

National WEEE Assessment 2026

Guyana



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National WEEE Assessment 2026

Guyana

Abstract & Authors

This national assessment report provides a comprehensive assessment of WEEE management in Guyana, including material flow analysis, economic evaluation, infrastructure assessment, and technical capacities.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations	
ASGM	Small-Scale Gold Mining
BAT	Best Available Techniques
BCRC – Caribbean	Basel Convention Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer in the Caribbean
BEP	Best Environmental Practices
Caricom	Caribbean Community
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EEE	Electrical and Electronic Equipment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPR	Extended Producers Responsibility
ESM	Environmentally Sound Management
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HCI	Human Capital Index
kg	Kilograms
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Abbreviations	
MT	Metric Tons
NAP	National Action Plan
NDCs	Neighbourhood Democratic Councils
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NSO	National Statistical Offices
POM	Put on the Market
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RDCs	Regional Democratic Councils
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SLR	Sea Level Rise
SUWAMA	Suriname Waste Management
TBM	Transboundary movement
UNITAR – Scycle	United Nations Institute for Training and Research – Sustainable Cycles programme
UNU KEYS	United Nations University KEYS
USD	United States Dollar
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment



Introduction

Global and regional e-waste situation

Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) refers to all products that have circuitry or electrical components and a power or battery supply (StEP Initiative, 2014). EEE encompasses a wide range of products used by households and businesses, including refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, and hairdryers, as well as electronic devices such as mobile phones, wireless headphones, and tablets.

High-income countries average 109 EEE items per capita, while low-income countries can average as few as 4 items per capita (Baldé et al. 2024). EEE becomes e-waste, or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), once it is discarded by its owner with no intention of reusing the item (StEP Initiative, 2014). In this study, the authors decided to use both the term WEEE and e-waste, the first one being more in line with the European Union (EU) terminology and the second one having a more global meaning. The classification of WEEE is illustrated in the next sections ([see chapter 2](#)).

According to the recently published Global E-waste Monitor 2024 (Baldé et al. 2024), in 2022 a record 62 billion kg of e-waste or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) was generated globally (equivalent to an average of 7.8 kg per capita per year). However, only 22.3 per cent of this e-waste mass was documented as formally collected and recycled in an environmentally sound manner.

Since 2010, globally the growth of e-waste generation is outpacing the formal collection and recycling by almost a factor of 5. When the total benefits from viable recovery of metals as secondary resources (USD 28 billion) and the monetized savings of avoided greenhouse gas emissions (USD 23 billion) are deducted from the costs of e-waste treatment (USD 10 billion) and externalized costs to human health and the environment (USD 78 billion), the result is a net loss of USD 37 billion in the world's current e-waste management practices.

According to the Global E-waste Monitor, 13.8 billion kg of global e-waste that undergoes environmentally sound treatment at a cost USD 0.36/kg; this is 3 times more than the average cost of e-waste disposed of as residual waste, recycled outside compliant

recycling schemes or managed by the informal sector (USD 0.12/kg). The higher treatment costs are mostly attributable to the costs of depolluting e-waste and auditing, administration and attaining the minimum environmental health and safety standards associated with compliant management of e-waste.

The situation related to WEEE management varies significantly in different regions of the world. In the Caribbean, the amount of e-waste grew by more than 60 per cent from 148 million kg in 2010 to 241 million kg in 2022. This equals the generation of 7.6 kg/capita per year of e-waste and is close to the global average of 7.8. The documented formal e-waste collection rate in the Caribbean region was close to 0% in 2022, which is significantly lower than the global average of 22.3 per cent.

Hence, e-waste management poses a pressing challenge in the Caribbean region, in the absence of specific regulations and policies addressing the issue and the absence of a formal e-waste management infrastructure. E-waste management responsibilities in different Caribbean countries are shared among various entities.

Since 2010, globally the growth of e-waste generation is outpacing the formal collection and recycling by almost a factor of 5.

Overview of the consultancy

The Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme of UNITAR, Division for Planet, has been contracted by the BCRC Caribbean to conduct the activities related to Output 3.1 of the ISLAND project. Representatives of the Suriname Waste Management foundation (SUWAMA), a local organization in Suriname dealing with waste management issues, were hired as individual consultants by UNITAR SCYCLE for assistance and support.

