

1.

WEEE still not understood by businesses !

WEEE指令仍然很难被企业理解 !

- Companies are still not yet appreciating the implications of the WEEE Directive!
- They are continuing to dispose of waste through traditional channels!



- 企业仍然不赞赏WEEE 指令的实施!
- 很多企业仍然通过传统的渠道处理废物!

UK companies are still not appreciating the implications of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive and continue to dispose of waste through traditional waste management channels, according to new research.

C-Tech Innovation, a Chester-based technology development and multi-disciplinary consultancy company, worked with recycling consultancy firm London Remade to produce a survey that showed that more than 890,000 tonnes per year of business-to-business WEEE was being generated by the UK. The research also showed that London boroughs generated 15% of this waste – 132,000 tonnes per year.

C-Tech Innovation senior project manager David Gardner said: “The UK total tonnage is around three times greater than the Environment Agency’s estimate in 2007, which is based on the number of companies registering their waste through the EA. This suggests that companies are still not yet appreciating the implications of the WEEE Directive and are continuing to dispose of waste through traditional channels.”

Under the WEEE Directive all businesses and organisations that use electrical and electronic equipment have to recycle and dispose of it separately from other waste. Its aim is to increase re-use and recycling and minimise the amount of WEEE going to landfill.

The technology consultancy worked with London Remade to gain a better understanding of the levels of WEEE being generated on a domestic level in the capital. Gardner explained: “We worked with London Remade for around six months, starting in May 2007. We used a mass balance approach [a method of calculation] to ascertain the overall tonnage of electrical equipment sold in the UK. This was broken down to calculate the WEEE arisings in each borough of London, split down by ten WEEE product groups.”

Source: www.rwm.info.com

2.

WEEE meeting held to address data concerns !

举行WEEE指令会议以解决数据问题！

- The Environment Agency published data which indicated a downsizing in the amount of household WEEE collected during 2007!
- The total amount of electrical and electronic equipment put on the market has been reduced from 803,551 tonnes to 793,439 tonnes in the UK last year!

- 环境局公布的数据表明，2007年英国废旧电子电气设备的回收总量有所减少！
- 英国去年的电子电气设备销售总量由原来的803,551吨减少到793,439吨！



WEEE producer compliance schemes are meeting the Environment Agency today (April 10), after discovering that data issues could mean they have to buy extra collection evidence to meet their market share obligations, *writes Nick Mann*.

Last month, the Environment Agency published data which indicated a downsizing in the amount of household waste electronic and electrical equipment collected during 2007 (see letsrecycle.com story).

But figures sent out by the Agency last week to producer compliance schemes have now revealed a 17% higher amount of WEEE collected by schemes than last month's data indicated.

The latest change in data sees the total amount of household WEEE collected in the UK last year increased from 158,446 tonnes to 184,760 tonnes, while the total amount of electrical and electronic equipment put on the market has been reduced from 803,551 tonnes to 793,439 tonnes.

While the exact reason for the amendment is unknown, data from one compliance scheme is thought to have had a particular impact.

The immediate effect of this latest adjustment is to increase the household WEEE obligations for PCSs, which are based on their requirements according to the market share of the producers they operate for, just weeks before they have to submit their final figures for 2007 collections on June 1.

At the same time, letsrecycle.com has learnt that the Environment Agency has warned that the final notice of obligation, previously expected by May 1, could now not be released until May 6.

Disquiet

With the latest set of data meaning that schemes will have to source additional evidence to meet their obligations, the heads of some of the UK's largest PCSs have expressed their disquiet at the ever-changing situation.

Scott Butler, the general manager for ERP UK - the scheme holding the most contracts with councils to collect WEEE - outlined the difficulties that his company had faced.

"Theoretically the system is fine," he explained. "The obligation calculation is the bit that we're all struggling with."

"April's data was significantly different to the last one we were issued with in March; we were given a preliminary obligation that was different to what we'd seen before," he added.

While he accepted that small mistakes were inevitable on all sides, Mr Butler took issue with the extent of the problems that had been experienced.

"You expect issues with any new system but I'm surprised that we're still having this level of issues", he said, adding that "good, robust, timely data is an important part of the system," he said.

In particular, Mr Butler expressed concerns over the role played by the Environment Agency, and the speed of its reaction to errors in data submitted by PCS.

"We're worried that the data's accepted at face value, which is has to be to some extent, but it needs somebody to understand the market - that's what producers pay the enforcement agency to do," he said.

His views were echoed by Phil Conran, head of Biffa's PCS Transform and a member of the WEEE Advisory Board which held its first meeting last week (see letsrecycle.com story) .

Mr Conran revealed that there was "confusion and uncertainty" among schemes, in particular relating to potential discrepancies between the WEEE collection data submitted by PCS and the amount of evidence entered by authorised treatment facilities into the BERR-backed Settlement Centre (see letsrecycle.com story).

