

## 5 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

### TO INCREASE THE COLLECTION AND RECOVERY OF CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS FROM WEEE

**Huge quantities of waste electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE) are disposed of each year in the European Union.**

**The Critical Raw Materials Closed Loop Recovery Project aims to increase the recovery of target CRMs across Europe by 20% by 2030.**

#### Redesign and harmonise WEEE collection infrastructure

By harmonising the collection infrastructure, confusion or incorrect disposal can be avoided, and consistent information and awareness raising activities can be undertaken, resulting in higher disposal and collection rates.



#### Increase awareness amongst citizens and businesses

Consumers and businesses can act as a driver, or barrier, for high quality CRM-rich WEEE reaching the recycling stream. Education and information sharing are paramount in ensuring policymakers, organisations and citizens are equipped with the knowledge of the potential supply risks and the associated impacts.



#### Create incentives for collection and recycling organisations

If industry is not sufficiently supported or incentivised to trial new resource efficient business models that prioritise re-use or invest in CRM recovery facilities, these ventures may be seen as too high a risk. Likewise incentivised trade-in, for example, is a proven method to encourage citizens to donate high-quality CRM-rich electrical items in a good condition.



#### Continue innovation and research on CRM recovery and foster international collaboration



New material innovations in ever more complex electronic products happen in quick cycles, often out-pacing policy developments. Continuing support for research projects to keep up with technology and policy developments that specifically relate to CRMs would help to progress the recovery of CRMs from WEEE.

#### Introduce CRM-specific requirements into standards

Generic or weight-based collection and recycling targets for WEEE result in nations prioritising heavy items such as large domestic appliances (LDAs), which typically do not contain high concentrations of CRMs. Integrating critical raw materials and their recovery strategies into policies will provide an incentive for organisations to prioritise them.

