



Industry briefing

UK e-waste data trends

A look back at 2018-2024 WEEE data

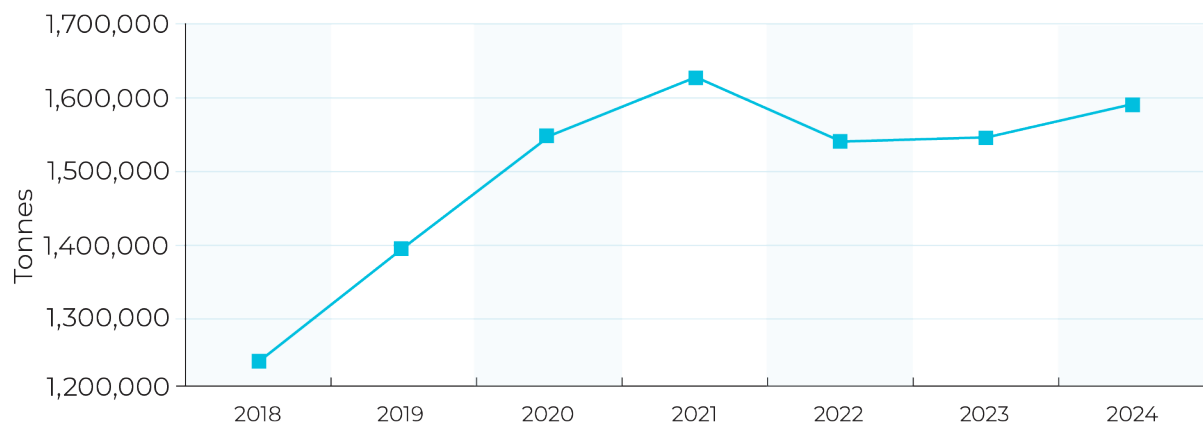
March 2025



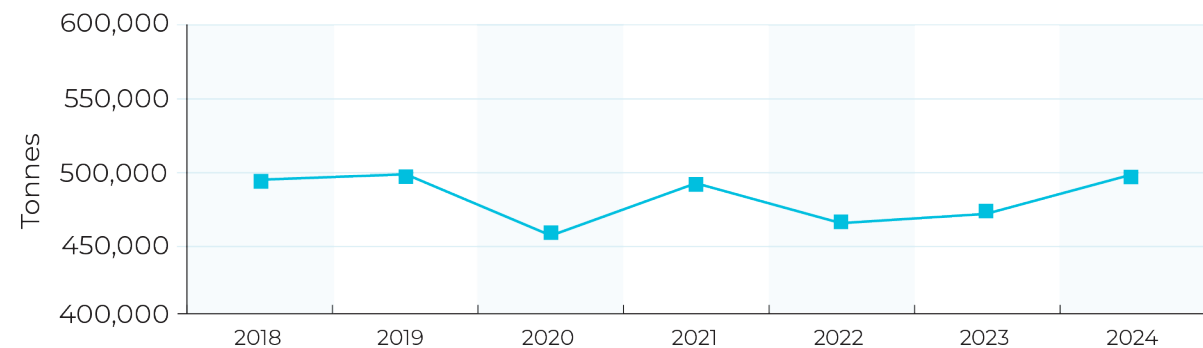
WEEE data summary 2018-2024

This briefing reviews year on year changes in electricals' recycling collection data, and sales from 2018-2024, including trends by type of electrical.

