# Preparation for Reuse of WEEE

*Standardisation and civil society involvement*

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# What is ECOS?

- EU eNGO with 46 member organisations
- Aim to ensure EU & international standards contribute to sustainable development and a circular economy
- Transparency & inclusiveness in standardisation

# What is a standard?

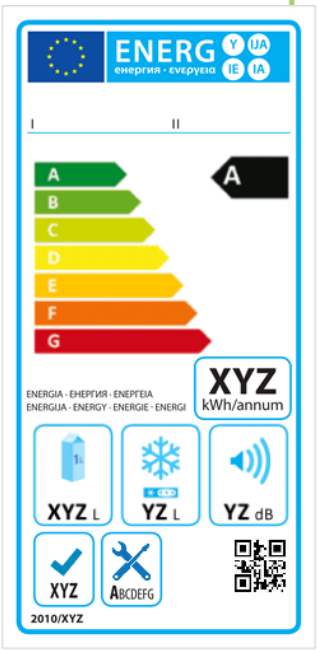
**An set of technical or quality requirements for materials, products or services**

- Ensure fit for purpose (safe, interoperable etc.)
- Voluntary, but help to prove compliance with the law
- Create a level-playing field and facilitate int. trade
- Based on state-of-the-art knowledge

**16 Energy Labels**

**-175 million** tons oil equivalent

**~ 9%** of EU total energy consumption



# Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment

Household appliances, consumer equipment, photovoltaic panels, IT & telecom equipment,

lighting equipment, tools

*EEE: 7.5 M tonnes.*
*WEEE: 3.1 M tonnes*
*(officially reported as collected)*

Contain valuable materials but

sometimes also hazardous substances

*How to ensure safe & sustainable collection, transport and treatment?*

# WEEE Directive

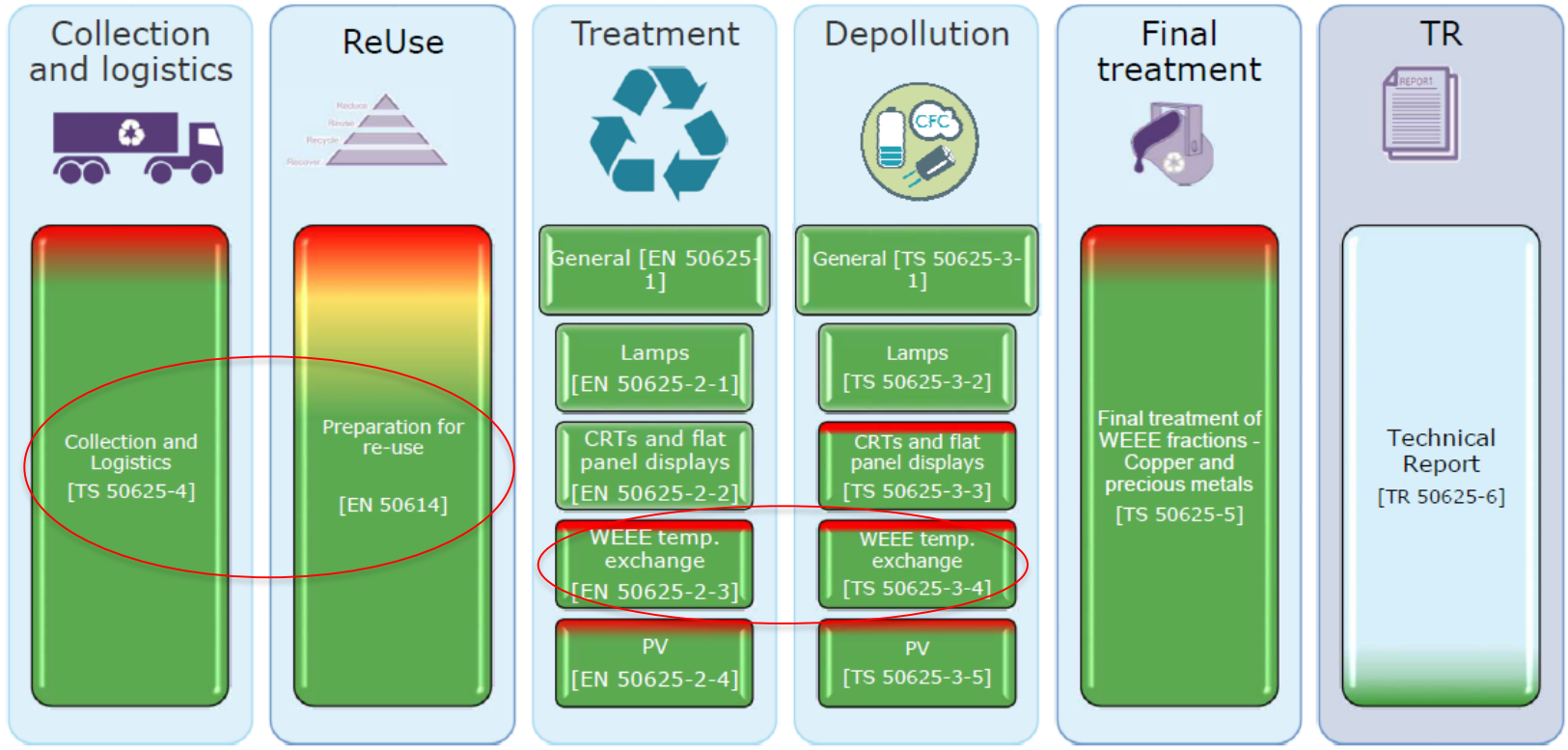
Standardisation request from EC to CEN/CENELEC in 2012 (Article 8.5 of WEEE Directive 2012/19/EU)

