



Project Information Sheet

Full traceability of the management of WEEE

(WEEE TRACE)

Programme area:	Materials Recycling
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Website:	www.weee-trace.eu
Benefits (max. 150 characters incl. space):	Full traceability of e-waste management to increase collection rates, reduce uncontrolled flows and ensure proper treatment.
Keywords:	WEEE, traceability, ICT
Sector:	Recycling
Type of solution	Technology
Duration:	12/07/2011 – 11/07/2014
Budget:	€ 2.352.805 (EU contribution: 50%)
Contract number:	ECO/10/277256/SI2.597845

Summary

More than 9 million tons of waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) are generated annually in Europe. However, in spite of already enacted legislation less than 40% of these wastes are actually managed with a guarantee of legal compliance.

WEEE TRACE project has demonstrated the value of using Information and Communication Technologies e.g. radiofrequency tagging or image recognition; to ensure cradle-to-grave traceability of WEEE flows in order to support the requirements to increase their collection, guarantee these wastes are conveyed to the appropriate treatment plants and minimize illegal exports or leaks to substandard treatment. Additionally, proper identification of WEEE at treatment plants allowed to the identification of hazardous substances and achieving increased recycling and recovery targets.

Project ran pilot experiences in Spain and in the Czech Republic and implemented the solution at the complete waste collection and treatment chain of Ecolec in Spain, involving more 150 waste management actors. It is intended to use these experiences to apply the solution to other European WEEE compliance schemes or to other waste streams with similar control and traceability requirements and discussions with potential customers or to address replication opportunities are ongoing.



Expected and/or achieved results

At the end of Project (July 2014 M36, following results have been achieved:

- Over 27,000 tonnes of WEEE have been collected and tracked with WEEE TRACE solution and conveyed to appropriate recycling facilities for treatment (57 in total). This will represent an avoidance of emissions of 38,000 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent during 2014 (and 58.000 tons during Project duration) as a result of the collection and treatment of CFC in waste fridges and recycling of (25% emissions avoidance vs. 2009 baseline).
- Avoidance of emissions of 6,200 tonnes/year of CO₂ during 2014 (8,100 tonnes during Project duration) as a result of the recycling and recovery of materials (25% emissions avoidance vs. 2009 baseline).
- Reduction in treatment costs of waste fridges of more than 6 €/unit as a result of increased collection volumes, improvements in logistics, better identification of treatment needs and minimization of administration compliance burden. Pay-back of the investment is estimated in 2.6 years in a commercial environment.
- Over an addressable market of 29 customers with similar needs across Europe, Project expected to achieve 1 additional replication opportunity advanced during its 36 months duration. 2 Opportunities are in funnel.

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