

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

25 MAY 2007

INTRODUCTION TO WEEE REGULATIONS 2006

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Regulations (WEEE) (2006) to the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership (OWP), giving detail of any legal obligations and service changes.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006 set out obligations for producers and distributors of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE).
- 2.2 The WEEE Regulations descend from a European Directive, based on the principle of extended producer responsibility. Under this principle, producers are required to take financial responsibility for the environmental impact of products they place on the market, especially when those products become waste.
- 2.3 In broad terms, the WEEE Regulations address the environmental impacts of EEE when it reaches the end of its life. It should encourage separate collection, subsequent treatment, re-use, recovery, recycling and environmentally sound disposal.
- 2.4 The main requirements and obligations on producers and distributors (see sections 4.1 – 4.4) of EEE come into effect from 1 July 2007.
- 2.5 The requirements on producers of EEE to mark products and provide information in relation to the treatment of new EEE products came into effect on 1 April 2007. The symbol below shows the standard logo that products are marked with:



- 2.6 Local Authorities have no direct legal obligations under the WEEE Regulations. However, the WEEE Regulations have implications if a Local Authority:
- Receives household WEEE deposited by residents at a Waste Recycling Centre or Waste Transfer Station; or
 - Collects bulky waste from residents.
- 2.7 The Government is keen for Local Authorities to play their part in the separate collection of WEEE.
- 2.8 Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has recently registered all eight of its Waste Recycling Centres (WRCs) as Designated Collection Facilities (DCFs). This enables OCC to choose a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) to work with, to ensure that any household WEEE

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

taken to the WRCs is collected free of charge under the Distributor Take-back Scheme (DTS).

- 2.9 This service should work hand in hand with retailers' in-house take-back scheme and ensure that Oxfordshire's residents are able to separately dispose of their WEEE, leading to its recycling/recovery.
- 2.10 OCC anticipates collecting WEEE in five separate material streams at each of the WRCs:
1. WEEE containing Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) (fridges and freezers)
 2. WEEE containing Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) (computer monitors and televisions)
 3. Fluorescent tubes
 4. Large household appliances (as stated in bullet point 1 in Section 4.9)
 5. Small household appliances (as stated in bullet points 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 in Section 4.9)
- 2.11 OCC Officers are working towards an implementation date of 1 July 2007 in line with the date that the WEEE Regulations commence in the UK.
- 2.12 Under the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005, Hazardous WEEE (fridges, freezers, TVs, monitors and fluorescent tubes) have to be separately collected for recycling/recovery.
- 2.13 At present, each of Oxfordshire's District Councils separately collects fridges, freezers, TVs and monitors as part of their bulky household waste services. These items are then taken to one of OCCs WRCs.

3 Financial, Risk and Staff Implications

- 3.1 Financial, risk and staff implications to be assessed by the Oxfordshire Waste Management Operations Group, following their meeting in May 2007.

4 Areas Affected

- 4.1 The WEEE Regulations will affect the whole of Oxfordshire. A producer putting EEE onto the UK market may be any of the following:
- A manufacturer of EEE selling under their own brand in the UK;
 - A business based in the UK selling under their own brand EEE manufactured by another person;
 - A professional importer introducing EEE to the UK market; or
 - A business based in the UK placing EEE in other European Member States.
- 4.2 Producers have several obligations under the WEEE Regulations:
- Join a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) to discharge obligations. This involves registering as a producer, reporting data on EEE brought to the UK market and financing the costs of collection, treatment, recovery and disposal of WEEE.
 - Ensure that EEE products are marked with the correct symbol to encourage separate collection of WEEE.
 - Make information available to treatment facilities in respect of new types of EEE put onto the UK market.

