



RAGS Information Sheet: Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE)



31 Alloa Business Centre, Alloa, FK10 3SA

t:0845 838 1141

e:ragdesk@rags.org.uk

w:www.rags.org.uk

What is WEEE?

“WEEE” can be anything from a broken refrigerator to an outdated personal computer. Many everyday consumer items such as toasters & televisions contain electronic components. When these items are finally discarded, they become part of the estimated 1 million tonnes of “WEEE” produced per year in the UK.

WEEE usually includes significant quantities of recyclable material such as metals, plastic, glass and ceramics. In addition, many items of WEEE are classified as “hazardous waste” due to containing chemicals that are potentially harmful to the environment. Such chemicals include:

- Chlorofluorocarbons
- Arsenic
- Bromine
- Cadmium
- Halogenated flame retardant
- Coolant gasses
- Lead
- Mercury
- PCB's

Therefore it is essential that WEE is responsibly disposed of to ensure the environment is protected and as much of the valuable resources in the components are recycled as possible.

General

- If it works, sell it! Try online at ebay.co.uk or alternatively you can give it away via a matchmaking service such as www.donateapc.org.uk or directly to a charity (see below).
- For disposal, take it to your local civic amenity site - contact your local authority directly (see RAGS “Domestic Recycling” information sheet) or check the Waste Aware Scotland website at www.wascot.org.uk for more details.
- Reuse is preferable to recycling - There are a number of organizations and charities who are interested in collecting working computer equipment for reuse:

Oxfam	(National)	www.oxfam.org.uk
Pass IT on	(Edinburgh)	www.passiton.sco.net
LAMH Recycle	(Motherwell)	www.lamhrecycle.co.uk
ReBoot	(Forres)	www.reboot-forres.co.uk

Other useful websites

- www.icer.org.uk
 - www.wasteonline.org.uk
 - www.letsrecycle.com
 - www.recycle-more.com
- Industry Council for WEEE recycling
In depth online recycling information
Industry backed recycling information
General information on recycling

RAGS members involved in WEEE recycling

CCL (North) Ltd	Irvine	01294 278844
LAMH Recycle	Motherwell	01698 264100
Lomac Alloys	Irvine	01294 273232