Based on WEEELABEX standards

*Assist treatment operators in fulfilling the requirements of the WEEE Directive & give additional guidance*

| SUBJECT | WEEE DIRECTIVE ARTICLES AND ANNEXES | ADDRESSED IN STANDARDS * |
|---|---|---|
| Disposal and transport of collected WEEE for proper treatment and preparing for re-use | 6.1 and 6.2 | ✓ |
| Proper treatment | 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 | ✓ |
| Permits | 9.1 and 9.3 | ✓ |
| Shipments of WEEE | 10.2 | ✓ |
| Recovery targets, calculation method and monitoring | 11.1, 11.2, 11.4 | ✓ |
| Registration, information and reporting | 16.4 | ✓ |
| Inspection and monitoring | 23.1 | ✓ |
| Categories of EEE covered | ANNEX I, ANNEX III | ✓ |
| Indicative list of EEE which falls within categories | ANNEX II, ANNEX IV | ✓ |
| Minimum recovery targets | ANNEX V | ✓ |
| Minimum requirements for shipments | ANNEX VI | ✓ |
| Selective treatment for materials and components of WEEE | ANNEX VII | ✓ |
| Technical requirements for proper treatment | ANNEX VIII | ✓ |

# 7 WEEE standards + 8 TS + 1 TR




prEN 50614 **Preparation for reuse standard**

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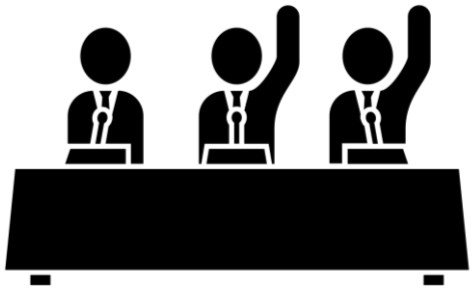
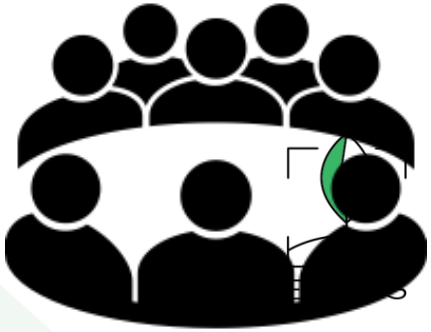
# Actors involved

**Technical Committee 111x**
National delegation principle

**Working Groups**
Mainly experts from national committees, manufacturers, producer federations, logistical operators, recyclers, consultants/auditors, only some reuse operators (+/- 25%)