He said: "we've all got our fingers crossed that the two figures are going to be the same".

Market

WEEE PCS are allowed to trade the evidence they have accumulated in order to meet their producer obligations, but Mr Conran indicated that the market had been "fairly slow because I think people have been waiting to find out what their final market share requirements are."

He added that the latest amendments to the WEEE data, and their resultant effect on PCSs' obligations were likely to worst affect "people selling because they thought they had a surplus".

Uncertainty over the trading situation has also been experienced by ERP, as Mr Butler explained: "It's a crazy market to be operating in, you don't know if you should be buying or selling."

Response

The Environment Agency has accepted that there had been problems with WEEE data reporting, and a spokesman for the Agency explained that today's 'Data Day', which will also be attended by BERR, was a direct response to that.

He said: "The purpose of the day is for the Environment Agency to go through the ins and outs of data submission, and address any issues PCS may have come across," he said. "It's also an opportunity for both sides to be clear and understand the way forward."

"The WEEE Advisory Board noted data reporting as an issue and so we are working with them on the issue. This 'data day' is an example of how we are working to improve the situation," the Agency spokesman added.

Referring to the specific problems relating to WEEE data, he said: "As with any new system or regulation there are teething problems with data reporting - there have been some with the WEEE Regulations. However, we have worked with relevant parties to address these and continue to work to improve data quality and reporting."

It is also expected that discussions will take place today relating to the clarification of what will happen to schemes that fail to comply with their obligations as well as the issue of the implications of a potential structural failure of one of the 13 WEEE categories.

Source: www.letsrecycle.com

3.

0.5M tonnes of WEEE missing from UK estimates !

- A recent six-month project with recycling consultancy firm London Remade calculated the levels of business-to-business WEEE generated in London!
- WEEE is a complex waste stream that often requires several levels of reprocessing and recycling to ensure maximum value is recovered!

英国实际的废旧电子电气设备回收量相比预计数量少了50万吨！

- 最近一项为期6个月的工程与伦敦 Remade 循环处理咨询公司共同计算了伦敦各级企业产生的商业废旧电子电气设备！
- WEEE指令是一项复杂的废物流，往往需要多个层次的再处理和循环处理从而确保最大的价值被回收利用！

A recent six-month project with recycling consultancy firm London Remade calculated the levels of business-to-business Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) generated in London each year.

C-Tech Innovation, a technology development and multi-disciplinary consultancy company based in Capenhurst near Chester, has just completed this six-month project with recycling consultancy firm London Remade While the study not only demonstrated that three times more business-to-business waste is being generated by the capital than Environment Agency estimates for 2007, it also shows that many

UK companies are still not yet appreciating the implications of the WEEE Directive and are continuing to dispose of waste through traditional waste management channels.

WEEE is a complex waste stream that often requires several levels of reprocessing and recycling to ensure maximum value is recovered.

To help ensure sufficient and suitable reprocessing capacity is available, London Remade, a leading adviser and consultant to London boroughs and businesses on the subject of recycling, commissioned C-Tech Innovation to perform a study regarding the quantity of B2B WEEE generated in London.

While London Remade had a good understanding of the levels of WEEE being generated on a domestic level in London, the company wanted to find out the levels of B2B WEEE being created in the capital.

Kate Nelson, Senior Project Manager at London Remade explains: "We had been working with several WEEE reprocessors and reuse organisations in London and we knew that approximately 170,000 tonnes of domestic WEEE were being generated each year, but we struggled to find data on business-to-business WEEE.

We felt that this information was critical to assist our clients in their decision making on site location, logistics and appropriate technologies". The study was built on the C-Tech end-of-life WEEE software tool and identified the quantity of WEEE and its composition, thus enabling recovery scenarios to be run once a full WEEE analysis was completed.

David Gardner, Senior Project Manager at C-Tech Innovation comments: "We worked with London Remade for around six months, starting in May 2007.

We used a mass balance approach to ascertain the overall tonnage of electrical equipment sold in the UK. This was broken down to calculate the WEEE arisings in each borough of London, split down by the ten WEEE product groups.

We were able to do this by using information from the Office of National Statistics to calculate domestic and non-domestic WEEE arisings, and cross-check the results for domestic WEEE using other independent studies.

The final results showed that more than 890,000 tonnes per year of B2B WEEE is being generated by the UK as a whole, with the London boroughs generating around 15% of this (132,000 tonnes per year).

The UK total tonnage is around three times greater than the Environment Agency estimate made in 2007, which is based on the number of companies registering their waste through the EA.

This suggests that companies are still not yet appreciating the implications of the WEEE Directive and are continuing to dispose of waste through traditional channels," adds Gardner.

Source: www.processingtalk.com