- Since 2018, household **EEE** (electrical and electronic equipment) placed on the market has **increased by 25%** from 1.28 million tonnes, peaking in 2021 at 1.6 million tonnes



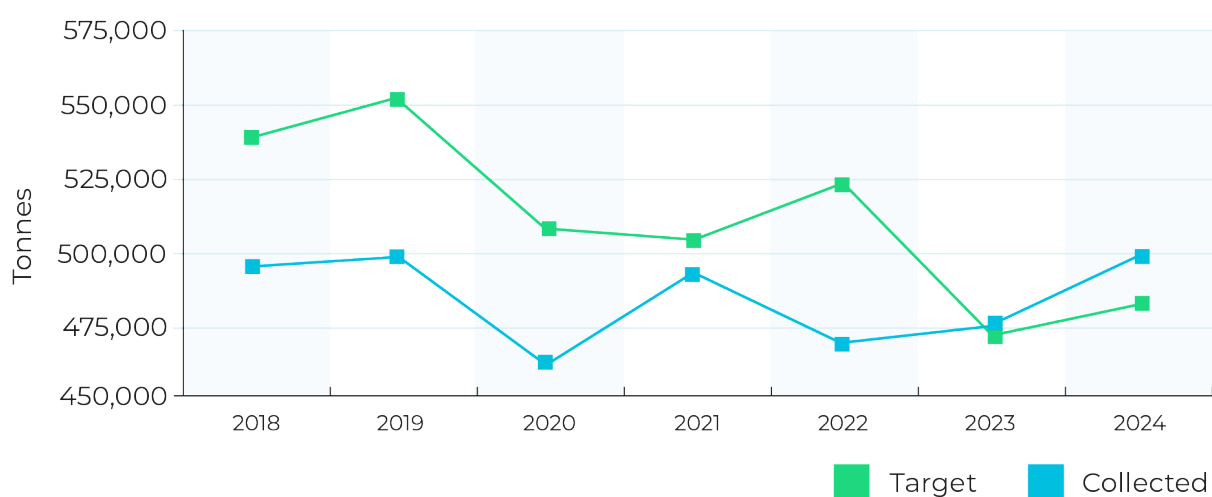
- In the same period, total **WEEE** (waste electrical and electronic equipment) collections have **increased by 0.6%** — from 493k tonnes in 2018 to 496k tonnes in 2024



- Total WEEE collections in 2024 are at the **highest level in the last five years**

Waste electricals collections 2018-2024

WEEE Data: 2018-2024 collected versus targets						
Year	Collected (tonnes)	Target (tonnes)	Difference (tonnes)	Performance (%)	Yearly increase (tonnes)	Yearly increase (%)
2018	493,323	537,065	-43,742	91.86%	0	0
2019	496,514	550,577	-54,063	90.18%	3,191	0.65%
2020	460,134	507,334	-47,200	90.70%	-36,380	-7.33%
2021	491,213	503,629	-12,416	97.53%	31,079	6.75%
2022	467,517	522,377	-54,860	89.50%	-23,696	-4.82%
2023	473,019	471,942	1,077	100.23%	5,503	1.18%
2024	496,253	482,335	13,918	102.89%	23,234	4.91%