*Imbalance of representation in the standardisation process favoring product manufacturers*



# Opinion of ECOS & RREUSE on EN 50614

*Obstacles for (preparation for) reuse operators*

Documentation requirements for PfR operators → administrative burden, lack of access to information

References to TS 50625-4 on collection & logistics (and other standards) → inadequate requirements (e.g. weatherproof covering)

Increased costs

# Future outlook

- Voluntary but presumption of conformity
- WEEELABEX certification / CLC standards legally required in BE, FR, NL, IRE & SLO
- EC may adopt minimum quality standards based on the standards in the future

# Case study: Netherlands (BKN)

# Importance of civil society involvement

**Wider perspective to ensure standards benefit society & the environment**

- Make sure the waste hierarchy is followed
- Incorporate views from reuse operators
- Policymakers of EC adopted our concerns!
- Impact assessment & cost-benefit analysis before making standards mandatory

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# What can YOU do?

- *Public authorities & producer schemes*: provide guidance & (operational/financial) support to reuse operators

- *Manufacturers*: provide information free of charge

- *Reuse operators & NGOs*: monitor issues at national level → report to ECOS/RREUSE, provide feedback to national standardisation body

- Provide input for revision (every 3-5 years)

# Other relevant standards

*Within the scope of the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling framework*

**prEN 45552**

General method for the assessment of the durability of energy-related products (ErP)

**prEN 45553**

General method for the assessment of the ability to remanufacture ErP

**prEN 45554**

General methodology for the assessment of the ability to repair, reuse and upgrade energy-related products

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ECOS-EU

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# Our approach

ECODESIGN

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# Definitions

## Preparation for reuse

Checking, cleaning, testing & repairing operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used *(by a person other than its previous owner or user)* without any other pre-processing

## Reuse

Any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived

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# Example: Fridges

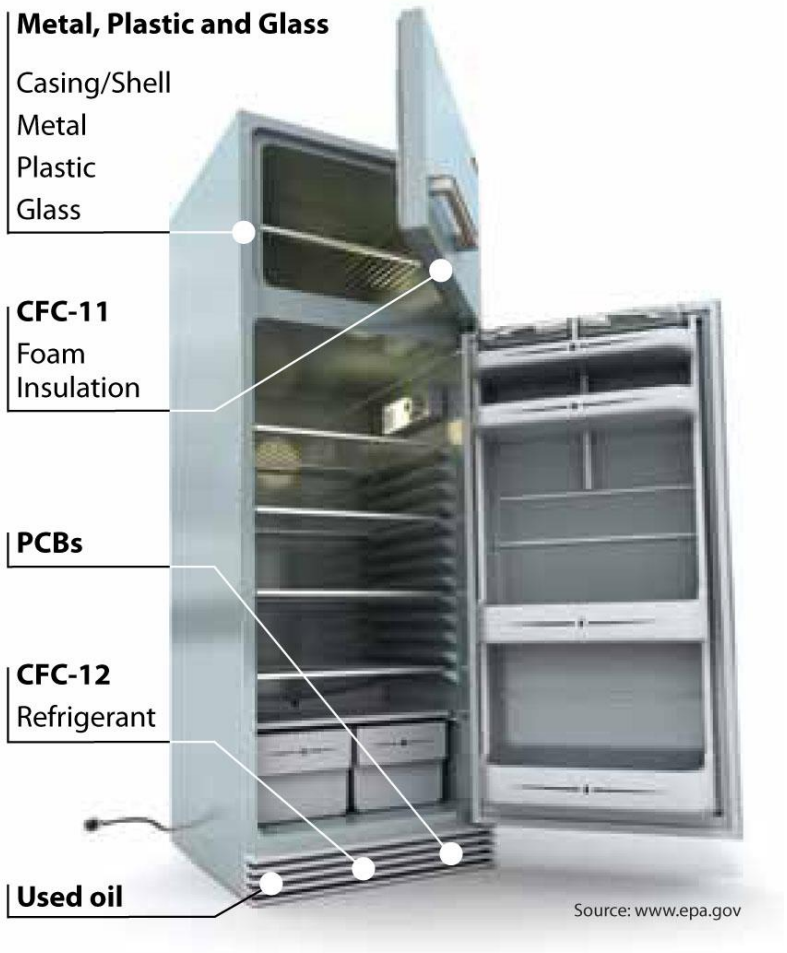
*19 million cooling and freezing appliances discarded in Europe every year have a greenhouse warming potential of up to **26 million tonnes of CO2***

