

Recycle it all, no matter how small!

The **14th October 2022** marks International EWASTE Day, a day to raise awareness about the importance of recycling your waste electrical items responsibly.

Small, end-of-life electrical and electronic appliances presents a significant challenge. Last year the UN reported an estimated 57 million metric tonnes (Mt) of e-waste /WEEE was generated globally in 2019 -- a **21% jump** in the five years since 2014 (with EWASTE on a predicted course to 74 Mt by 2030).

Within this figure, the UN estimated that in, **over 22 million tonnes of small EWASTE were produced worldwide**. This is 40% of all EWASTE arising. If the quantity of these small items keeps on increasing at the same rate as the total EWASTE (with growth estimated around 3% per annum), this stream will reach 29 million tonnes by 2030.

EERA recognises that this stream of E-WASTE / WEEE is problematic as due to their small size, items such as cell phones, electric toothbrushes, toys and cameras are often discarded incorrectly, and they make up a significant proportion of the **8% of all e-waste that is thrown in waste bins** which is subsequently landfilled or incinerated. This means the important raw materials they contain cannot be extracted and are lost. In **Europe**, up to 1.4 kg of e-waste per inhabitant ends up in the general waste bin **every year**. In addition, small appliances are easily stored and forgotten about in drawers, cupboards, garages, basements, and attics.

It has been estimated that in an average European household, **up to 5 kg of e-devices per person is currently hoarded**.

To promote and support International EWASTE Day, EERA held a photo competition, with an excellent response from our professional Members located in twenty-two countries, with over 10,000 employees and 800 facilities across the continent of Europe - accepting and re-using and treating all streams of EWASTE / WEEE.

The winner (*taken by Ecorset, Greece*) was selected by the Board and has a very poignant message for everyone:



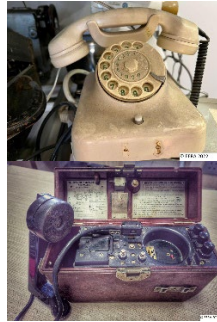
The runners-up were:

2nd Place



Umicore (BE)

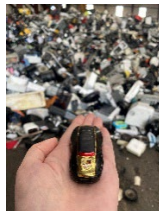
Joint 3rd Place



KMK Metals Recycling (IE)

GreenWEEE (RO)

4th Place



KMK Metals Recycling (IE)

Joint 5th Place



KMK Metals Recycling (IE)

EMP Recycling (LT)

Ecoreset (GR)

NOTE:

EERA is a non-profit organisation and is the voice of WEEE recycling in Europe being the professional association for the re-use, recycling and re-processing industry. Our vision is for a resource efficient economy where WEEE is managed as a resource and is returned into the economy as a secondary raw material or as equipment prepared for re-use.

Our mission is to achieve a level playing field for fair competition in the WEEE value chain, harmonisation of regulations, effective and efficient recycling, and reprocessing with prevention of pollution, minimization of emissions, and a high quality of secondary raw materials and components. www.eera-recyclers.com