

## **You have the power to reduce electronic and electrical waste**

Every year in the UK, households throw away one-million tonnes of waste electronic and electrical equipment (also referred to as WEEE). This includes items such as televisions, fridges, computers, hairdryers and electronic toys. Disposing of such items in household waste bins means they will end up buried in a landfill site – wasting resources and putting a major strain on the environment.

You can help to reduce this waste by following the Environment Agency's advice:

- Before purchasing an item, think about if you really need a *new* one – could your existing equipment be upgraded, or could you purchase a refurbished product instead?
- If you have a product you no longer use, think about passing it on to someone else.

### **So what should you do when you need to dispose of WEEE?**

- Some retailers operate schemes where they will take your old item if you are replacing it with a new one like-for-like. For example, if you are buying a new kettle, they will take your old one. Ask your retailer if they are part of such a scheme.
- If you are having an item delivered, ask your retailer when arranging this if they will take back the old equipment at the same time. Retailers are only allowed to charge for collecting WEEE, not treating it.
- Old appliances can be taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres. Contact your council to find out what your nearest site accepts and what it doesn't.
- Ask your local council to collect your waste electrical equipment for you. They must collect it, but there may be a charge.

To find out more information visit the Environment Agency's website at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) and search for WEEE, or call us on 0800 807060.