



PROJECT FUNDING

MATERIAL FOCUS
ELECTRICALS
RECYCLING FUND
Applicant information



We want to make it easier for the public to recycle their electricals.

The **Electricals Recycling Fund** aims to grow existing methods or test new creative and practical methods for collecting unwanted electricals.

We're keen to hear expressions of interest from organisations seeking to do this.

Why this fund?

Almost 80% of people think recycling their electricals is the right thing to do – but only 45% of people think it's easy. We're launching a £2.5 million fund to support projects that make it easier for more people to reuse and recycle unwanted electricals. The funding is available to any type of organisation that can help do this.

What funding is available?

We're keen to fund two types of projects – those seeking to grow or develop existing household collection services for small household electricals, and those seeking to innovate new collection methods.

Thinking of applying?

Read more about the funds on the next 3 pages and then submit an expression of interest stating which fund you are applying for. We'll review your information against our criteria and invite suitable applicants to submit a full application.

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Growing existing services

What the funding is for

- To expand the collection of electricals and portable batteries to current regular household waste and recycling services.
- To test frequency of household collections (eg monthly, bimonthly or quarterly).

How much is available

- Applicants can apply for up to £0.50 per household receiving the service.
- Projects aiming to grow or develop existing services are capped at £100,000 per applicant.

Examples of projects

- Projects that focus on known collection methods such as:
 - adding cages under refuse collection vehicles (RCVs)
 - dedicating a Romacompartment in RCVs to collect electricals.

Criteria

- Applicants will need to complete an expression of interest form, including an estimate of expected collection capacity and expected collections.

Eligibility

- We're keen to see applications from any registered organisations – such as local authorities, waste collection authority areas, contractors, non-profits, community sector organisations, producer compliance schemes, and retailers.
- If you are a local authority part of a partnership, you can apply as part of that partnership.
- Individuals are not eligible to apply for the funding.

Innovating new methods

What the funding is for

- Funding is available to test new methods for collecting household electricals that have the potential to bring significant benefits.

How much is available

- Funding is expected to be up to £50,000 per project. Material Focus may also consider applications over this amount, if they meet the funding criteria (see next page).

Examples of projects

- Collections of waste electricals alongside other niche waste streams (eg textiles, batteries, furniture)
- Collections of waste electricals using the return journey, or spare capacity during collection/ delivery of parcels
- Use of automated booking systems to manage demand and collection logistics
- Using new, low- energy, low CO₂ modes of transport for collections (eg e-cargo bikes)
- Diversion of electricals for reuse/recycling during household (kitchen) refits, moves or clearances
- Drop-offs via automated locker companies
- Drop-offs at post offices, major supermarkets, large shopping centres or retail parks
- Collection points at large offices or office campuses
- Drop-off points at schools, colleges or universities.

Eligibility

- We're keen to see applications from any registered organisations – such as local authorities, waste collection authority areas, contractors, non-profits, community sector organisations, producer compliance schemes, and retailers.
- The funding is open to any organisation, not just those registered to undertake waste activities.
- If you are a local authority part of a partnership, you can apply as part of that partnership.
- Individuals are not eligible to apply for the funding.

Criteria

Applications will be evaluated against these principles:

- Impact – how much electrical waste/many electricals will the project capture for reuse and recycling
 - Capacity – ability to collect the majority of electricals available in a given area, and to accommodate unexpected surges in demand
 - Convenience – how easy it is for users; how far users have to travel; how flexible the service is in terms of types of items accepted
 - Versatility – whether it will work in a range of environments (ie. is the approach similar in urban and rural areas); flexibility in terms of types of vehicles to be used
 - Cost-effectiveness – seeks to be as inexpensive as possible
 - Pragmatism – projects should:
 - use proportionate resources to collect and process electricals
 - where possible, recycle resources
 - use different interventions to target different types of electricals
 - share resources
 - have a strategy for using spare capacity.
 - Future-proofing – this includes a range of considerations such as:
 - limiting damage to higher-value electricals (such as smartphones, laptops and power tools) to support repair and reuse, where this makes sense, i.e. show that there is demand for the items and that they can easily reach those who want them
 - where reuse of collected items is part of the method tested, revenue generated by the sale of these items should be reinvested into the service to offset overall service costs
 - seeking a net increase in collections locally, rather than just a shift from an existing collection channel (e.g. HWRCs) to the new method
 - minimising CO₂ emissions and other negative environmental impact
 - having a roadmap for achieving net-zero carbon emissions
 - being resilient and continuing to work effectively, independent of factors such as changes to local authority waste and recycling infrastructure, e.g. as a result of upcoming legislative changes or fleet electrification.
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Material Focus is a not-for-profit organisation – our vision is of a world where materials are never wasted.

We are on a mission to get the UK fixing, donating and recycling their electricals – to stop precious resources from being lost forever.

Insights

We deliver technical research to improve understanding and performance of the UK's electricals reuse and recycling system.

Investments

We fund projects which make it easier for people to fix, donate and recycle.

Inspiration

We motivate and encourage people to act through our Recycle Your Electricals campaign.

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