UNITAR SCYCLE is the global scientific leader in e-waste research and information provision to various stakeholders and the public. SCYCLE's mission is to promote sustainable societies. Its activities focus on the development of sustainable production, consumption and disposal patterns for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), as well as for other ubiquitous goods. SCYCLE leads the global e-waste discussion and advances sustainable e-waste management strategies based on life cycle thinking. Thanks to its scientifically recognized methodology to quantify the e-waste management, which is recognized at the global level, SCYCLE puts its methodology at the service of the project implementation, as further specified below.

As part of **Deliverable 2** of Output 3.1 of the ISLANDS project, this national assessment report provides an overview on the WEEE management situation in the country of **Guyana**, including some conclusive remarks and recommendations on next steps to be taken at national level to further improve the management of a challenging waste stream such as the WEEE.

The report is structured as follows:

- first, a [methodological note](#) explains the main data sources used for the analysis and the analytical approach used for both the qualitative and quantitative sections.
- [Chapter 1](#) presents a country overview, including a socio-economic background introduction and an overview on the legislative landscape specific on e-waste or, when e-waste is not covered by national legislation, the relevant policies and legislations which includes indirectly also WEEE.
- [Chapter 2](#) presents the result of the WEEE flows assessment at national level, from 2010 and with projections up to 2030. When information was available, a short paragraph is also investigating the transboundary movements of WEEE.
- [Chapter 3](#) presents the analysis of the information collected through the project survey, distributed among representatives of both the private and the public sector in Guyana, giving an initial overview and assessment of the technical and infrastructural capacity for WEEE management at national level.
- [Chapter 4](#) goes more into detail in the economic impact assessment of WEEE management in Guyana.
- [Chapter 5](#) presents the main conclusions of the analysis, and some targeted recommendations on possible way forward to improve the WEEE management sector at national level.



Methodological Note

The methodology used for the data collection and analysis for the national assessment reports is mixed, both qualitative and quantitative.

The qualitative part included the following main tools:

- A comprehensive survey, mainly distributed online, targeting the main stakeholders in each project country, including governmental officers/policy makers, EEE producers/importers, recycling companies, WEEE importing and exporting companies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other relevant organizations.
- Follow-up semi-structured interviews and/or focus groups, based on predefined guidelines and adapted according to the specific needs, also based on the possible gaps in the data collection through the survey.

The structure of the online survey is included in [Annex 1](#).

An in-country mission was carried out in Guyana by representatives of the UNITAR consultancy team from 29th June to 3rd July 2025. The mission plan and overview of meetings held is included in [Annex 3](#), together with pictures from the visit. During the in-country mission, bilateral interviews and site visits were carried out as part of the methodology used for the drafting of this national report.

A total of 9 respondents provided information, either via interview, a site visit or response to the survey, of which 2 respondents were from the private sector. In terms of gender balance, in Guyana, near equal respondents were counted: 5 identified as Male and 4 identified as Female.

The structure of the online survey is included in [Annex 1](#).

In addition to the qualitative approach, quantitative data was collected and analysed. These include data on Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) Put On the Market (POM); WEEE generated, collected and recycled (if available), economic costs and benefits related to WEEE management by national facilities. The methodology applied on the quantitative data analysis is further detailed under [paragraph 2.1](#), for what concerns the WEEE flows. The structure of the data gathering for the economic impact analysis is presented in [Annex 2](#).

However, it must be noted that for Guyana, no financial information was shared by private stakeholders – therefore the analysis of the economic impact described in [chapter 4](#) is rather based on qualitative information collected through the survey and the Validation Workshop.

The draft national assessment report was shared with stakeholders for review and additional input and was presented to the country's representatives on November 24th, 2025, during the national validation workshop. All the additional inputs, information to fill in existing gaps and relevant comments have been reflected in the final version of the report.





Chapter 1.

Country Profile

1.1 COUNTRY OVERVIEW

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana, hereafter referred to as Guyana, is situated on the northern mainland of the South American continent, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, Brazil to the south-west, Venezuela to the west, and Suriname to the east. The only anglophone country in South America, Guyana—historically, culturally and geopolitically—has been considered a Caribbean country and is a founding member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Guyana, which is the third smallest country by area on the continent of South America (215 000 square kilometres), is classified as a middle-income country. Traditionally, the country's economy was heavily dependent on the export of six main commodities: sugar, gold, bauxite, shrimp, timber, and rice. These export commodities represented nearly 60% of the country's GDP (BCRC, BOKU 2022). The country's economic situation changed intensely in 2015 with the first of a raft of rich deepwater oil field discoveries in Guyana's offshore Stabroek Block (Britannica 2025).