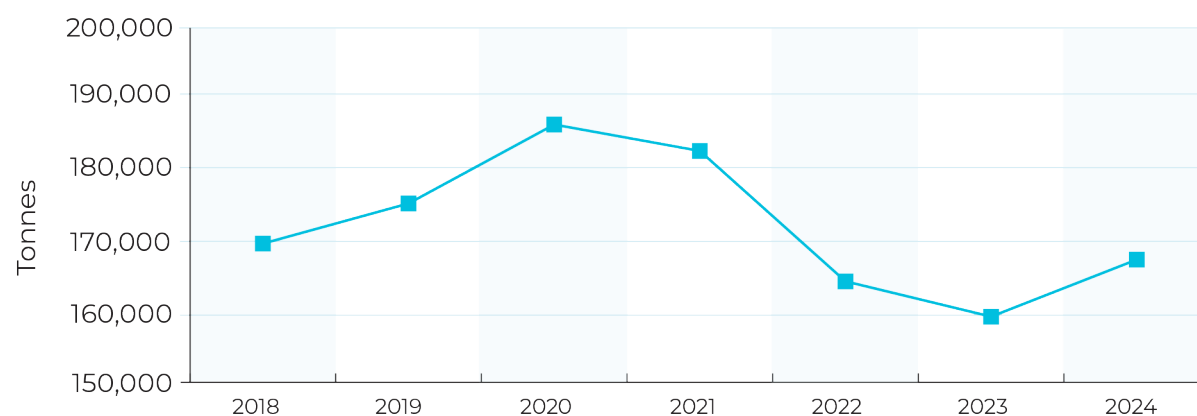
WEEE Data: 2018-2024 collected							
Category (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
01. Large household appliances	169,577	175,236	186,368	182,646	164,250	159,273	167,316
02. Small household appliances	38,046	35,542	27,938	31,386	32,759	33,577	35,692
03. IT and telecommunications equipment	45,013	44,798	31,974	36,681	37,119	39,601	40,408
04. Consumer equipment	36,529	36,034	19,557	20,917	20,450	20,944	22,527
05. Lighting equipment	0	582	4,483	5,253	5,133	5,534	6,075
06. Electrical and electronic tools	17,901	17,838	20,147	22,741	22,953	25,318	27,392
07. Toys, leisure and sports equipment	2,194	2,283	3,968	4,542	4,621	5,035	5,903
08. Medical devices	6	3	13	11	11	27	50
09. Monitoring and control instruments	146	156	969	1,105	1,079	1,138	1,251
10. Automatic dispensers	0	0	0	0	7	3	10
11. Display equipment	47,066	44,615	36,029	39,707	40,428	42,988	47,107
12. Appliances containing refrigerants	131,939	134,811	125,005	141,947	134,274	135,075	138,038
13. Gas discharge lamps and LED light sources	4,819	4,553	3,445	4,024	4,051	4,047	4,055
14. Photovoltaic panels	87	65	236	254	382	460	428
Total	493,323	496,514	460,134	491,213	467,517	473,019	496,253

WEEE Data: 2018-2024 collected							
Type (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
A. Large household appliances	169,577	175,236	186,368	182,646	164,250	159,273	167,316
B. Cooling appliances	131,939	134,811	125,005	141,947	134,274	135,075	138,038
C. Display equipment	47,066	44,615	36,029	39,707	40,428	42,988	47,107
D. Lamps	4,819	4,553	3,445	4,024	4,051	4,047	4,055
E. Small mixed WEEE	139,835	137,235	109,050	122,635	124,131	131,177	139,308
F. Photovoltaics	87	65	236	254	382	460	428
Total	493,323	496,514	460,134	491,213	467,517	473,019	496,253

Trends by product type

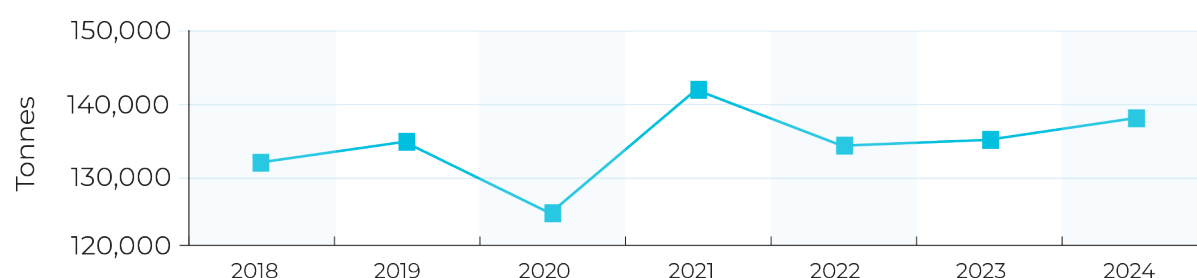
Large household appliances

- Large household appliances collections vary across the time period, driven by replacement rates and scrap metal prices
- When these prices are high, these materials are often diverted to non-specialist recyclers and therefore not recorded in the WEEE system



