

'About the project' Video transcript

WRAP's Marcus Gover talks about the Critical Raw Material Closed Loop Recovery project

In Europe we're throwing away huge amounts of electrical waste to landfill.

To give you an idea of what I mean, in the UK alone we landfill over half a million tonnes of electrical and electronic goods every year. What's even more shocking is that includes a tonne of gold.

If you roll this out across Europe, then you get the scale of the problem.

In September 2015, the Critical Raw Material Closed Loop Recovery Project was set up to address this. In a nutshell, it will map out the recovery of raw materials from electrical products across Europe. The project runs until March 2019 and is a European Commission Life project with a budget of 2.1 million euros. Ultimately, it aims to increase the recovery of a range of critical raw materials by 5% from everyday unwanted electronic products and small household appliances. By critical raw materials we mean precious metals like gold, silver and platinum group metals.

These materials are crucial to many electrical products, and the increasing pressure on their supply is of growing concern for businesses and governments.

WRAP is the co-ordinating partner for the project, alongside four other organisations.

In Germany we have The Wuppertal Institute and European Advanced Recycling Network.

And from the UK we have the European Recycling Platform and the Knowledge Transfer Network.



Each partner brings their own unique strengths.

At its core is a series of collection and recovery trials in Germany, Italy, Turkey and the United Kingdom. These trials will link collection methods, like kerbside collections or retailer take-back schemes, to how the critical raw materials in these products can be recovered.

Finding effective routes for collecting and recovering these valuable materials will inform the bigger picture, shape policy recommendations and show the economic and environmental benefits of making better use of our resources across Europe.

This is an exciting project because it is the first-of-its-kind linking collection methods with recovery success. This will have a profound effect on the electronics industry and the wider economy.

You can stay close to what we are doing by signing up to receive our e-newsletter and follow us on social media, details of which can be found on our website.

www.criticalrawmaterialrecovery.eu

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