

## 7. Waste electrical and electronic equipment

- EU targets for collection, reuse, recycling and recovery of WEEE were achieved in 2012.

### 7.1 Introduction

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive (2002/96/EC) aims to prevent the generation of WEEE and sets targets for the collection and treatment of WEEE in an environmentally sound manner. It is one of the Producer Responsibility Initiative (PRI) Directives. The data on WEEE collection and treatment in Ireland in 2012 are based on information supplied by (i) WEEE and other waste recovery operators (ii) WEEE compliance schemes (WEEE Ireland and European Recycling Platform (ERP)) and (iii) self-complying producers of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE).

### 7.2 WEEE collected, treated and exported in 2012

Table 21 shows that 40,818 tonnes of WEEE were collected in Ireland in 2012, which is very similar to the 39,629<sup>69</sup> tonnes collected in 2011. The average amount of household WEEE collected from each person living in the Republic of Ireland amounted to 7.5 kg in 2012 and has therefore remained the same as in 2011. This is nearly double the target of 4 kg per person, which applied in 2012.

**Table 21:** WEEE collection, treatment, export and recovery.

Category of WEEE <sup>70</sup>		Total collected (t)	Total treated in IE (t)	Exported for treatment (t)	Total recovered (t)
1	Large household appliances	22,267	9,654	12,180	18,249
2	Small household appliances	2,193	1,170	1,023	1,957
3	IT and telecommunications equipment	6,621	4,233	2,331	5,790
4	Consumer equipment	7,865	6,585	1,216	7,328
5	Lighting equipment	407	407	0	367
5a	Gas discharge lamps	377	333	46	343
6	Electrical and electronic tools	495	265	230	442
7	Toys, leisure and sports equipment	37	19	18	33
8	Medical devices	70	70	1	64
9	Monitor and control instruments	41	29	12	37
10	Automatic dispensers	444	437	7	402
<b>Total WEEE<sup>71</sup></b>		<b>40,818</b>	<b>23,202</b>	<b>17,062</b>	<b>35,012</b>

(Source: WEEE and other waste recovery organisation surveys carried out by EPA, WEEE producers and compliance schemes)

More than half of the WEEE collected in 2012 (57%) was treated in Ireland before being exported to other EU countries for further recovery.

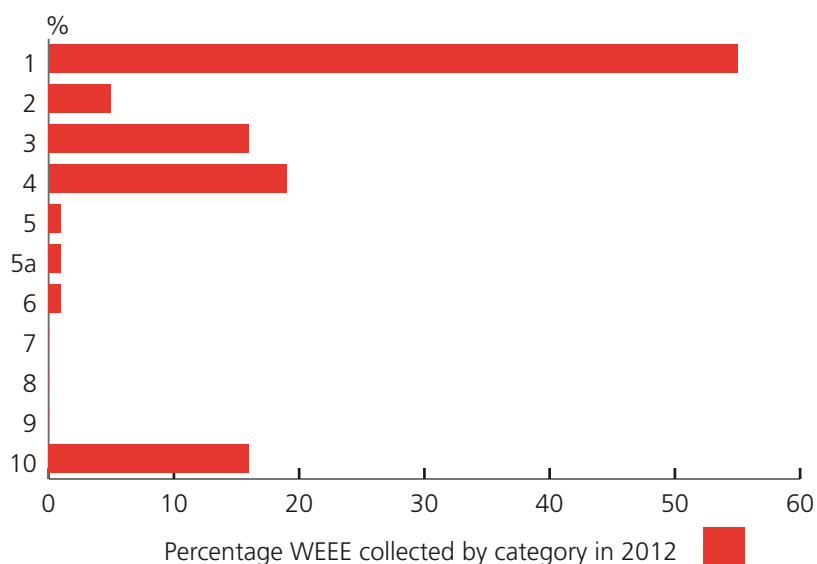
69 Please note that this number is different to the 41,092 tonnes quoted in NWR 2011 due to the fact that the methodology for calculating WEEE collected has been changed. WEEE arising from EEE placed on non-IE markets is no longer included in the figures reported by NWR.

70 Detailed descriptions of WEEE categories are available at [www.weeeregister.ie](http://www.weeeregister.ie).

71 Please note that there was an overall increase of WEEE in stock at recovery operators and producers of 553 tonnes.

In 2012, the collection of pre-owned and used EEE for reuse (i.e. not waste) amounted to 360 tonnes. Most of the material for reuse consisted of information and communication technology equipment e.g. mobile phones and computers.

Figure 17 illustrates that category 1, large household appliances, which includes fridges and freezers, washing machines and cookers, provides the majority (by weight) of the WEEE collected, followed by category 4 (consumer equipment) and category 3 (IT and telecommunications equipment).



54 | **Figure 17:** Percentage of WEEE collected by category in 2012.

### 7.3 WEEE Directive recast

The recast of the WEEE Directive (2012/19/EU) was published 4 July 2012 and transposed into Irish law by the WEEE Regulations,<sup>72</sup> which came into effect in Ireland on 29 March 2014. The recast of the WEEE Directive introduces more ambitious WEEE collection and recovery targets. These targets have to be achieved by EU Member States, in a step-wise manner, between 2015 and 2019.

### 7.4 WEEE and the POPs Regulation

Amendments to the EU Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation (Regulation (EC) 850/2004), soon to be adopted, may affect recycling and recovery of WEEE. Separated plastics, resulting from the treatment of WEEE, that contain specified brominated flame retardants above a certain concentration threshold will be required to be managed as POPs waste in accordance with the EU POPs Regulation. The recycling of these plastics may then no longer be an option.

<sup>72</sup> European Union (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 149 of 2014).