

Clocks go back this HalloWEEEn

As the time is set back one hour this Sunday, WEEE Ireland reminds us that electrical items such as clocks, watches and phones must also go back – for recycling. All household batteries and electrical waste, no matter how large or small, can be recycled free of charge in the following ways: at electrical retailers when purchasing a new item, at civic amenity sites around the country, and at WEEE Ireland public collection events.

Halloween is a scary time in the world of recycling, with the threat of many recyclable materials ending up in bonfires around the country. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and waste batteries can contain hazardous substances which could pose a threat to the environment and human health if burned or dumped illegally. The good news? WEEE and battery recycling is free

Since the scheme began in 2005, the equivalent of over 7 pieces of electrical equipment has been collected for every man woman and child in Ireland – over double the EU target of 4kg per head of population. This places Ireland as one of the top countries in Europe for household electrical recycling.

In 2008, WEEE Ireland was approved as a compliance scheme for battery recycling. This year, millions of small batteries have been used in Irish households to power appliances such as remote controls, digital cameras and children’s toys. WEEE Ireland hopes to encourage the recycling of these batteries and the huge amount that will be used over the coming months with the use of “My Battery Recycling Box”. Using rechargeable batteries is a positive step for the environment as it reduces the amount of waste we produce. Under EU legislation Ireland needs to be recycling over 25% of its batteries by 2012 – we are currently recycling 10-15%.

All batteries can be recycled for free by bring them to retailers that sell similar battery types. Waste batteries can also be brought to local recycling centres or WEEE Ireland special collection events. The scheme also has initiatives collecting electric fence and car batteries.

WEEE Ireland’s recent appearance on TV3s “The Apprentice” saw Bill Cullen’s candidates tasked with creating a bus stop poster campaign to help raise awareness of electrical and battery recycling. The winning “WANTED” themed poster is now on display in bus shelters and ad-boxes around the country, as a gentle reminder of the importance of electrical and battery recycling this time of year.

Further information on electrical and battery recycling, locations of civic amenity sites and schedule of public collection events is available on the WEEE Ireland website www.recyclefree.ie