

## Community Awareness Event Talking Points

Have you decided to take part in or host an event? This guide will help you have friendly conversations with people to share information about their local options for reusing and recycling electricals.

Most people think recycling is a good thing, and already recycle paper and plastic, but only 45% of people think recycling electricals is easy. You can help by sharing some simple tips on how to do it..

Below are some suggestions to help you start the conversation. They're just a guide, not a rule - go with what feels natural and let the conversation flow. It might be a good idea to print this out or have it open on your phone so you can refer back.

Feel free to draw on anything you've picked up from the presentation or engagement pack - and most importantly, enjoy it!

**Handy tip before you start** - use the [locator](#) to look up the local repair, donation and recycling options in your area so you are ready to share with people.

Openers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Try to make it personal, relatable and connect on shared experience. Avoid "Can I ask you a question?" - instead, start with:</i></li><li>• If you are like me, you probably have a stash of cables and other electricals that are unused or broken - is it in a drawer of doom, or a box under the bed?</li><li>• <i>You can also share an example e.g I had a drawer in the kitchen that was such a mess of old cables and electricals tangled up.</i></li><li>• <b>OR</b>, Did you know the average UK household has 30 unwanted electricals gathering dust?</li><li>• <b>OR</b>, Are you unsure what to do with your unwanted electricals?</li></ul>
Key information - the solution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Donate or sell</b> electricals that work using organisations like Freegle or platforms like Vinted or Facebook Marketplace.</li><li>• <b>Repair</b> electricals that are fixable and <b>recycle</b> anything that is not.</li><li>• Anything with a plug, battery or cable should never be binned and always recycled - even the batteries and cables themselves.</li></ul>

- Search **Recycle Your Electricals** [or scan the QR code - if you have a poster or banner with you] to find a handy postcode locator where you can find one of 30,000 drop off points across the UK for repair, donation and recycling.
- It's as easy as ABC:
  - **A** - Ask yourself do I need to keep hold of this, does it have any loose batteries that can be taken out?
  - **B** - Bag it up - find a bag you can store all your items ready for recycling so you only have to go once it's full.
  - **C** - Check to see where your nearest drop off point is.
- **For example - there's one just [X] minutes away from here - or another recognisable place in your area**

### Useful information and facts

- Electricals should never be binned- they are filled with precious materials like **gold, copper, lithium and aluminium.**
- Discarded or hoarded household electricals cost the UK economy **£488 million** per year of lost valuable raw materials.
- Saving materials from landfill not only reduces waste but reduces reliance on mining for critical raw materials which is damaging for the environment and for people.
- Binned batteries and electricals containing batteries, such as vapes and electric toothbrushes, are also causing dangerous fires when crushed or damaged in bin and recycling lorries.
- These materials are essential for our **green tech future** and can be turned into anything from **solar panels to children's playgrounds.**
- Saving electricals from landfill reduces carbon emissions, for example using recycled copper uses **85% less energy** than new mined copper.
- If all unwanted electricals were recycled it would save the equivalent CO2 emissions of taking **3.8 million cars off the road.**

### Closing Lines

- Together we can save precious materials, declutter our homes and save the planet!
- Spread the message, tell a friend!

### Questions you may get asked

- **Is it even worth it?**

- 75% of all the materials in electricals can be recycled.
- **Don't they get exported to Ghana anyway?**
  - No electricals should be exported, it is illegal under UK and European Law. The best way to ensure that this doesn't happen is to use local authority, retailer and other approved drop off points and the electricals will go to approved and regulated UK reusers and recyclers.
- **What do I do with my vapes or batteries**
  - Many batteries used within electricals contain lithium-ion which can cause fires when crushed or damaged in the waste stream. All electricals including vapes and batteries should always be recycled separately from your general rubbish and recycling.
  - Many shops offer battery or vape take back - have a look on the locator to find your local drop-off point.
- **My local authority recycling centre requires a car, I don't have a car**
  - Retailers like Curry's, B&Q and John Lewis offer take back, have a look to see if there is one near you. Or use the recycling locator to see if your local authority has kerbside collection or on the street bring banks.
- **I don't have time**
  - Bag up your electricals and wait until the bag is full to take to your local drop-off - look to see if there is one on your way to work, or the shops.
- **What about my data?**
  - It's important to safely protect your personal data. Recycle Your Electricals has created a [data deletion guide](#), developed with the National Cyber Security Centre and We Fight Fraud, to help you securely wipe your devices before passing them on for donation or recycling them. You can find it on their website.