

2013 WEEE REGULATIONS – PROPOSED HOUSEHOLD WEEE COLLECTION TARGETS FOR 2026

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 require the Secretary of State to set the tonnage of household WEEE collections falling within each category of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) that is to be financed by producers via their membership of a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS). This paper sets out the household WEEE collection targets for 2026.

The UK household WEEE collection target for 2026 is **532,882** tonnes. Overall, it is **18,718 tonnes** more than the total amount of household WEEE collected and reported by PCSs to the Environment Agency in 2025.

These targets consider likely household WEEE arising in the system (based on historical data and market insights), and therefore the WEEE that is likely to be available for collection in 2026. If collections of WEEE are higher than the targets, there is a failsafe in the regulations that guarantees all WEEE arising at local authorities will be financed by Producer Compliance Schemes, regardless of whether they have already met their targets.

To note, this year, the figures we consulted industry on have changed slightly for certain categories. This is due to the fact that significant market disruption meant accurate data was not available at the time of consultation. This will be made clear below where new data has been made available and this has resulted in material change to the targets. We received 13 responses to our industry consultation, two of which were wholly in support, one which welcomed the opportunity to comment but held no specific data, and 10 of which were interested in specific waste streams depending on their interests and whose views are represented in the different sections below. The key areas of concern were gas discharge lamps (cat 13), photovoltaic panels (cat 14), and vapes (cat 15).

Table 1 below shows targets across the 15 categories of EEE. It also shows trend data across each category. PCSs will not be required to achieve individual collection targets for categories 2-10, provided that they have achieved the aggregate of those targets overall.

	Business to Consumer waste collected (tonnes)					Targets (tonnes)			Increase from 2025 collection (%)
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 revised**	2025 Target	2026 Baseline Method*	Revised 2026 Target	
1 - Large Household Appliances	164,250	159,276	167,316	175,200	176,273	172,384	180,473	180,473	2%
2 - Small Household Appliances	32,759	33,587	35,692	36,907	37,870	37,795	39,745	40,313	6%
3 - IT and Telecoms Equipment	37,119	39,613	40,408	40,010	40,864	42,350	42,194	42,807	5%
4 - Consumer Equipment	20,450	20,950	22,527	22,488	23,088	23,447	24,041	24,387	6%
5 - Lighting Equipment	5,133	5,535	6,075	6,244	6,407	6,476	6,898	6,994	9%
6 - Electrical and Electronic Tools	22,953	25,322	27,392	27,668	28,436	29,577	30,541	30,968	9%

7 - Toys, Leisure and Sports^	4,621	5,036	5,903	6,203	6,355	6,541	7,068	6,880	13%
						Category 7: Jan 1st - Aug 11 (prior to vapes category)		4,377	
						Category 7: Aug 12th - Dec 31st (after vapes category introduced)		2,503	
8 - Medical Devices	11	27	50	45	45	89	72	73	62%
9 - Monitoring and Control Instruments	1,079	1,138	1,251	1,226	1,257	1,324	1,323	1,341	7%
10 - Automatic Dispensers	7	3	10	33	33	18	57	58	74%
11 - Display Equipment	40,428	42,980	47,107	46,265	46,307	51,631	48,451	48,451	5%
12 - Cooling Appliances Containing Refrigerants	134,274	135,073	138,038	142,090	142,102	141,068	144,811	144,811	2%
13 - Gas Discharge Lamps	4,051	4,049	4,055	3,450	3,450	4,066	3,270	3,193	-5%

14 - Photovoltaic Panels	382	460	428	1,670	1,677	519	2,745	1,845	10%
Small Mixed WEEE (sub-total)	124,131	131,210	139,308	140,825	144,164	147,618	151,939	153,821	7%
Vapes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	283	288	n/a
Total	467,517	473,047	496,253	509,501	514,164	517,285	531,689	532,882	4%

*Baseline methodology is described in more detail below

** Corrected data using EA collection data and tonnage collected by a treatment site that lost its permit and was therefore not able to formally supply evidence of this material being collected and treated

^Vapes continue to be included in Category 7 target up to the 1-year coming into force anniversary date of the 2025 legislation (12th Aug 2026) creating a separate category, and after that in their own separate target category, now called Category 15.

Methodology

For the calculation of the 2026 targets, we have used a baseline approach that considers the growth rate in WEEE collections over a 3-year period – using an average of the annual growth rate between 2022/23 and 2024/25. This discounts any data that may have been skewed by the pandemic. The baseline forecast suggests a household WEEE collection target of **531,689** tonnes in 2026.

We then look at each individual stream of WEEE to determine whether there is a case for greater ambition, balancing environmental improvement needs against potentially disproportionate costs on producers.

