive 2006/66/EC and WEEE Directive 2012/19/EU.

WEEE Ireland manages the collection of household WEEE, lighting equipment and batteries from authorised collection points for recycling, on behalf of 927 producer members. WEEE Ireland's objective is to provide cost effective quality compliance for Producers to meet the requirements of the Regulations whilst minimising the cost to the consumer.

WEEE Ireland supports indigenous recycling facilities with WEEELABEX (European quality recycling standards) certified recycling partnerships. There are five recycling operators certified to the WEEELABEX standard in Ireland: KMK Metals Recycling Tullamore, Irish Lamp Recycling Athy, Recycling Village Duleek, Tech Rec Fridge recycling in Northern Ireland and Wistek in Cork.



RECYCLE  
FOR  
GOOD

FOR WASTE  
ELECTRICAL  
AND BATTERY  
RECYCLING



### The Irish Compliance Scheme

For further information please call us on **1890 253 252**, log on to [www.weeeireland.ie](http://www.weeeireland.ie) or find us on  