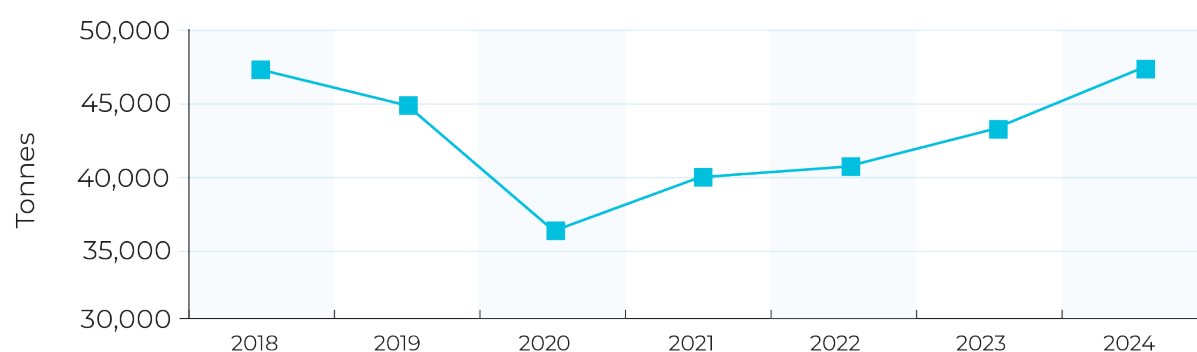
Cooling appliances

- Cooling appliances collections vary across the time period, mainly driven by replacement rates



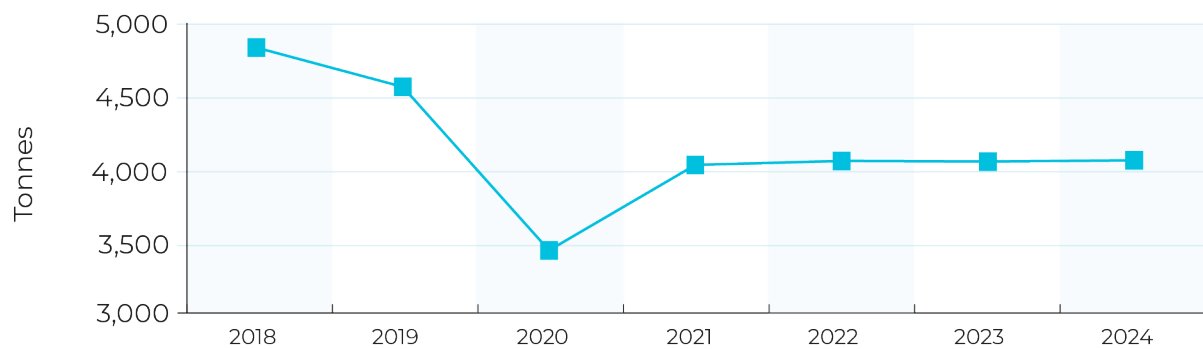
Display equipment

- Display equipment collections vary across the time period, with a decrease in collections in 2020
- Overall, display equipment collections have increased by 31% in 2024 compared to 2020
- Collection levels in 2024 are now at their highest level across the 2018-2024 time period



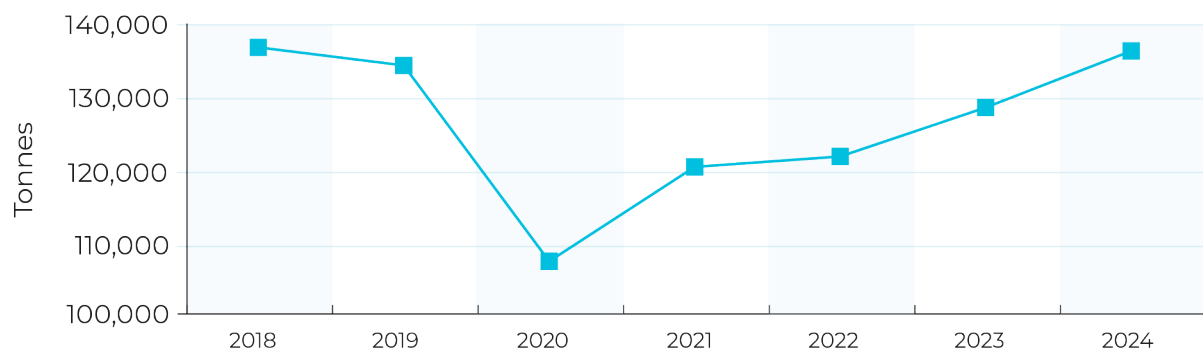
Lamps

- Following a decrease in 2020, lamps and lighting electricals collections have been relatively steady



