

## 2013 WEEE REGULATIONS – PROPOSED COLLECTION TARGETS FOR 2020

### Introduction:

The 2013 Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations require the Secretary of State to set the tonnage of household WEEE collections falling within each category of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) that is to be financed by producers via their membership of a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS).

The proposed UK household WEEE collection target for 2020 is 537,976 tonnes. This is 35,439 tonnes more than the total amount of household WEEE collected and reported by PCSs to the environment agencies in 2019. The proposed target for 2020 is 12,601 tonnes less than the 2019 target. Table 1 shows how this overall target has been allocated across the 14 categories of EEE. PCSs will not be required to achieve individual collection targets for categories 2-10 provided they have achieved the aggregate of those targets overall.

**Table 1** below shows trend data and proposed household collection targets for each category.

	Business to consumer waste collected (tonnes)					Targets (tonnes)		Increase from 2019 collection (%)	Increase above trend growth (%)
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	2020		
1 - Large Household Appliances	193,352	230,745	199,301	181,666	185,354	188,282	196,768	6%	5%
2 - Small Household Appliances	35,404	37,964	36,556	36,590	34,152	56,693	38,654	13%	12%
3 - IT and Telecoms Equipment	41,310	45,875	42,091	39,204	39,121	49,334	46,358	18%	12%
4 - Consumer Equipment	25,370	27,606	27,082	24,508	24,106	38,055	27,313	13%	12%
5 - Lighting Equipment	5,095	5,370	5,152	5,044	5,559	0	5,747	3%	0%
6 - Electrical and Electronic Tools	25,796	26,815	25,881	24,946	24,733	25,513	27,879	13%	12%
7 - Toys, Leisure and Sports	5,073	5,308	5,092	4,929	4,950	3,095	5,614	13%	12%
8 - Medical Devices	34	31	22	6	4	26	5	42%	12%
9 - Monitoring and Control Instruments	1,032	1,160	1,087	1,072	1,074	202	1,243	16%	12%
10 - Automatic Dispensers	5	9	0	0	0	1	0	-27%	12%
11 - Display Equipment	74,759	74,705	54,155	47,023	44,457	48,708	44,457	0%	13%
12 - Cooling Appliances Containing Refrigerants	122,512	134,700	135,926	132,118	134,200	135,415	138,438	3%	0%
13 – Gas discharge lamps and LED light sources	5,245	6,040	5,369	4,819	4,553	5,168	5,201	14%	-11%
14 - Photovoltaic Panels	309	325	323	299	274	87	298	9%	0%
<b>2-10 Small Mixed WEEE (sub total)</b>	<b>139,119</b>	<b>150,138</b>	<b>142,964</b>	<b>136,299</b>	<b>133,698</b>	<b>172,917</b>	<b>152,813</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Total WEEE</b>	<b>535,297</b>	<b>596,653</b>	<b>538,038</b>	<b>502,223</b>	<b>502,537</b>	<b>550,577</b>	<b>537,976</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>

The household collection targets placed on producers for 2020 have been set in a way that balances the UK Governments high level of environmental ambition with an achievable goal for industry. The total household target for 2020 is 537,976 tonnes.

## **Methodology**

In 2019 the Environment Agency published revised protocols for reporting of Large Household Appliances (LHA) and Small Mixed WEEE (SMW) to be used from January 2020. In order to maintain consistency between trend data and establishing draft targets for 2020 the new protocol for these categories been applied to the historical data in Table 1. The analysis below is based on the application of the 2020 protocols to the historical data.

Having applied the new protocol to historical data for LHA and SMW, the starting point for setting targets has been to undertake a five-year trend forecast to identify the total tonnage for collection of each individual category of WEEE in 2020<sup>2</sup>. Using this trend data mitigates the effect of outliers in the data, with the subsequent figure reflective of the general trend in collection volumes over the last five years. This forecast suggests a household WEEE collection target of 508,534 tonnes in 2020.

From the five-year forecast in each category of WEEE manual adjustments have been made where the previous growth trend is not judged to be reflective of current market dynamics, or where the forecast is judged to provide for too conservative targets. This has meant targets for individual categories have been increased above the trend by an average of 6% to arrive at an overall household collection target of 537,976.