Guyana



Figure 1. Map of Guyana

Source: Ocha 2022.

Table 1. Socio-economic indicators, World Bank

Population	831 087 (2024)
Population growth (annual %)	0.6 (2024)
Human Capital Index (HCI) ¹ (scale 0–1)	0.5 (2020)
GDP (current US\$)	24.84 (2024)
GDP per capita (current US\$)	29 883.6 (2024)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	2.9 (2024)
Access to electricity (% of population)	98.9
Individuals using the Internet (% of population)	82 %

Source: World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/country/guyana>

Socio-economic environment

Guyana has one of the world's fastest-growing economies following the development of its oil and gas sector, which is helping address longstanding social and economic needs. In 2024, the national economy grew of 43.6 % – however the population is not experiencing the expected positive effects – the current unemployment rate is at 10.2 %.

Poverty and social exclusion have been prevalent in the hinterland regions and among indigenous Amerindians. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing are important drivers of job creation and poverty reduction, as over 70 % of the working-age population resides in rural areas. However, a lack of recent data inhibits assessing progress on poverty reduction and social inclusion. Food insecurity and livelihood challenges remain high. According to a WFP-led survey in April 2024, an estimated 5 per cent of respondents are severely food insecure and 36 per cent moderately food insecure, while half reported experiencing disruptions to livelihood (OCHA 2025).

Waste management system

Starting in 2023, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development (MLGRD) in Guyana has been pushing to establish new solid waste management facilities (landfill sites) in all 10 administrative regions by 2030 (DPI 2023).²

The MLGRD, through municipalities, Regional Democratic Councils (RDCs) and Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs), contracts private waste handlers to collect, transport and dispose municipal and household waste at landfills.

The major waste collectors, which are contracted to support the MLGRD, are Cevons Waste Management and Puran Brothers Inc. (BCRC, BOKU 2022); however other waste collectors are involved to cover all 10 administrative regions in the country.

1.2 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

As reported in the national legal and institutional capacity assessment developed under the ISLANDS Project (2024), Guyana has not formulated an overarching policy to address the management of hazardous chemicals, products, materials, and wastes.

An Implementation Plan for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was developed in 2011, covering the period 2012–2015 – where waste management was identified as one of the top seven priorities.

Moreover, a draft National Solid Waste Management Strategy was developed in 2013, with respect to waste management, under the leadership of the MLGRD.

¹ The HCI calculates the contributions of health and education to worker productivity. The final index score ranges from zero to one and measures the productivity as a future worker of child born today relative to the benchmark of full health and complete education.

² <https://dpi.gov.gy/govt-aiming-for-new-waste-management-sites-in-all-regions-by-2030/>

The table below provides an overview on the country's status of ratification to the main Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs):

Table 2. Status of Multilateral Environmental Agreements – Guyana

Multilateral Environmental Agreement	Entry into force
Basel Convention	2001
Ban Amendment	–
Rotterdam Convention	2007
Stockholm Convention	2007
Minamata Convention	2014

Source: National legislative and institution assessment report – Guyana, 2024

An ongoing project to update the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan (NIP) was approved in 2019 and is currently under implementation by BCRC–Caribbean and UNEP. In 2021, Guyana developed a National Action Plan (NAP) for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

Currently, **there is no comprehensive policy or legislation governing the management of WEEE in Guyana.**

However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has a regulatory oversight of operations, projects or activities that may significantly impact the environment, and is the only body that regulates environmental protection. The EPA's regulatory mandate encompasses the complete waste management chain, from transportation and treatment to final disposal, to ensure it does not impact the environment. This framework also includes the recovery and recycling of waste materials. The EPA provides the framework for hazardous waste management, which includes WEEE that exhibits hazardous characteristics. Under the Act's Hazardous Waste Regulation of 2000, any waste—including WEEE—is classified as hazardous if it meets one or more criteria defined by international agreements like the Basel Convention. These characteristics include toxicity (e.g., lead, mercury), corrosivity (e.g., battery acids), and flammability (e.g., lithium-ion batteries).

