



### **The foundation**

The SENS Foundation was established as a non-profit organisation in 1990 (start of operations: 1 January 1991). The foundation promotes innovative recycling solutions organised by the private sector and ensures high quality standards in eRecycling and the environmentally friendly disposal of electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

### **Still a voluntary system**

In 1998, the Swiss government issued the Ordinance on the Return, Taking Back and Disposal of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (ORDEE), with just two obligations:

- Customers are obligated to return end-of-life appliances.
- Producers and retailers are obligated to take back any appliances free of charge.

The ordinance does not define, however, how producers and retailers have to fulfil their responsibility regarding the management and financing of eRecycling. The concept is based on the idea that the government can limit the required inspections as long as the private sector fulfils its responsibilities.

### **WEEE categories covered**

SENS eRecycling organises the recycling of household appliances in Switzerland efficiently and reliably. In 2021, the total amount of WEEE processed via the SENS system was around 95,800 tonnes and included refrigeration and air-conditioning appliances (23,349 tonnes), large household appliances (38,851 tonnes), small household appliances (31,457), lamps (4,284 tonnes) and photovoltaic systems (1,127 tonnes).

### **Goal and strategy**

The customer-oriented scheme guarantees the professional and resource-efficient collection and recycling of waste electrical equipment in line with the latest technological standards. The four pillars of the strategy are a commitment to sustainability, an organisational structure geared towards customer benefits, a focus on maintaining an efficient and transparent system, and systematically working towards innovative solutions for new and emerging trends.

### **SENS partners (producers, importers and retailers)**

As of 1 January 2022, SENS eRecycling has contracts with around 1250 partners. All the key market players participate in the scheme and benefit from the proficiency and high standards of an established system.

### **The financing system**

Producers and importers pay an advance recycling fee (ARF) in Swiss francs per unit for every product sold on the Swiss market. The ARF funds are managed by SENS. The ARF finances the collection, transportation and treatment of WEEE and the management of the system, which is similar to a pay-as-you-go pension scheme.

### **Collection and logistics providers**

SENS works with more than 750 accredited collection points (including municipalities). In addition, it is possible to return electrical appliances wherever they are sold – without having to buy a new one or having bought it there. SENS eRecycling thus offers a large network of collection points. Moreover, WEEE can be delivered directly to any of the accredited recycling partners.

### **Recycling partners**

Moreover, the SENS network includes 18 licensed recycling partners and more than 80 dismantling companies as subcontractors. The contract between SENS and the recycling companies includes detailed technical requirements on storage, handling and treatment, as well as the reporting of activities and material flows. In order to ensure that quality standards are adhered to, at least one audit per year is carried out by specially appointed technical experts.

### **Collection in 2018**

In 2021, 10.99 kilograms of WEEE per person was collected on behalf of SENS. The total amount of WEEE collected and treated in Switzerland (including the material collected by Swico, Switzerland's second eRecycling provider) was 15.3 kilograms per person.

### **Contact**

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