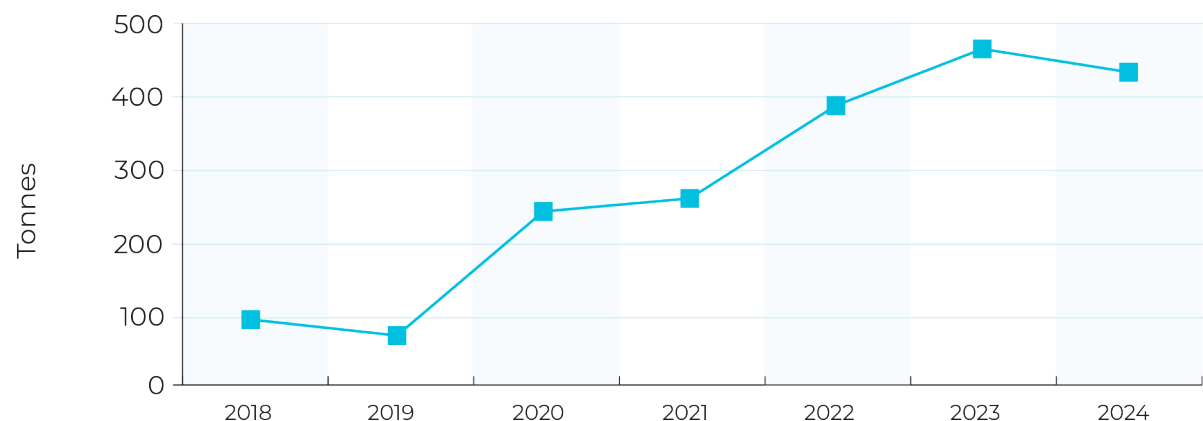
Small mixed WEEE (small electricals)

- Small electricals collections have risen from 109k tonnes in 2020 to 139k tonnes in 2024. This is an increase of 28%; equivalent to around 62 million more small electricals*
- From 124k tonnes in 2022, this is a rise of 12% and equivalent to circa 31 million more small electricals
- Following a significant decrease in 2020, 2024 marks a return to 2018 collection levels, with only 527 tonnes fewer collected in 2024 than in 2018



Photovoltaics (solar panels)

- Collections of photovoltaics have increased over time
- This is driven by the growth in small electricals and the inclusion of solar panels within the Small Mixed WEEE (SMW) protocol — allowing them to be counted as SMW evidence