Below we have outlined each WEEE category and whether the baseline methodology is appropriate for that category. We have amended the target for certain categories to reflect specific market trends and there are cases where we believe there is a reason for setting a more ambitious target than suggested by pure mathematical average of 3-year growth rates. For example, Small Mixed WEEE (SMW), where we have increased from the baseline trend by 1.5 percentage points.

Vapes are included in the targets for the first time, since their introduction as a separate category. We do not have historic collection data for the new category, as such we have used a methodology based on the proportion of SMW collected in 2025 in relation to 2025 placed on the market data for SMW and applied this to the vapes placed on the market data. In order to make this target ambitious to direct vapes into the correct recycling systems, we have also applied a 1.5 percentage increase to this figure.

In setting these targets we have considered the costs to businesses incurred from meeting their targets, as well as the environmental impact of not properly treating each WEEE stream. The target for vapes represents a balanced goal for the first year of separate vape collections considering the current lack of waste data and complex challenges of the vape industry which are set out in more detail in the vape section of this paper.

The outlined target amendments result in a total household collection target of **532,882** tonnes. We believe this target is likely to more accurately reflect the WEEE arisings in the system in 2026.

WEEE Category Breakdown

Category 1: Large Household Appliances (LHA)

Under the baseline methodology, the 3-year trend analysis resulted in a target of **180,473** tonnes, a slight increase on the 2025 collection level of 176,273 tonnes.

Unlike other categories of WEEE, LHA is generally recognised as a “value” waste stream rather than a cost stream. It is therefore the case that irrespective of whether such waste is collected and processed under the WEEE Regulations, or as part of the scrap metal waste stream, it will be collected for recycling rather than going to landfill or incineration. It does not get fly-tipped for the same reason. Trends show there is a strong relationship between scrap metal prices and the volumes of LHA waste arising in the formal WEEE system. A high scrap metal price corresponds to a lower collection rate, as there is greater incentive for scrap traders to acquire waste LHA.

Early indications from the scrap metal market in 2026 suggest price levels are largely consistent with last year and there is no evidence to indicate that the collection level for LHA will fall below 2025 levels. As such, we consider that the 3-year baseline approach is appropriate.

Categories 2-10: Small Mixed WEEE (SMW)

Under the baseline methodology, the 3-year trend analysis results in an average growth rate of 5.16%. Applying this growth rate to the 2025 collection levels gives a 2026 target of **151,939** tonnes. However, we believe the significant awareness campaigns run by Material Focus over the past 3 years, positively influencing householder disposal and recycling behaviours, should continue to lead to more material being properly recycled in future. Last year we added an additional 1.5% to the baseline method following a steer from Ministers to raise ambition. To maintain this ambition, an additional uplift of 1.5% on top of the 3-year trend average has been applied once again.

For this reason, the baseline methodology plus 1.5% has been applied to SMW, with a **7%** uplift for all categories of SMW compared with 2025 collections. This gives an overall target of **154,104** for all categories of SMW. However, as a separate baseline target for vapes has been calculated for the second half of 2026, this tonnage has been subtracted from the overall SMW target that it would have previously been part of. This results in a target of **153,821** tonnes.

Only one specific response was received specifically on SMW, from a large compliance scheme, who felt the target was ambitious but likely near achievable.

Category 7: Toys, Leisure and Sports

The new category for vapes as waste will come into force in August this year. As such, vapes will continue to be included in category 7 until August 11th. For this reason, the total category 7 target of **6,880** tonnes is split into two rows in the table above. The first figure gives the proportion of the target including vapes up until August 11th, the second figure gives the proportion of the target not including the baseline target for vapes, from August 12th onwards.

Category 11: Display Equipment

Display equipment saw declining collection weights from 2012 through to 2020 due to the decreased weight of new display equipment. However, since 2021 collection levels have generally seen small annual increases, perhaps indicating that the trend of declining weights of new products is reversing.

Last year a more ambitious uplift of **5.92%** meant the target was missed by 5,329 tonnes (10.3%). This may well be countered this year by the FIFA World Cup, where historically we have seen a spike in sales of new TVs and the disposal of old ones for major sporting events, however, one consultation response pointed out that clear evidence for this is only shown in placed on the market data, and not at waste. As such, we propose taking a balanced approach and maintaining the 3-year baseline resulting in an uplift of **5%**, to **48,451** tonnes.

Category 12: Cooling

Applying the baseline methodology to cooling collections data would suggest a 2026 target of **144,811** tonnes, a **2%** increase from the 2025 collections. We believe this reflects the trend of collections moderately rising year-on-year since the pandemic. For this reason, we propose that the three-year baseline methodology should be maintained.

Category 13: Lamps

Since legislation was introduced to phase out mercury containing lamps, there has been a gradual shift from fluorescent to LED. These lamps last longer, use less energy, and do not contain mercury, and a consequence of phasing out mercury lamps in their favour is that category 13 tonnages are declining. However, due to the ease of disposing of lamps in residual waste, we do want to maintain a level of ambition to ensure the remaining lamps are disposed of correctly. Applying the 3-year baseline methodology to the lamps collection data suggests that the 2026 target should be a **5%** decrease on the 2025 collection tonnage. This leads to a target of **3,270** tonnes.