Once classified as hazardous, WEEE is subject to strict rules governing its storage and disposal. Furthermore, any entity generating or managing over 100 kg of such waste, must obtain authorization from the EPA.

However, legislation governing both hazardous and non-hazardous e-waste will need to be amended or developed to ensure that the Basel e-waste amendments are fully implemented.

The Hazardous Waste Regulations also do not include e-waste in the list of hazardous wastes to be controlled in Schedule 1 of the Regulations. Similarly, e-waste is not covered by the Draft Solid Waste Management Bill 2014.





Chapter 2.

WEEE Flows Assessment: A Country Perspective

2.1 METHODOLOGY

This paragraph describes the methodology used by the UNITAR SCYCLE team to compile the WEEE flows assessment and analysis, under chapter 2. It is based on the standardized methodology developed by the SCYCLE team, in cooperation with other international agencies, as also explained in the international statistical guidelines (Forti et al. 2020)³.

Due to the wide variety of EEE products available in the market, it is essential to categorize them in groups that reflect their key characteristics. The United Nations University KEYS (UNU-KEYS) and the categories in the EU WEEE Directive can be used to classify EEE products, as explained below:

- The UNU-KEYS are a product categorisation comprised of 54 categories developed by UNU⁴. The UNU-KEYS are constructed in such a way that product groups share comparable average weights, material compositions, end of-life characteristics, and hazardous profile and lifetime distributions. The UNU-KEYS encompass all possible EEE (more than 900 products), and their classifications can be linked to the EU categories.
- The EU WEEE Directive currently covers 6 categories, as listed in Annex III of the WEEE-Directive 2012/19/EC, entered into force in 2018, and before there were 10 categories that are linked to the UNU-KEYS classification system. The data in this study is presented according to the WEEE Directive's 10 categories for harmonization purposes. The 10 e-waste Categories can be found in Table 3.

Table 3. E-waste 10 Categories

E-waste category	Description
CAT. 1	Large household appliances
CAT. 2	Small household appliances
CAT. 3	IT and telecommunications equipment
CAT. 4	Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
CAT. 5	Lighting equipment
CAT. 6	Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
CAT. 7	Toys, leisure and sports equipment
CAT. 8	Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products)
CAT. 9	Monitoring and control instruments
CAT. 10	Automatic dispensers

Understanding the quantities, characteristics and pathways of e-waste – along with collecting accurate and up-to-date data – provides a solid foundation for monitoring e-waste generation and management. The measurement framework, developed by UNITAR-SCYCLE and detailed in the E-waste Statistics Guidelines⁵, follows a mass balance approach over the EEE's entire life cycle. The methodology covers production, trade, placing on the market, e-waste generation, e-waste management, and other e-waste related activities, as represented in Figure 2. It covers any product supplied to the national market for consumption that is used by households, businesses, or public authorities.

³ https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6477/RZ_EWaste_Guidelines_LoRes.pdf

⁴ Ibid

⁵ https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6477/RZ_EWaste_Guidelines_LoRes.pdf

The methodology follows four steps:

1. The EEE put on the market (POM) is calculated using the apparent consumption method, as the sum of the domestic production and imports of EEE minus the EEE exported for a specific year. The data source used in this calculation are the Comtrade trade statistics.⁶

$$POM(t) = \text{Domestic production } (t) + \text{Imports } (t) - \text{Exports } (t)$$

2. After the EEE is placed on the market, it remains in use until the product is discarded – this period is referred as the product's lifetime. A product's lifetime profile indicates the obsolescence rate per year following its sale. The total amount of equipment in households, businesses, and the public sector is referred to as the stock.
3. After a certain lifetime, the product is disposed and it becomes waste, which is referred as the e-waste generated, prior to collection. The quantity of e-waste generated is calculated from the product's POM time-series, taking into account their respective rates of obsolescence in the evaluation year.
4. The e-waste follows different flows, including the formal and compliant collection. Data on the e-waste collection is requested to countries and provided by the National Statistical Offices (NSOs).

