



ECOTIC Life + Caravan
LIFE 13INF/RO/000090



Romanians have electric waste, but a small proportion of those are entering the authorized recycling streams

The study called "Attitudes and habits related to waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) recycling" carried out by ECOTIC and GBD Research had as main objective the identification of the population behavior with regard to the separate collection of WEEEs.

The method of research was a survey on the basis of a standardized questionnaire. Data collection was carried out by telephone during the period July 10 – 31, 2014. The sample was of 1,000 people from the urban areas, ages 15 - 65. The margin of error is 3.1% at a confidence level of 95%.

About 60 % of the urban citizens declared that they separate the waste in order to be recycled afterwards. Most referred that they separate wastes like plastic, paper, glass and metal products. The main barriers for those who do not do so (the remaining 40%) is the perception that they are not subsequently collected separately (30%), don't know where should they submit or lack facilities (33%) and lack of time (29%).

Just 4% say they collect separately WEEEEE. However, 87.5% of respondents know that electricals are recyclable.

To the question "Why do you think that electric waste should be recycled?", most of them refer to the reuse of materials (38%), ecological reasons for protecting the environment against toxic effects (36%) and to be repaired and put into service (15%)- all spontaneous declarations.

Only 36% of respondents say that they handed over WEEE to authorized entities (30.6 percent), to the stores at which they purchase new equipment (26%) and specialized companies (13%). Unfortunately, 6% mentioned that they handed over WEEE to people that pass periodically in residential areas and what to use the scrap metal.

Waste of equipment that are the most often handed over are televisions (49%), refrigerators (33%), and washing machines (28%). Over 10% have handed over radio-cassette players, personal computers, vacuum cleaners and irons. Bulbs and mobile phones have been mentioned in the same proportion- 5%. The percentage of 64% (not handed over to authorized entities), we find again the scrap metal collectors (27%), keeping them in house (26%) and handed over to relatives and friends (34%).

At the question regarding what worn out or old electronic equipment they have, many responded that they have mobile phones or tablets (39%), TVs and monitors (30%), radio-cassette players (17%), computers/laptops (16%), vacuums (15%), printers (13%), washing machines (12%), power tools (11%) and energy saving light bulbs (10%). 33% of the respondents claim that do not hold such waste.



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Based on these answers, by applying the average weights on equipment taken from the database of our organisation for the past 18 months, we can estimate that the amount of electrical waste in urban households that have at least one member between 18-65 years, is 7.1 kg/inhabitant.

The reasons for keeping them in the household are: to repair them (25%), there are no proximate facilities (12%), don't know what to do with them or do not know that is recycled (11%), lack of time (9%) and sentimental value (3%).

Mos of the population knows (59%) that there are WEEE collection points arranged by local authorities, but only 27% say they would know were exactly to hand them over.

Separate collection of WEEE is necessary to extract and neutralize hazardous substances and to recover secondary raw materials, thus saving large quantities of natural resources.

Romania, as a member of the European Union must collect 4 kg WEEE/inhabitant/year, but the results have not registered more than 1.5 kg/inhabitant. Until 2021 we have to reach the performance of collecting 60% of the amount of new equipment put on the market in Romania every year. We can integrate this aspect in fact that by 2020, 50% of the waste generated by the population must enter the recycling streams.

This survey was carried out within the project ECOTIC Caravan co-financed by the European Union through the Life + programme. It consists of a mobile exhibition at the national level that will highlight reasons for WEEE collection and will try to change the behaviour of citizens in this direction. ECOTIC Caravan will reach 150 schools and 30 public places starting in November 2014 until June 2016.

According to ECOTIC President, Valentin ECOTIC, "This survey was a necessary preamble to the awareness campaign ECOTIC Caravan, identifying the attitudes and habits of the Romanians in connection with WEEE, which represents the starting point of this national campaign that will start in the fall of this year."

About ECOTIC:

ECOTIC is a collective organisation that manages waste of electric and electronic equipment in the behalf of over 400 affiliated producers and importers. ECOTIC oversees the whole process of collection, transport, dismantling, and recycling in order WEEEs to not pose a danger to the environment, Over 57 000 tons of WEEE have been managed in the ECOTIC system over the last 8 years. Specialized consultancy offered to the producers of WEEE and waste of batteries is defining aspect of ECOTIC activity. More details www.ecotic.ro, an on the dedicated Facebook page and on LinkedIn.



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