Consultation response

We have received detailed representation from the lighting industry on the targets proposing a slight reduction of the collection target to **3,193** tonnes on account of the accelerating decline of these types of lamps being placed on the market. Data shows that 2024 saw an 11% reduction compared to 2023, 2025 saw a 16% reduction compared to 2024, and so far this year January 2026 (75t) shows a 40% reduction compared to January 2025 (125t). This reduction is as a direct result of our own regulation and shows efforts to phase out hazardous products, primarily mercury, in lighting is working.

At their new proposed tonnage, the lighting industry expects there will still be a shortfall and that a significant compliance fee will be payable at the end of the year. This view is supported by another consultation response from a different part of the industry. The proposed methodology suggested setting the reduction in target to half the proportional change in tonnes collected between 2024 and 2025 (14.9%) which resulted in reducing the target change from the baseline -5% to -7.95%. As the decline is as an intended direct result of legislation, we have therefore set the lower target of **3,193** tonnes.

Category 14: Photovoltaic Panels

Historically the volume of PV panels collected has been very small relative to most other categories. However, as their installation and subsequent replacements and disposals have increased, so too have collection rates, historically steadily with a significant uplift last year. Applying the baseline methodology of average 3-year growth trend results in a 2026 target of **2,745** tonnes, a **64%** uplift from 2025 collections.

Consultation response

This target is significantly higher than in previous years and we have received one response citing concerns with the significant uplift and another questioning our methodology. The response highlighted unpredictable waste levels due to the long lifetimes of solar panels, limited recycling infrastructure and concern around illegal waste exports. Another consultation respondent, without a particular interest in solar, also raised concerns around the high increase and proposed maintaining the target at 2025 collection levels.

We still believe an ambitious target is necessary in the case of solar panels. Research¹ suggests that we are now seeing the first generation of solar panels emerging as waste. It estimates expired, failed or replaced modules will result in 13,879 tonnes needing to be treated by 2030. To meet growing demand, technical infrastructure needs to be in place. Domestic processing of this waste would allow high-value or critical materials contained within to remain in UK supply chains – this is only going to

¹ [Forecasting solar module waste in the United Kingdom - ScienceDirect](#)

increase and so the target, and infrastructure needed to manage these products, will need to grow to ensure these products are managed responsibly.

In order to strike a balance between the need to incentivise investment in infrastructure and encouraging solar panel recycling, and not putting unfair additional costs on producers, this year's target is set at 10% above last year's actual collections, resulting in a tonnage of **1,845** tonnes. We expect this target to continue to rise and we will work with industry to ensure treatment infrastructure is developed and the challenge of illegal waste exports is explored.

Category 15: Vapes

This is the first time we are setting a target for vapes, and as the requirement to report separate waste collection data for these products does not start until August 2026, we do not have historic data on which to base collection targets. As such, we have used the overall collection target for Small Mixed WEEE (of which vapes continue to be a part until 11th August 2026) and calculated the proportion of the target based on how much was placed on the market in 2025 for Small Mixed WEEE. At the time of consultation this was 30%. We have then taken this figure and applied it to the placed on the market data for vapes submitted since 12th August 2025. This creates a collection target of **294** tonnes which will need to be collected and evidence notes issued from the 15th August 2026. Since this time new data has come to light and this portion of SMW waste versus placed on the market has dropped to 24.9%, resulting in a target of **283** tonnes when applied to vapes placed on the market.

Consultation responses

Consultation responses showed mixed views on the proposed target. One respondent strongly urged setting a lower target, citing limited historic data, challenges around battery-weight adjustments, and the shift from single-use to reusable products. The response's approach recommended a methodology that achieved a lower target and had support from two other responses. Other responses were supportive of the proposed target methodology, while calling for more robust data in future target setting and reviewing of the targets, as well as work to improve consumer behaviour. One response argued for a higher target on environmental grounds.

As we collect waste data going forwards we will be able to set a more accurate target, but we believe this initial methodology strikes a balance between the need to correctly manage as many waste vapes as possible to retain the critical materials contained within and reduce waste fires, and the practical reality that many vapes still do not enter the WEEE system because they are littered or put in residual waste. As such, the target for vapes is set at **288** tonnes, which is 24.9% of placed on the market volumes, with an additional 1.5% uplift applied to drive a more ambitious target. This is slightly lower than the initial figure of 294 tonnes that was consulted on, but is still a stretching collection target for 2026. As more robust data becomes available over the first year of reporting on vapes, we will consider the need for a more ambitious target next year to continue to drive more recycling of waste vapes.