

# **Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Policy Statement**

**Policy Statement: Disposal Waste Electrical or Electronic Equipment and Printer/ Ink Cartridges**

## **1 Introduction**

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive is now UK law. The legislation aims to make producers pay for the collection, treatment and recovery of waste electrical equipment. The regulations also mean that suppliers of equipment like high street shops and internet retailers must allow consumers to return their waste equipment free of charge.

The amount of WEEE we throw away is increasing by around 5% each year, making it the fastest growing waste stream in the UK.

Much of the UK's WEEE ends up in landfill, where the lead and other toxins it contains can cause soil and water contamination. This can have a harmful effect on natural habitat, wildlife and also human health.

Many electrical items that we throw away can be repaired or recycled. Recycling items helps to save our natural finite resources and also reduces the environmental and health risks associated with sending electrical goods to landfill.

Similarly, printer/ ink cartridges can take anywhere between 400 and 1000 years to decompose in landfill. This can be incredibly hazardous for the environment.

Various sources indicate that approximately only 15% of the many millions of printer cartridges that are sold in the UK each year are recycled which means the rest end up in landfill sites. This not only causes a pollutant for the environment, but also wastes our non-renewable resources. So, recycling ink cartridges is the right thing to do when it comes to doing our bit for the environment.

## **2 Policy statement**

In addition to the legal requirement placed on producers and distributors of new Electric and Electronic Equipment, ***Leasowe Community Centre Trust*** understands that it has a moral obligation to play its part in reducing the amount of WEEE and printer/ ink cartridges going to landfill.

***Leasowe Community Centre Trust*** are committed to ensuring that any out-of-date or obsolete Electric and Electronic Equipment and printer/ ink cartridges we are in possession of will be disposed of in an ethical, environmentally friendly manner, in order to eliminate the risk of our equipment ending up in landfill, as far as is practicable within our direct control.

This will be achieved by either returning the equipment to the original supplier/ distributor that the it was purchased from, or by using another appropriate recycling supplier to take it away for repair or recycling. We will never dispose of Electric and Electronic Equipment or printer/ ink cartridges through other means such as simply including it with general waste disposal, or placing it in a skip.