



UFH – Umweltforum Haushalt

HISTORY

From 1993 to 2005 UFH acted as a collection system for cooling & freezing appliances according to the Austrian law then in force.

In 2005, the UFH WEEE scheme was founded by the industry- and commerce-driven UFH Privatstiftung, a partner organization of the Association of the Austrian Electrical and Electronics Industries (FEEI), to fulfil the requirements of the European WEEE directive. UFH, approved by the Austrian Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism (BMNT) since August 2005, is divided into two companies:

UFH Elektroaltgeräte System Betreiber GmbH	collection and recovery system for WEEE
UFH AAltlampen Systembetreiber GmbH	collection and recovery system for waste lamps

Since 2008, UFH has also acted as a collection scheme for portable and industrial batteries.

With Reclay UFH GmbH, the organization has been generating competition in the commercial packaging sector since 2010 and in the private household market since 2015.

Since 2014, UFH Holding has offered the authorized representative service to fulfil the obligations defined in the WEEE Ordinance on behalf of foreign customers.

UFH further expanded its range of services and began offering disposal solutions for defective photovoltaic modules starting in January 2016.

In 2018, UFH established a digital market place for secondary raw materials, Secontrade GmbH. The goal is to facilitate trade with valuable raw materials and to promote circular economy.

LEGAL BACKGROUND

The Austrian Regulation on Waste Prevention, Collection and Treatment of WEEE (WEEE Ordinance) includes obligations for:

Producers/Importers:

- Online registration at UBA (Umweltbundesamt – Environment Agency Austria)
- Regular report of EEE-quantities sold (to UBA)
- Operation of 1 collection point in each and every district all over Austria
- Concluding an agreement on collecting WEEE with municipalities or otherwise to execute pick up orders by the Clearing House of the BMNT
- Re-use of WEEE
- Collection and recycling of WEEE incl. all reporting responsibilities
- Financial guarantee for collection and recycling of new appliances
- Obligatory system participation for historical waste
- Information for consumers
- Individual marking of each new appliance
- Compliance with restrictions on hazardous substances

Retailers:

- Taking back WEEE from households free of charge on a 1:1 take back basis

Municipalities:

- Taking back WEEE from households free of charge

Start of operation: 13th August 2005

WEEE CATEGORIES COVERED

UFH covers **all WEEE categories** of the WEEE Directive.

MEMBERS AND MARKET SHARE

UFH has more than **920** members and a market share of approximately **35%**.

FINANCING SYSTEM

Producers and importers are obliged to pay recycling fees on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis in “**EUR per unit**” when they put products on the Austrian market. For producers selling only small quantities, UFH offers a flat-rate option of EUR 160,-. These fees are paid to and managed by the UFH System. The amount is used to fulfil all transferable duties of the producers/importers according to the Austrian WEEE regulations.

COLLECTION SYSTEM / COLLECTION FACILITIES

In Austria there are **6 WEEE collection and treatment categories** determined by law:

- Large appliances
- Cooling and freezing appliances
- Screens
- Small electrical appliances
- Gas discharge lamps
- PV panels

Since 2008 also waste **batteries and accumulators** have to be collected in 3 categories:

- Portable batteries
- Automotive batteries
- Industrial batteries

The following **collection facilities** are served through UFH logistic partners:

- Approximately 2,100 municipal collection facilities
- 100 regional UFH collection points

Retailers are allowed to deliver their own collected WEEE masses to the regional UFH collection points. Upon request, UFH also offers a pick-up service. Consumers can browse through an online database on the UFH-website (www.ufh.at) to find the nearest collection facility and its opening hours.

LOGISTIC SYSTEM / LOGISTIC PARTNERS

UFH has **18 logistic partners**. Some of whom are municipal waste associations, others are private companies. The logistic partners of the system have to provide a regional collection point in each political district of Austria (100 in total) which they are responsible for. They have to collect WEEE from municipal collection facilities and to transport it to treatment partners within the system.

TREATMENT PARTNERS

UFH has **16 treatment partners**. They all have to fulfil and document high treatment standards.

RESULTS (COLLECTED AMOUNTS)

In **2018**, more than **24,000 tons** of WEEE (incl. batteries) were collected on behalf of UFH.

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For further information visit www.ufh.at