* Assumptions: average 2,000 small mixed electricals/ tonne

Electricals placed on the market 2018-2024

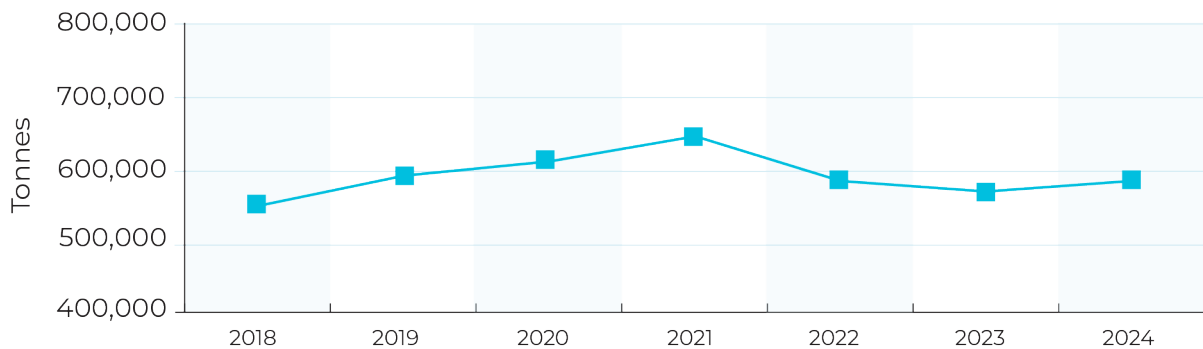
EEE Data: 2018-2024 Household EEE placed on the UK market							
Category (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
01. Large household appliances	551,610	598,953	621,383	660,842	590,392	573,901	590,479
02. Small household appliances	150,108	160,009	177,274	187,861	178,186	199,570	214,753
03. IT and telecommunications equipment	82,369	78,357	84,008	82,561	71,387	63,010	62,504
04. Consumer equipment	42,419	38,433	41,938	35,065	34,544	29,193	30,959
05. Lighting equipment	56	55,749	63,072	67,180	68,043	64,527	60,377
06. Electrical and electronic tools	69,823	68,949	78,382	89,059	69,386	70,224	76,377
07. Toys, leisure and sports equipment	51,868	54,098	72,538	75,642	58,627	56,745	61,943
08. Medical devices	3,060	3,687	4,361	4,753	4,094	3,071	2,977
09. Monitoring and control instruments	11,953	20,368	18,766	24,333	25,557	25,836	22,915
10. Automatic dispensers	44	79	120	372	267	236	264
11. Display equipment	82,075	86,814	106,157	98,017	97,161	83,490	86,370
12. Appliances containing refrigerants	204,311	213,954	245,575	251,997	218,160	213,429	222,008
13. Gas discharge lamps and LED light sources	8,237	8,412	6,585	7,290	5,931	5,397	4,487
14. Photovoltaic panels	19,210	30,983	36,204	43,504	127,054	165,441	158,748
Total	1,277,143	1,418,847	1,556,361	1,628,478	1,548,789	1,554,069	1,595,161

EEE Data: 2018-2024 Household EEE placed on the UK market							
Type (tonnes)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
A. Large household appliances	551,610	598,953	621,383	660,842	590,392	573,901	590,479
B. Cooling appliances	204,311	213,954	245,575	251,997	218,160	213,429	222,008
C. Display equipment	82,075	86,814	106,157	98,017	97,161	83,490	86,370
D. Lamps	8,237	8,412	6,585	7,290	5,931	5,397	4,487
E. Small mixed WEEE	411,700	479,728	540,458	566,827	510,092	512,411	533,069
F. Photovoltaics	19,210	30,983	36,204	43,504	127,054	165,441	158,748
Total	1,277,143	1,418,847	1,556,361	1,628,478	1,548,789	1,554,069	1,595,161

Trends by product type

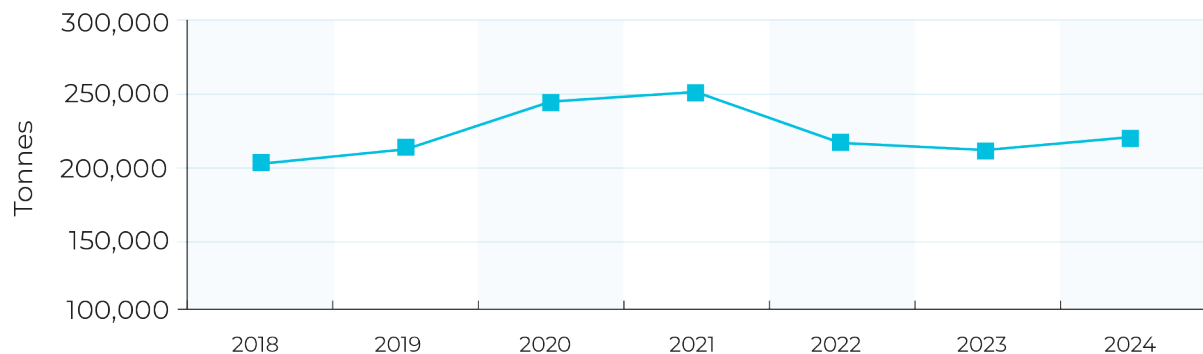
Large household appliances

- Large household appliance sales have risen by **7% between 2018 and 2024**, from 551,610 tonnes to 590,479 tonnes
- Levels increased steadily between 2018 and 2021, **peaking in 2021 at 661k tonnes** (a 20% increase from 2018)
- The amount put on the market fell in 2022 and 2023 before rising again in 2024 with an increase of 17k tonnes (3%) from 2023