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

- 4.3 A distributor of EEE in the UK may be any of the following:
- A retailer of new EEE
 - A wholesaler of new EEE
- 4.4 Distributors have several obligations under the WEEE Regulations:
- Provide a take-back service to householders enabling them to return their WEEE free of charge, either through an in-store take-back scheme or by participating in the Distributor Take-back Scheme (DTS);
 - Provide householders with information on the options available to them for WEEE disposal and the environmental benefits of collecting WEEE separately.
- 4.5 Consumers who use EEE and discard WEEE have no legal obligations under the WEEE Regulations. However, consumers are encouraged to play their part and discard WEEE as a separate element rather than as part of the residual waste stream.
- 4.6 Where a retailer is offering in-store take-back, they must accept householders' old equipment on a like-for-like (old for new) basis when a new purchase is made.
- 4.7 The WEEE Regulations clearly state that consumers are not entitled to free collection of WEEE from their homes by Local Authorities.
- 4.8 Consumers will be encouraged to take their WEEE to Waste Recycling Centres, ready for treatment and recovery.
- 4.9 There are ten categories of WEEE for the purposes of the Regulations:
1. Large household appliances (fridges/freezers, cookers, microwaves, washing machines etc.);
 2. Small household appliances (vacuum cleaners, toasters, irons, electric tooth brushes, clocks, watches, shavers etc.);
 3. IT and telecommunications equipment (printers, computers, calculators, fax machines, telephones etc.);
 4. Consumer equipment (radios, video recorders, audio equipment, musical instruments etc.);
 5. Lighting equipment (fluorescent tubes, high intensity discharge lamps, sodium lamps etc.);
 6. Electrical and electronic tools (drills, saws, sanders, sewing machines etc.);
 7. Toys, leisure and sports equipment (electric trains/cars, games consoles, running machines, coin slot machines etc.);
 8. Medical devices (lab equipment, radiotherapy equipment etc.);
 9. Monitoring and control instruments (smoke detectors, thermostats, weighing appliances etc.); and
 10. Automatic dispensers (hot drink/food dispensers, all appliances which deliver automatically all kind of products etc.).
- 4.10 There are a number of exemptions from the WEEE Regulations:
- Products where electricity is not the main power source and electricity is used only for control or support functions;
 - Products that do not require electrical or electronic components to fulfill their primary function (e.g. musical birthday cards or socks);
 - Electrical and electronic equipment that is part of another type of equipment (lighting

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

- or entertainment equipment for use in vehicles, trains or aircraft);
- Large scale stationary industrial tools;
- Household luminaries;
- Filament light bulbs; and
- Implanted and infected medical devices.

5 Effect on Strategic Policies

- 5.1 Providing services for WEEE recycling will help the OWP to reach its Municipal Waste LAA target to reach 38% recycling and divert an additional 4,875 tonnes of non-biodegradable waste by 31st March 2009.

The following policies of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy will also be supported:

- Policy 3 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will help householders and individuals to reduce and manage their wastes through the provision of advice and appropriate services.
- Policy 6 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will provide an integrated system of collection and processing of household waste which will achieve, as a minimum: By 31st March 2010: recycle or compost at least 40% of household waste.
- Policy 8 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will encourage householders and businesses to separate waste for recycling collections by providing targeted information and awareness raising campaigns.
- Policy 11 – The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will seek to provide waste management services for specialised, potentially polluting material streams, such as hazardous waste and waste electrical and electronic equipment, which meet and exceed legislative requirements.
- Policy 14 - The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership will develop methods of working together to improve the level of service through effective and efficient use of resources within Oxfordshire.

6 Options or Alternatives

- 6.1 An OCC Officer is currently preparing an 'Options Report' for the Oxfordshire Waste Management Operations Group. This will set out all of the options that Oxfordshire's Waste Collection Authorities have with regard to the WEEE Regulations.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 It is recommended that OWP members note this report.
- 7.2 OWP members use the Further information on the WEEE Regulations available from the sources below if necessary:
- Department of Trade and Industry
www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability
 - The Environment Agency
www.environment-agency.gov.uk
 - Valpak
www.valpak.co.uk

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

8 Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 To introduce the intricacies of the WEEE Regulations to the OWP members in advance of the new regulations and potential service changes.

9 Contact Officer

- 9.1 Author: Fay Dashper Tel: 07713 680561
Email: Fay.dashper@oxfordshire.gov.uk