



recycle
your
electricals

Setting up collection points for small electricals

A step-by-step guide

Who are Recycle Your Electricals?

Recycle Your Electricals is a UK-wide campaign, led by not-for-profit Material Focus, motivating and making it easier for everyone to reuse and recycle unwanted electricals.

We educate people on **what**, **how** and **where** to reuse and recycle old, unwanted electricals, ensuring we make the most of the valuable materials in them.

- **WHAT:** that anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled. Even the batteries and cables themselves!
- **HOW:** by using our **Recycling Locator** - simply put in your postcode and find your nearest drop-off point
- **WHERE:** with **26,000 locations** on our Recycling Locator, you can take your old electricals to retailers, local recycling centres, charities or reuse organisations

And don't forget about the Recycle Your Electricals' mascot HypnoCat - a pink, mesmerizing cat with a mission to get everyone across the UK recycling their electricals!



Our Recycling Locator makes it easy to find local drop off points

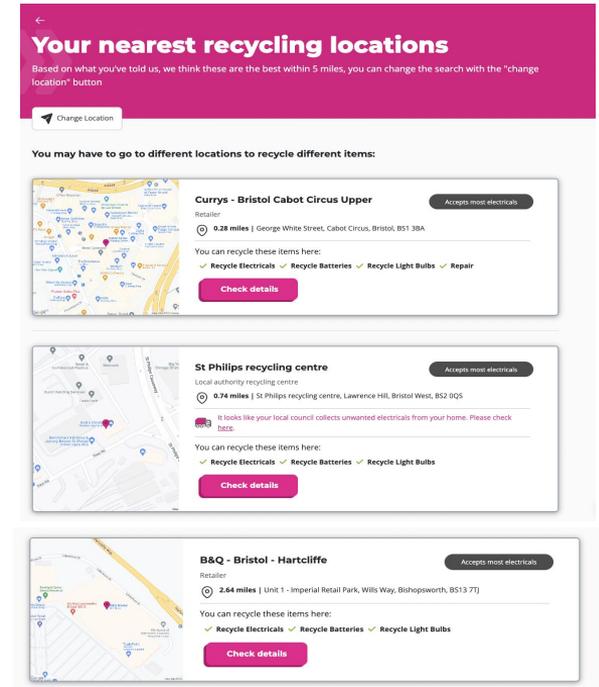
With **over 26,000 drop off points**, our best in class **Recycling locator** provides the most comprehensive collection of electrical recycling points in the UK.

Users can find local drop off points to **recycle, donate or fix** their unwanted electricals.

It's so simple to use - simply:

1. Pop in your **postcode** or address
2. **Select the items** and whether you'd like to recycle, donate or fix them
3. View your **nearest drop-off point** that accepts your specified items

Remember - if you can't set up your own collection point, you can still promote electrical recycling. Just point people to our locator instead!



WHY set up your own electrical recycling collection?

Most people in the UK (76%*) believe **recycling electricals is the right thing to do**. But less than half (42%*) think it's easy.

Our research shows that, as we buy more and more electricals, we are also throwing away more. We are **losing nearly £1 billion worth of precious materials** to binning, hoarding, theft or illegal exports, which could instead be reused or recycled. Over 103,000 tonnes of small electricals are binned in the UK every year. A further 880 million electrical items gather dust unused in people's drawers or cupboards; that's around 30 per household because people aren't sure what to do with them or how to dispose of them.

By setting up your own electrical recycling collection, **you can help make it easier for people to reuse and recycle their electricals** and save thousands worth of precious materials from being lost forever.

This guide will take you through how to set up a temporary pop-up or permanent collection. Please email hello@materialfocus.org.uk if you have any questions or need further support.

**Material Focus's annual Bellwether survey measuring the UK public's changing attitudes and behaviours around recycling electricals. It is fielded through The Opinium Omnibus, an online survey of 2,000 UK adults (aged 18 and over).*

Setting up a pop-up recycling collection point for electricals

How to set up a pop-up collection

1. Speak with your facilities team and/or sustainability team

- Speak with your relevant internal team, *such as Estates or Facilities Management*, about setting up a temporary waste electricals collection point for employees.
- Confirm who will collect the items - this could be your own waste management company or your local electricals recycler.

2. Choose and agree drop-off point locations

Choose locations which are easy to find, accessible for people dropping off recycling, and with access for external collection (check with your waste management partner/local council if you're unsure)



Plastic wheelee bins - 1100 L



Plastic wheelee bins - 240 L



Pop up bring banks based on 145 L box

How to set up a pop-up collection

3. Confirm items which you will accept

- Items you collect must be **consumer electricals** e.g. hairdryers, phones, cables, headphones, laptops, toasters, kettles, etc.
- Specify any size limitation - most small electricals will be less than 30cm/the size of a microwave
- **Vapes, batteries, and bulbs** must be kept separately from each other, so carefully consider if this is something you can collect. You can find local drop-off points on our [Recycling Locator](#).

