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YEARS ON

WHO | The WEEE Forum, founded twenty years ago, in April 2002, is the world's only international family of producer responsibility organisations (PROs) that manage the take-back and treatment of electrical and electronic waste. All forty-six of them are not-for-profit and mandated by 46,000 producers of electrical and electronic products. With members on all continents, the WEEE Forum is a for-impact e-waste knowledge centre.



MISSION | Our mission is to tackle the e-waste challenge and excel in the implementation of the circularity principle. Through a sustained, gradual expansion of the membership across the world and involvement in Circular Economy projects, we will build on our current competence, resources and framework and further deploy operational services and market intelligence that will in turn enable an impactful role in the discussions on the redesign of legislation.



GOOD PRACTICE | The PROs learn from each other. Every quarter, the chief executives, operations managers and communications managers gather to discuss common challenges, the latest developments and issues of concern. These exchanges of good practice enable them to learn and thrive together.



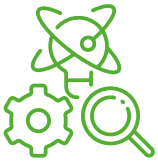
TAKE-BACK | Last year, the PROs in the WEEE Forum collected 3,100,000 tonnes of e-waste, the equivalent to 310 Eiffel Towers. Over the past twenty years, they collectively managed in excess of thirty-five million tonnes.



FRONT RUNNER | The WEEE Forum has become a front runner in the WEEE community, and a prominent and respected voice on all e-waste matters. The PROs' knowledge of the sector allows them to create strategic alliances with decision-makers and stakeholders along the value chain, support policies, and become a source of intelligence and know-how for decision-makers.



CAMPAIGNS | Every year, on #ewasteday, we call on people to act responsibly regarding their broken or unused electricals. In 2022, we mobilised hundreds of organisations and partners in more than 70 countries to campaign for better e-waste management.



RESEARCH | Our involvement in EU grant-funded research and innovation projects allows us to advance the WEEE sector and enhance the knowledge base in terms of circular economy business models, resource efficiency, e-waste collection systems, (future) availability of secondary raw materials, critical raw materials, illegal trade, standards, better circularity for digital health devices, recycling opportunities across the world, employment in emerging markets, product information management systems and a whole lot more.



TOOLS | Proprietary portals such as WF-RepTool and Key Figures allow the PROs to, respectively, report and monitor treatment, recycling, and recovery of the e-waste they collect, and benchmark their operations. LibraWEEE and WEEE Directory are market intelligence platforms and, together with APPLiA and DIGITALEUROPE, the WEEE Forum founded the I4R (information for recyclers) platform that provides up-to-date information for treatment facilities.



STANDARDS & CONFORMITY VERIFICATION | WEEELABEX, a project co-financed by the EU LIFE programme, gave rise to the official EN 50625 standards on collection, logistics and treatment of e-waste and the set up in Prague of the WEEELABEX Organisation that became the world's only officially accredited certification body training auditors and issuing official certificates. Our involvement in CEWASTE, a Horizon 2020 project, was crucial in producing the world's first normative requirements regarding recycling of critical raw materials in e-waste. We promote a level playing field for all actors in the value chain as well as verification of conformity of processes with quality standards.



EPR LEGISLATION | In Europe, 55% of the quantity of WEEE generated was formally collected and properly treated and reported. Other parts of the world show much slower growth rates in WEEE collection, and the global average collection rate is at 17%. The WEEE that is collected in Europe is also treated to higher standards than in the rest of the world. That is largely thanks to twenty years of Extended Producer Responsibility legislation in Europe and the PROs putting the EPR rules into practice. However, legislation must be redesigned to make it fit for purpose for new market realities. Producers and PROs are not the only actors that should be held accountable for handling WEEE; other entities on the market also collect WEEE yet do not formally report and properly treat them.



AMBITION | It is the WEEE Forum's stated strategic ambition to contribute to a thorough evaluation of WEEE legislation with a view to improving its effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and added value. Read our position regarding EPR, Circular Economy, Critical Raw Materials, the 65% collection target, recycled content, WEEE flows, eco-modulation, visible fee, online free-riding and much, much more at www.weee-forum.org.