

New funds to support increased re-use and recycling of waste electrical equipment announced

1 August 2017

Producers and retailers of electrical equipment have today launched a fund of £665,000 aimed at supporting projects, led by local authorities, to deliver increased levels of re-use and recycling of waste electrical equipment.

Proposals are now sought from local authorities working with partner organisations that are innovative, sustainable and which aim to drive collections of waste electrical equipment for re-use and recycling.

Environment minister Thérèse Coffey said:

“With more than a million tonnes of electrical equipment waste generated in the UK each year, it is encouraging to see that around 60% is already being recycled or reused.

“We want to build on this, and today’s funding will help support creative local projects that encourage us to do even more to reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill.”

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations ensure that producers and distributors of electrical equipment finance the cost of its collection and proper treatment when it becomes waste. The funds announced today come from Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS) and the Compliance Fee mechanism both established under the UK WEEE Regulations. The DTS is supported by retailers and internet sellers and the WEEE compliance fee receives funding from UK manufacturers and importers of electrical equipment.

Further information and application packs are available from dts@valpak.co.uk

The deadline for applications is Friday, 29 September 2017.

- Ends -

Notes to editors

The UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2013 transpose the requirements of the EU WEEE Directive. They seek to increase the amount of separately collected WEEE sent for re-use and recycling whilst reducing the amount sent to landfill. They require producers of electrical equipment to finance the cost of collection and proper

treatment of all WEEE deposited at Household Waste Recycling Centres registered under the Regulations.

Under the WEEE Regulations, distributors (usually retailers) of EEE must either; offer in store take back of waste electrical equipment on a one for one, like for like basis on sale of a new item. In addition a collection point must be provided for very small items (under 25cm) if the sales area for electricals exceeds 400m²

or

Join the Distributor Take back Scheme (DTS)

The DTS is operated by Valpak Retail WEEE Services and allows members an exemption from the in store take back requirements. The DTS is the only scheme, approved by Government, which allows members an alternative to offering take back of electrical waste.

The DTS has been operating since 2007. Phase 4 of the scheme runs from January 2017- December 2019. Membership fees collected are used for WEEE projects which aim to increase the rate of WEEE collection, reuse and recycling in the UK. New Civic Amenity sites which are publicly accessible and allow for the collection of all WEEE streams are separately eligible for funding.

The WEEE compliance fee fund for 2016 is operated by Grant Thornton UK according to a methodology put forward by Valpak and approved by Government. The compliance fee allows companies acting to discharge obligations on behalf of producers of electricals to pay a compliance fee if they have not been able to collect sufficient WEEE to meet targets set by the Government.