**TS 50625-4**
Specification for the collection and logistics associated with WEEE

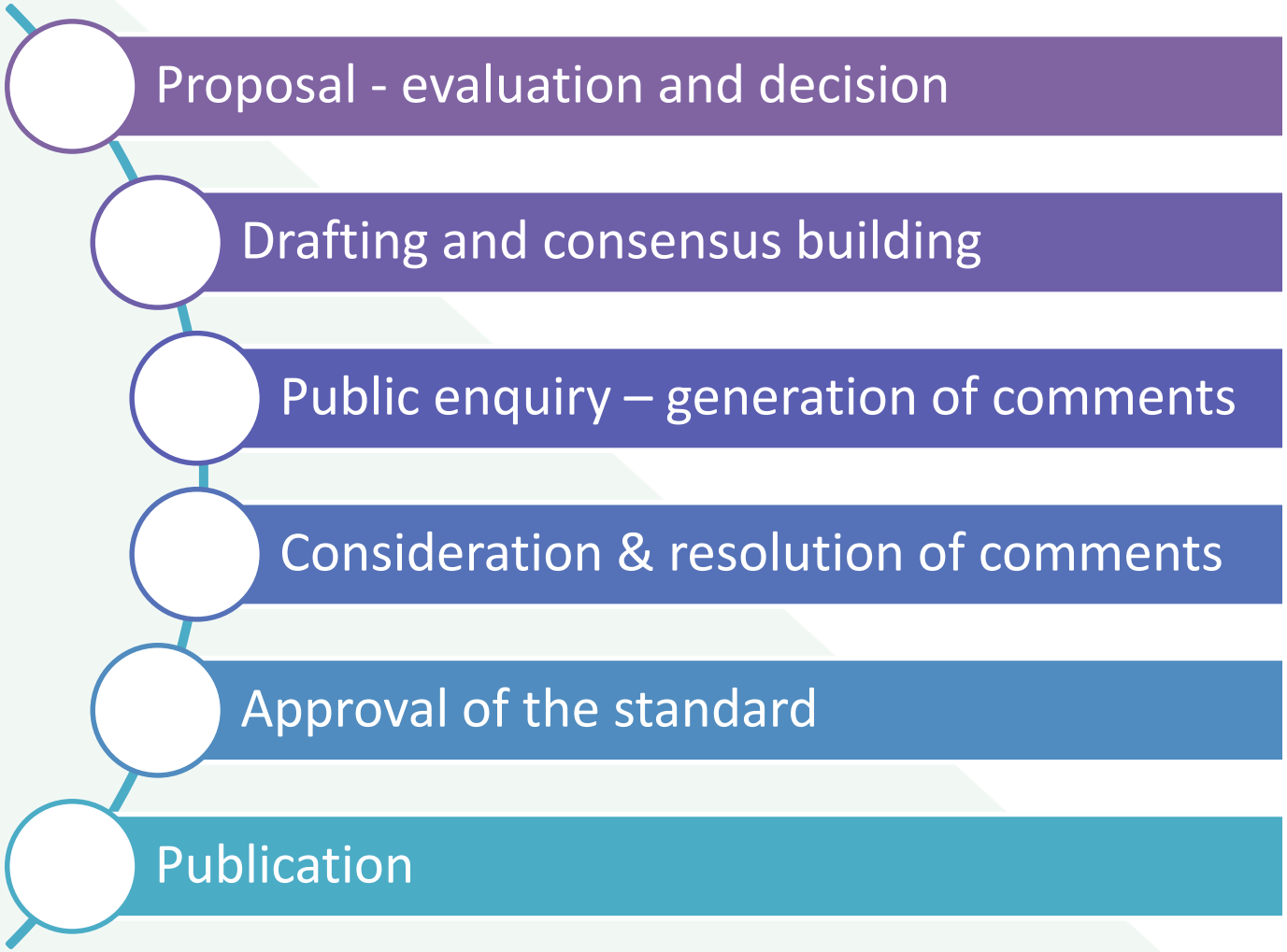
**prEN 50614** (2019)
Preparation for reuse

