

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Policy Development

#eWaste



Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

WEEE includes almost any household or business item with circuitry or electrical components with a power or battery supply.

It is estimated that 39% of all countries are covered by WEEE policy, legislation or regulation.

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies - ICTs. Global membership includes 193 Member States and some 900 companies worldwide.

More and more people are joining the global information society and are benefiting from opportunities this brings.

In parallel, higher levels of disposable income and industrialisation are leading to more waste.

To assist Member States to balance their economic and social development with their environmental management, ITU provides a programme dedicated to policy and regulatory development.

The programme is guided by ITU's high-level targets, by 2023 to:

- Increase the global WEEE recycling rate to 30%
- Raise the percentage of countries with a WEEE legislation to 50%

Member States can request ITU technical assistance and capacity building to support national or regional WEEE policy development.

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Step 1. Official Request

Member States should make an official written request directly to their ITU Regional Office, requesting WEEE policy technical assistance.

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Step 2. Task Team

If not already done so, Member States are advised to establish a task team dedicated to WEEE policy development. This team would include government representatives from at least ICT, environment and health.

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Step 3. Country Profile

ITU creates a country profile with an overview of environment, society, economy, the existing regulatory landscape and WEEE management infrastructure. An extensive literature review, trade data and any waste generation or collection figures are compiled.

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Step 4. Online Module

E-learning module provided to all national public stakeholders with an introduction to key WEEE concepts. This self-paced introduction aims at preparing stakeholders for WEEE policy development.

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Step 5. Stakeholder Surveys

Qualitative surveys are circulated to all stakeholders from government and non-government. They form the start of consultations and national WEEE assessment. Information is sought on the roles and responsibilities of different actors, the financing and enforcement, infrastructure and product scope.

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Step 6. National Assessment

ITU works with Member States to conduct either an in-depth or rapid national WEEE assessment, depending on national preferences, commitment, existing information and the foreseen policy development timeline.

National assessment generally comprises:

- Bilateral consultations in-person with all relevant stakeholders following the surveys
- Site visits to take note of existing WEEE infrastructure or similar waste activities
- National stakeholder consultation workshop to initiate formulation of the draft policy

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Step 7. Preparatory Drafting

ITU assists with technical writing as part of the transition from stakeholder consultation to policy drafting.

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Step 8. Policy Validation

A validation workshop provides stakeholders with an opportunity for final consultation, before policy consensus.

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Step 9. Implementation Plan

ITU supports the government to ensure that roles and responsibilities, resources, objectives and timelines are allocated to safeguard policy implementation.

Where applicable, implementation planning is undertaken in line with national guidelines for policy development.

Capacity Building Programme

To enhance and enable policy implementation, ITU continues delivery of technical assistance to Member States, through its capacity building programme. In collaboration with international partners, ITU aims to tailor capacity building to the key components of the policy; directed at the actors with a responsibility for those components.

Generally, these components include:

- WEEE data collection and improvement
- WEEE technical standards development
- WEEE producer registry and responsibility

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Regional Office

Contact Information

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