



History

RECUPEL asbl (non-profit organization) was founded by the branch associations Agoria (Federation for the technology industry) and FEE (Federation of electricity and electronics) as an **'executing body'** for the collection and treatment of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). These branch associations also founded sector associations, so-called RECUPEL "sectors", each one representing a group of well-defined products:

- BW-Rec - Large household appliances, professional large and small white goods and dispensers
- Recupel AV - Domestic and professional audio-video appliances
- Recupel SDA - Small household appliances
- Recupel ICT - Informatics, telecommunication and office appliances, professional IT appliances and dispensers
- Recupel ET&G - Domestic and professional electrical (gardening) equipment
- LightRec - Lighting equipment and gas discharge lamps
- MeLaRec - Medical aids, laboratory equipment, sports equipment, thermostats, test and measuring equipment, blood glucose meters and smoke detectors

RECUPEL asbl now acts as a **'contractor'** for these 7 RECUPEL sectors.

Legal background

RECUPEL was founded on the basis of the **Flemish Decree on Waste Prevention and Management** (VLAREA, 1997) and the **Environmental Policy Agreement** (MBO) - an agreement between the 3 regional governments of Belgium and the industry sectors. Decrees regarding the collection and treatment of WEEE for the Walloon Region and the Brussels Capital Region followed in 2002. Based on the legal background and the 'MBO' there is the obligation:

- to organize separate collection of WEEE (for **municipalities** or municipalities working together),
- to include **social economy undertakings** in the collection of WEEE,
- to take back a similar product when a new product is purchased (for **retailers**), and
- to arrange an environmentally sound treatment of WEEE

Each manufacturer or importer has to join a system for WEEE collection and treatment. Alternatively, manufacturers or importers may establish an individual waste management plan and have it approved by the authorities.

Start of operations: 1 July 2001

WEEE categories covered

All main household appliances have been covered by RECUPEL since the beginning in July 2001 – they include:

- o large household appliances (including cooling and freezing appliances)
 - o small household appliances
 - o IT & Telecommunication equipment
 - o consumer electronics
 - o gardening tools
- Other product groups which followed include:
- o other tools ('power tools') – since July 2002
 - o lighting equipment - since July 2004
 - o gas-discharge lamps – since July 2005
 - o medical devices and laboratory equipment – since July 2005
 - o professional (other than household) appliances – since January 2007
 - o smoke detectors – since July 2008

Members

More than 5,000 active members participate through **individual membership agreements**.

Financing system

Manufacturers and importers pay a recycling contribution (in € per unit) when bringing products onto the Belgian market. These contributions are paid to Recupel and are managed by Recupel for the sector associations. Costs per sector are determined by sampling the collected WEEE.

For household appliances, an **all-in contribution** is charged. This all-in contribution is used to finance the costs for the collection, sorting, transport and treatment of discarded appliances that are taken back to the container park or to the store at the time of purchase of a new, equivalent product. A part of this contribution is used to finance the coordination and communication by Recupel (administration, reporting, audits...)

For all professional appliances, an **administrative contribution** is charged when the product is put on the market. This administrative contribution is used only to cover reporting and administrative costs. The costs for the transport and treatment of the appliances are calculated when the discarded product is delivered to the treatment partners. For appliances subject to an administrative contribution, a retroactive declaration has been in effect since 1 July 2005. This is an informative declaration; the administrative contribution is invoiced as from the declaration of January 2007. This administrative contribution is not refundable.

Collection system

The collection network of RECUPEL relies on the following collection points:

- o all 564 container parks of Belgium (serviced directly, serviced through regional transshipment stations)
- o 21 intermunicipal regional transshipment stations

- o 22 used goods centers acting as regional transshipment stations
- o 6 re-distribution centers of retailers
- o approximately 6,961 retailers (both before and behind the counter solutions)
- o collection facilities such as repair companies and waste management companies

Collection and transport requests of household appliances can be submitted through the RECUPEL website. The only requirement is that at least 8 large appliances or one box pallet (for small appliances or CRT appliances) can be collected. Bulk transport is organized in the case of at least one full container or 24 box pallets. Container parks are also provided with so-called 'RECUPEL containers', solely intended for the collection of WEEE. Container parks are not open to medical devices and laboratory equipment. Due to the diversity in professional WEEE a tailor made solution was created for collection and recycling of this type of WEEE.

Logistics and treatment partners

RECUPEL works together with several **logistics and treatment partners** for the collection and recycling of household WEEE. These partners are selected by international tenders and contracts are signed for 3 years. For the collection and treatment of professional WEEE Recupel provides a list of recognized Recyclers on its website. Tailor made offers can be requested through the site. Recupel does not intervene but merely acts as a facilitator.

Results

More than 10 kg of WEEE /inhabitant was collected and processed on behalf of RECUPEL in 2018.

Special features

RECUPEL has developed a comprehensive homepage for all relevant administrative tasks such as submission of affiliation contracts for members, declaration of market input, registration of collection points, submission of transport orders, confirmation of amounts collected and delivered etc.. The system is linked to an interactive software tool allowing e.g. financial administration and other documentation tasks.

Contact

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Further information

<http://www.recupel.be>