**EN 50625-2-3** (2017)
Treatment requirements for temperature exchange equipment

**TS 50625-3-4** (2017)
Specification for de-pollution of temperature exchange equipment



# Standardisation Process

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Annex A (informative) An overview of the preparing for re-use process

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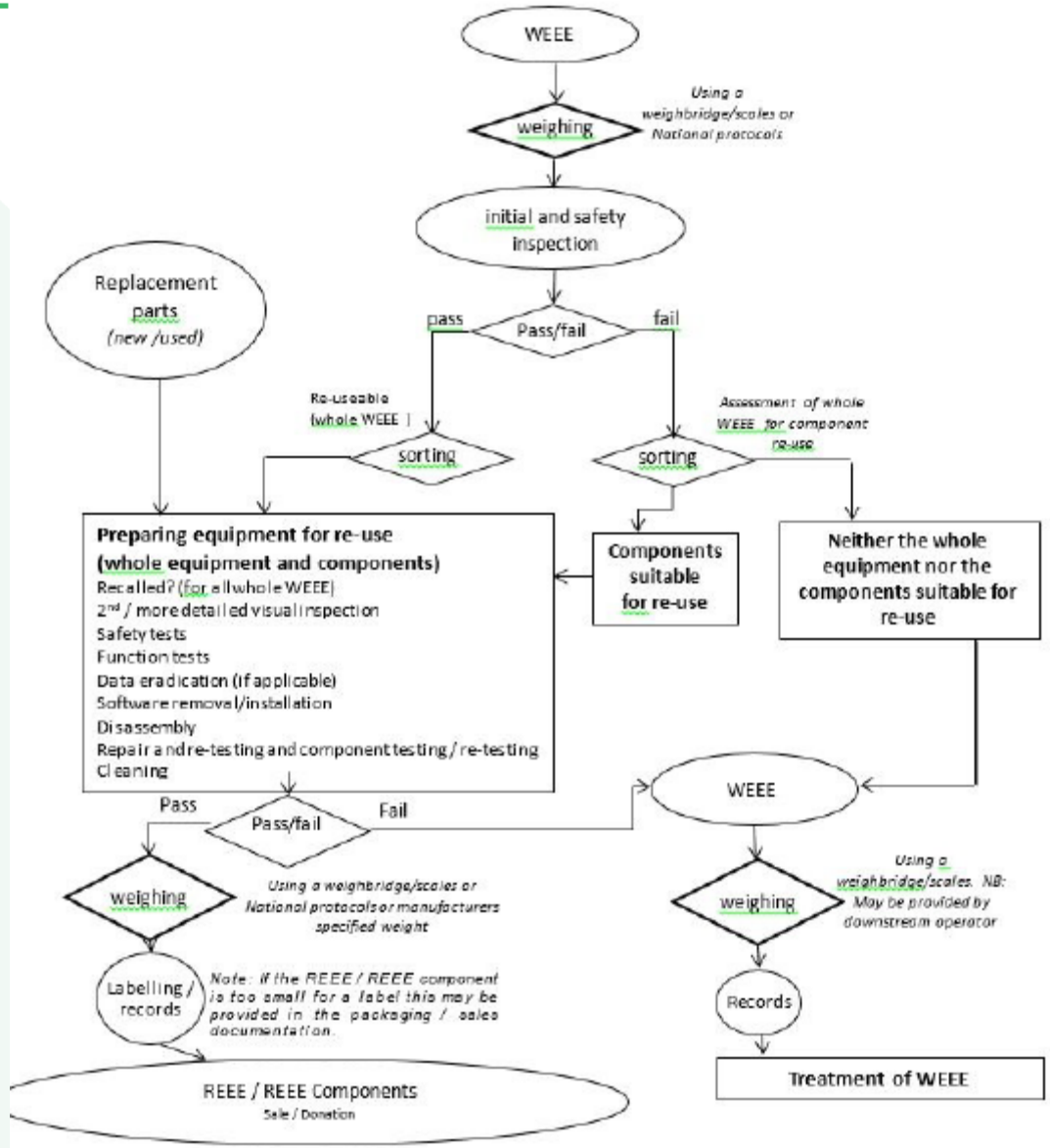
Bibliography