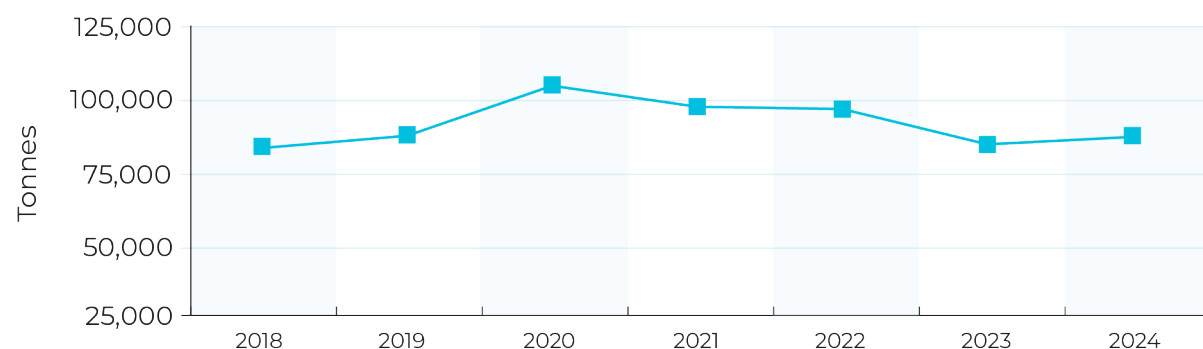
Cooling appliances

- Levels of cooling appliances placed on the market have remained fairly steady, with a small increase in 2020 and 2021
- 2024 saw a slight year-on-year increase, rising from 213k tonnes in 2023 to 222k tonnes



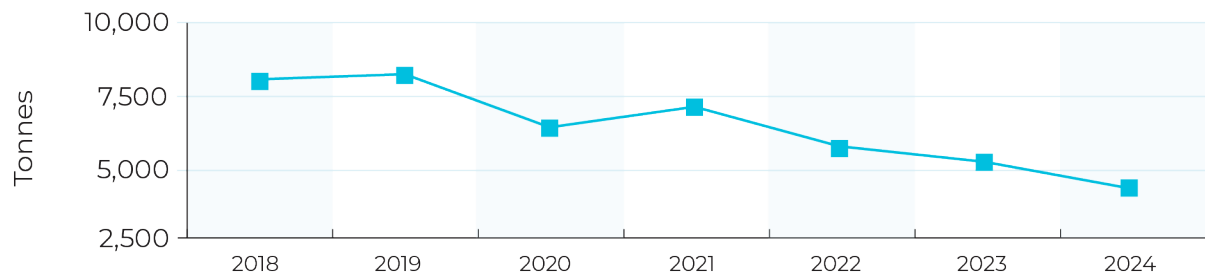
Display equipment

- The amount of display equipment placed on the market has also remained fairly steady across the time period, with an increase in 2020
- There was a small increase from 83k tonnes in 2023 to 86k tonnes in 2024



