

Vision

We will slow and close the loop of device lifecycles through caring for our electricals for longer; giving unwanted devices a second life; sharing little-used devices; and recycling all devices when no longer reusable.

Key Facts

We spend **£3.3bn** on electricals per year

An estimated **273,000** tonnes of devices

Embodied emissions from these account for around **138kg** of CO₂e per person in the UK

or **1.3%** of an individual's footprint

Theme Pillars

Extending First Life

Keeps devices at their highest value use (generally their first use) for longer, through repair

Reuse

Avoids reusable devices going to waste by refurbishing them and pairing them with a second owner

Sharing

Avoids unnecessary device purchases where these are little-used and can be readily shared or hired

Collection & Recycling

A critical last stage in the life cycle of all devices – recycling as much as possible and avoiding landfill

Priority Areas for the next 1-2 years

- Extend and maintain the Repair Directory at a London level
- Support repair cafes and restart parties
- Promote buying refurbished devices to residents
- Promote existing sharing and hiring platforms
- Establish accessible, trusted and secure locations for drop-off (computers and smartphones)
- Broadcast the *Recycle Your Electricals* campaign

Key Messages for London Boroughs

- These actions reduce **embodied emissions**. Energy efficiency is also important but is less significant for personal smart devices, and is addressed by national standards.
- Smart devices** (phones, computers, tablets) have the greatest embodied carbon impact. The action plan focuses on these, as well as solutions for other small and medium-sized electricals.

- Extending the first life** of a device offers the greatest carbon reduction, as it delays the purchase of a new device.
- This is followed by giving devices a **second life through refurbishment and reuse**, which can displace new purchases. Some device donations that tackle digital exclusion may bring devices to those who would not otherwise have them however, rather than displacing a purchase.
- Sharing** of electricals is an underexploited opportunity for seldom-used items. Sharing is appropriate for a smaller but still meaningful number of electrical products.
- All electrical items should eventually be **recycled**, and appropriate disposal made easy.

Actions for London Boroughs

Actions to take now

- Let us know which of the priority areas above you are already progressing, or can get involved in.
- Let us know about any existing relationships you have with:
 - Electrical repair community groups
 - Device refurbishment organisations
- Promote the **repair, reuse and sharing resources** below to your residents, businesses and colleagues.
- Join the London-wide [Recycle Your Electricals](#) campaign in **September**, with free campaign resources.
- Donate old corporate devices** via the [National Device Bank](#) or local refurbishment organisations (see the lists from [Restart](#) and [GLA](#))

Actions to take over the next 2 years

- Review your **IT and electricals procurement**. Consider:
 - Purchasing refurbished devices
 - Contracts for longevity e.g. product-as-a-service with ongoing supplier responsibility for maintenance; strategies for devices to be modular and upgraded
 - Evidence of reduced materials, increased recycled content, and lower embodied carbon.
 - Use of lean manufacturing and installation techniques.
 - Strategy for reuse, refurbishment, recycling, and supplier take-back schemes by the supplier to ensure proper end of life treatment
 - Energy efficiency
- Support electrical repair community groups** in your borough.
 - [Find groups](#) affiliated with Restart, or others operating independently.
 - Key opportunities for support can include:
 - Identifying local volunteers with repair skills
 - Promoting events
 - Help with space hire (normally needed once per month or less)
 - Set-up costs (c. £1,500 per group)
 - Coordinating costs (c. £5,000 per year)
- (South and southeast London boroughs) Join north, east and west London in supporting the **expansion of the [Repair directory](#)**. Discuss funding its expansion with your local waste partnership, partner boroughs, and Restart.
- Set up **reuse collection points** for smart devices.
- Partner with local or national refurbishment organisations to regularly collect laptops, tablets and smartphones from community sites such as libraries.

Support & Resources Available for Boroughs

The list below includes existing platforms and resources that boroughs can promote to residents or use themselves. Please note: options listed below have been recommended based on research for the OWL programme, but not all are quality assured by the programme. Boroughs should undertake the usual due diligence when proceeding with them, and alternatives may be available.

Extending first life:

- [Repair directory](#) – map of London electrical repair businesses that exceed minimum warranty periods and positive reviews
- [Restart parties](#) – electrical repair community groups where residents can volunteer or bring their devices for fixing
- [iFixit](#) – self-repair guides and repairability ratings for a wide range of device models

Reuse:

- Options for **buying refurbished devices**:
 - For **individuals**: [Backmarket](#) – platform offering minimum 12-month warranties, 30-day return period, and quality assurance of sellers
 - For **schools, charities, and SMEs**: [Reconome](#) – business selling low-cost donated and refurbished devices in bulk to schools, charities and SMEs
 - For **boroughs, businesses and individuals**: Purchase direct from manufacturers. Many IT companies now sell their refurbished devices directly, including Dell, HP and Lenovo.
- Where to **donate devices**:
 - [GLA](#) list of London-based schemes (donations from individuals or organisations)
 - [Restart](#) list of London and national schemes (donations from individuals or organisations)
 - [National Device Bank](#) (donations from organisations only)
 - [Reconome](#) (donations from organisations only) - business selling low-cost refurbished devices to schools, charities and SMEs

Sharing:

- [Library of Things](#) – growing network of ‘libraries’ for hiring electrical and other items
- [Tryatec](#) – online platform for hiring devices
- [Sharebee](#) – peer-to-peer hiring platform
- [Streetbank](#) – peer-to-peer lending platform

Collection and recycling:

- [Recycle Your Electricals](#) – map of reuse and recycling options, and electrical campaign materials

Get in Touch!

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