As with 2019 the most significant adjustments have been made to categories 2-10 (collected together as “small mixed WEEE”) where collection rates are typically very low. In 2020 with the launch of the compliance fee funded consumer behavior campaign, changes to the distributor takeback scheme and an increased availability of kerbside collections we expect to see increased collection of small mixed WEEE. As such this is where the greatest increases have been applied (12% for SMW except Category 5 lighting).

## **WEEE Category Breakdown**

### **Category 1: Large Household Appliances**

Collections of Category 1 Large Household Appliances is supplemented by substantiated estimates of LHA that is separately collected and treated with scrap metal. As such only a moderate uplift of 5% has been applied from the trendline.

The five-year trendline for large household appliances suggests a collection target of 187,398 tonnes. From this a 5% uplift was applied.

### **Categories 2 – 10: Small Mixed WEEE**

The proposed targets follow the 5-year trend data with an additional average increase of 12% for all categories 2-10, except for Category 5 Lighting Equipment. The overall SMW collection target for 2020 is 152,813 tonnes, 20,104 tonnes less than the target for 2019. This approach sets a target that broadly represents the midpoint between the 2019 target and actual collections reported by Producer Compliance Schemes. Whilst this remains a challenging target (14% above 2019 actual collections), it is hoped this target will drive innovation by PCSs around collections of small items of WEEE. Behavior change will also be required by householders to meet this target. During 2020 and onwards there are several factors that will likely drive behavior change leading to increased levels of collection of SMW:

- The increase in these categories will be supported by a well-resourced, multi-faceted behavioral change communications campaign aimed at encouraging householders to recycle WEEE – particularly small items that are too easily thrown in the bin. The campaign funded by the WEEE compliance fee will be launched in March 2020 with funding secured until at least 2022.
- The WEEE compliance fee is now being used to fund a number of Local Authority kerbside collection and reuse schemes with an estimated reach of 4 million people nationally. Access to funding will continue and it is anticipated further local authority projects will be funded through the year
- From January 2021 retailers with a physical premises who sell over £100,000 of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) will be required to provide in-store take back on the purchase of new products. We expect retailers to begin offering this service during 2020 with some choosing to do so already. It is anticipated that this provision of additional options for consumers to recycle WEEE (supported the communications campaign and retailer information provision) will drive the increased collection of small mixed WEEE.

### **Category 5: Lighting**

Household light fittings entered into scope of the Regulations on 1 January 2019. Collection data shows that 5,559 tonnes of Category 5 was collected in 2019 while the 5-year trend forecast indicates a target of 5,747 tonnes. The 5-year trend forecast was judged appropriate.

### **Category 11: Display**

The weight of displays has been in decline over recent years as a result of a move towards lighter flat-screen products. This is reflected in lower weight-based collection targets year on year.

The trendline forecast for Category 11 suggested a collection target of 39,495 tonnes. Actual collections reached 44,457 in 2019. To provide a challenging target for display, the 2020 target has been matched to the actual collections in 2019. This broadly represents the midpoint between 2019 target and the trendline forecast. It is a 13% uplift on the trendline forecast.

### **Category 12: Cooling Appliances Containing Refrigerants**

The 5-year trendline provided a target of 138,438 tonnes. Applying approximate weights of units POM and units collected, the target of 138,438 gives a return rate of 80% compared to 77% achieved in collections in 2019. Data shows that the weight of cooling appliances placed on the market has seen a steady increase compared to waste cooling appliances entering the WEEE system. Given the already high levels of unit returns, no additional uplift has been added to the 5-year trendline.

This represents a 3% increase on the 2019 collections.

### **Category 13: Gas Discharge Lamps and LED Light Sources**

The 5-year trend analysis resulted in a target of 5,850 tonnes. This was considered too high a target and therefore subsequently revised downwards.

The target proposed (5,201 tonnes) is the midpoint between the 2019 target and the 2019 actual tonnage collected. This target represents a 14% increase in the actual collections in 2019. The decision not to follow the trendline reflects the fact that in the long term, lamp collections are declining as the move from fluorescent (typical lamp life 6-10,000 hours) to LED (typical lamp life 25,000 hours) gathers pace. This target factors in the volatility in lamp collections with a high level of ambition the is considered desirable given the likely high volume of waste lamps that are currently likely to arise as residual waste.

### **Category 14: PV panels**

The 2020 target has been set at the same level as the tonnages collected in 2019 at 298.42 tonnes. It is difficult to set a target for PV panels due to the small number being currently collected and limited data on WEEE arising in this category and the long lifetime of products being placed on the market.