# An overview of the preparing for re-use process

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# Further recommendations

- Preparation for reuse target in WEEE
- EoW criteria for WEEE (national level)
- Fiscal and legal support measures for (prep. for) reuse
- Partnerships with collection & logistics operators and operators who prepare waste electronics for re-use

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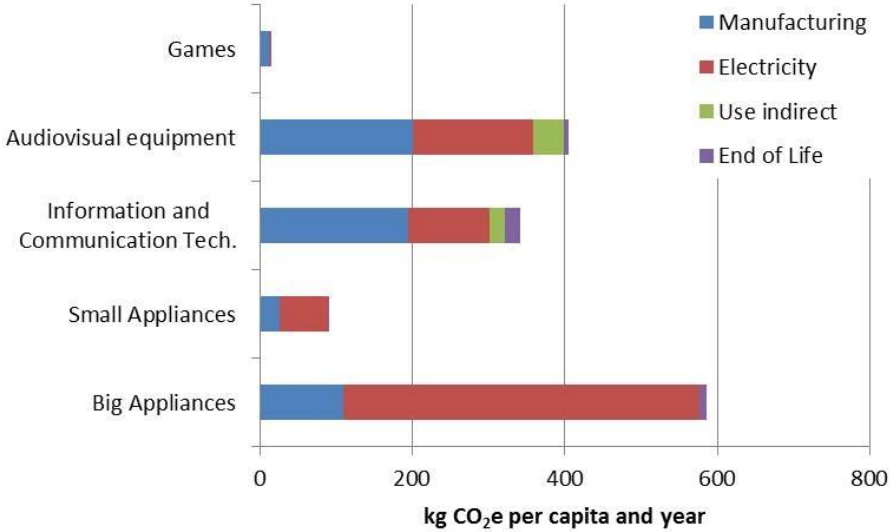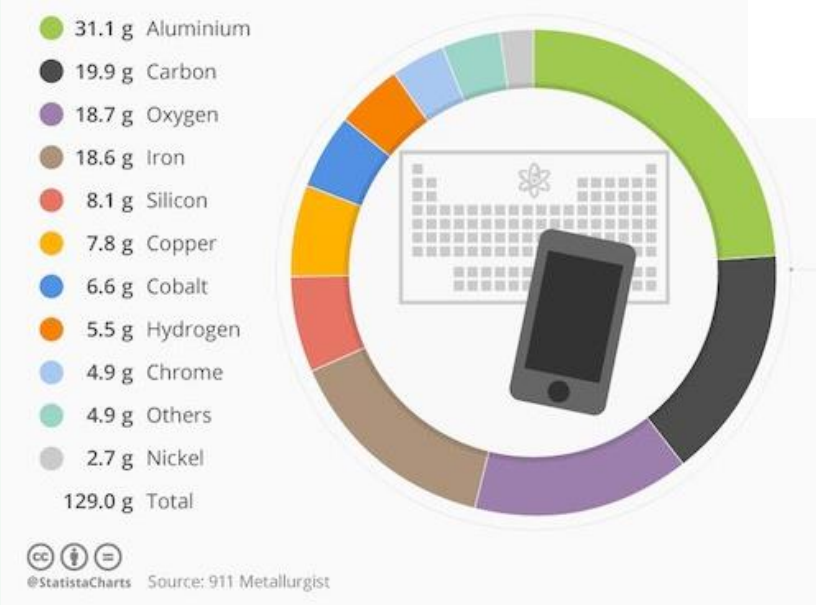
# Environmental impacts of WEEE