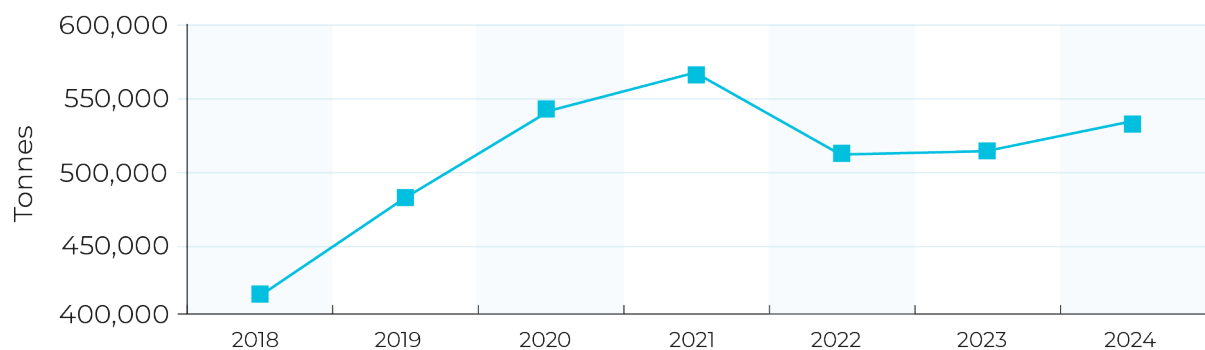
Lamps

- Lamps sales decreased between 2018 to 2024, reaching their lowest point in 2024 with 4,487 tonnes placed on the UK market. This is a 46% decrease from 2018 levels
- Between 2023 and 2024, the amount of lamps placed on the UK market decreased by 910 tonnes (17%)



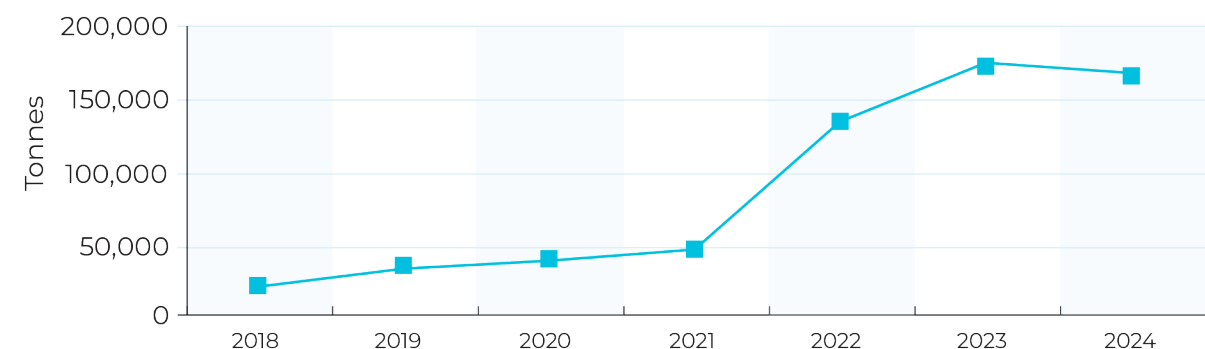
Small electricals

- Levels of small electricals placed on the UK market rose rapidly between 2018 and 2021, marking a 38% increase
- After falling in 2022, the amount has increased gradually, with an overall 29% increase from 2018 levels by 2024
- 21k more tonnes of small electricals were placed on the UK market between 2023 and 2024, a 4% increase



Photovoltaics (solar panels)

- Levels rose gradually between 2018 and 2021 before a steep increase, peaking in 2023 at 165k tonnes
- 2024 has seen a small decrease from 2023, with 159k tonnes placed on the UK market



Methodology

All graphs and calculations are based on the national data sets for WEEE collected in the UK and EEE placed on the UK market, available [here](#).

Overall annual WEEE collection targets for 2019-2023 use information shared by Defra [here](#). We have based collection targets on figures shared by letsrecycle.com for [2018](#) and [2024](#).

Material Focus is an independent, not-for-profit organisation on a mission to stop valuable, critical and finite materials inside electricals from going to waste. We do this through...

Insights

We identify, produce and share insights to improve the UK e-waste system and inform policy decisions.

Investments

We identify and fund projects that make it easier to reuse and recycle; or that encourage circular design.

Inspiration

We inspire, educate and encourage the UK public to fix, donate, sell and recycle their unwanted electricals through our Recycle Your Electricals campaign.