4. Confirm recycling vs donation options

- If possible, separate electricals for 'donation' and 'recycling'.
- If you can't collection working electricals, our [Recycling Locator](#) can signpost people to local donation options for these

5. Source a container to collect electricals in

- If collecting inside, a plastic box will work - or a smaller wheelie bin
- If outside, choose a container that is secure and watertight.
- To get a bespoke electrical collection bin, contact your local waste management company who may be able to advise on this. You can also find a list of suppliers [on our website](#).
- If you have any questions regarding containers please email us on hello@materialfocus.org.uk.

How to set up a pop-up collection

6. Label the bins using our recycling point stickers

- Download our ready to use recycling bin stickers from the partner [section of our website](#).

7. Promote the collection using our ready-to-use templates

- Find posters, leaflets, social media posts and other editable assets to help promote your collection [on the gated section of our website](#)
- Clearly explain **what to bring**, and how to [prepare it in advance](#).

8. Monitor and evaluate

- Nominate someone to monitor the collection to ensure it is kept tidy and regularly collected
- If possible, keep a record of what has been collected. If you're working with a waste management company they should do this for you.
- [Keep us updated](#) on how it is going and any tonnage information you may have!

Pop-up examples



Larger pop up examples



Specify which electricals you can accept

Anything with a plug, battery or cable. Even the batteries and cables themselves can be recycled!

Hairdryers, headphones, cables, kettles, cameras, and anything with a plug, battery or cable can be reused and recycled.

Will you accept disposable vapes, loose batteries, bulbs?

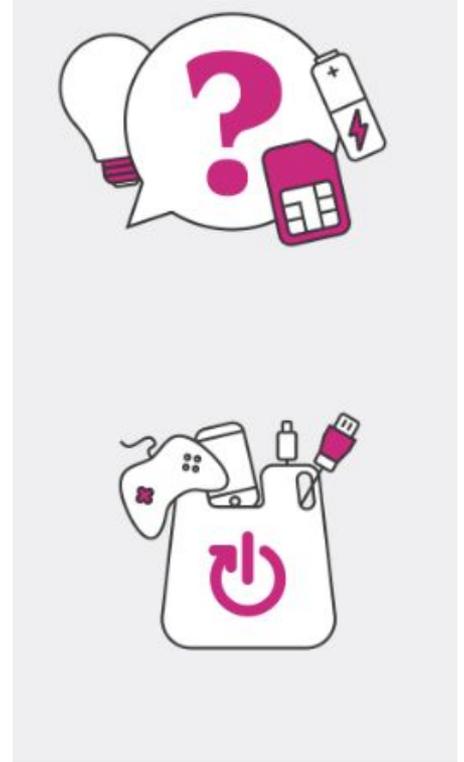
Is there a size limit to the electricals you will accept?

- Most small electricals should be **less than 30cm**/the size of a microwave.



Give people clear information about how to recycle

- **Ask** yourself
 - Does your old electrical contain [batteries](#) or [bulbs](#)? Remove these safely before recycling and recycle them separately.
 - If you have personal data on your device. Remember to [delete your data](#) if you do as this part is your responsibility.
- **Bag** up your old electricals ready for when you're next passing your nearest drop off point
- **Check** Recycle Your Electricals' easy [Recycling Locator](#) to find your nearest repair, reuse or donation point. Check if there are any items that aren't accepted there, such as loose batteries, light bulbs and vapes.



Suggested timeline for a pop-up collection point

We suggest running your temporary pop-up collection for **4-6 weeks** to allow people time to diary, sort and bag up their electricals ready to drop off



Pre promotion

Start promoting **when and where** the collection will be happening

Use our assets and social media / newsletter templates to help you!

Collection goes live

Keep reminding people once it has gone live.

Nominate someone to **monitor collections**, ensuring it is kept tidy and regularly collected.

Collection point live

Keep reminding people

If possible, **keep a record** of what you have collected.

Tell people how well it's going to **encourage others to join in**

Evaluation

Evaluate and share results with us about what/ how much you collected.

Ask for **feedback** from recyclers

Decide whether to continue and create a **permanent** collection point!

Setting up a permanent electrical recycling collection

How to set up a permanent collection

By setting up a permanent electrical recycling collection, you are providing a **long-term solution** to help communities significantly reduce their electrical waste.

We currently have **over 26,000** UK repair, donation and recycling points on our Recycling Locator – and we are always looking for new locations.

Please contact hello@materialfocus.org.uk if you would like to discuss how to set up a permanent collection.



Contact

The *Recycle Your Electricals* campaign is led by Material Focus.

Material Focus is a not-for-profit organisation - our vision is of a world where materials are never wasted.

Please follow us and share our content on social media

-  facebook.com/recycleyourelectricals
-  [@recycleelectric](https://twitter.com/recycleelectric)
-  [@recycleyourelectricals_](https://instagram.com/recycleyourelectricals)
-  www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk
-  hello@materialfocus.org.uk
-  linkedin.com/company/materialfocus