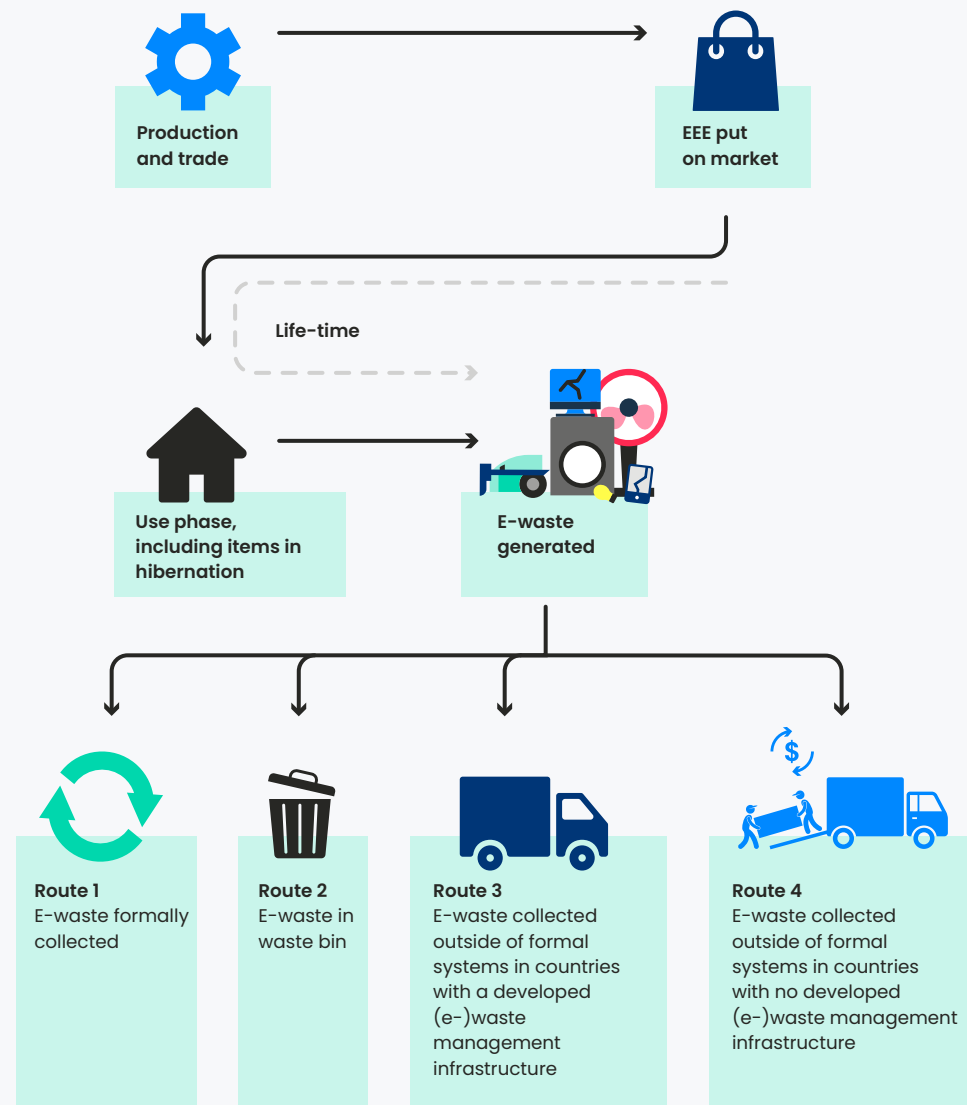


Figure 2. E-waste Statistics Framework

⁶ <https://comtradeplus.un.org/>.

In the collected survey, it was reported that the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and other Environmental Bodies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, are the responsible bodies for collecting data on e-waste in **Guyana**. However, **no indication was given on a regular reporting system in place on EEE and e-waste at national level.**

No official data on e-waste collected or recycled has been shared by authorities in Guyana.

2.2 WEEE FLOWS AND OUTLOOK, FROM 2010 TO 2030

This paragraph describes the flows of EEE Put On the Market (POM) and e-waste generated in Guyana, from 2010 to 2030. Figure 3 and Figure 4 represent a time series from 2010 to 2030 of the EEE put on the market and the e-waste generated in Guyana, respectively. From 2010 to 2022, POM data is based on the historical country's data from the Comtrade database, estimated with the apparent consumption methodology, and from 2023 to 2030 the data is an estimation based on the previous trends.

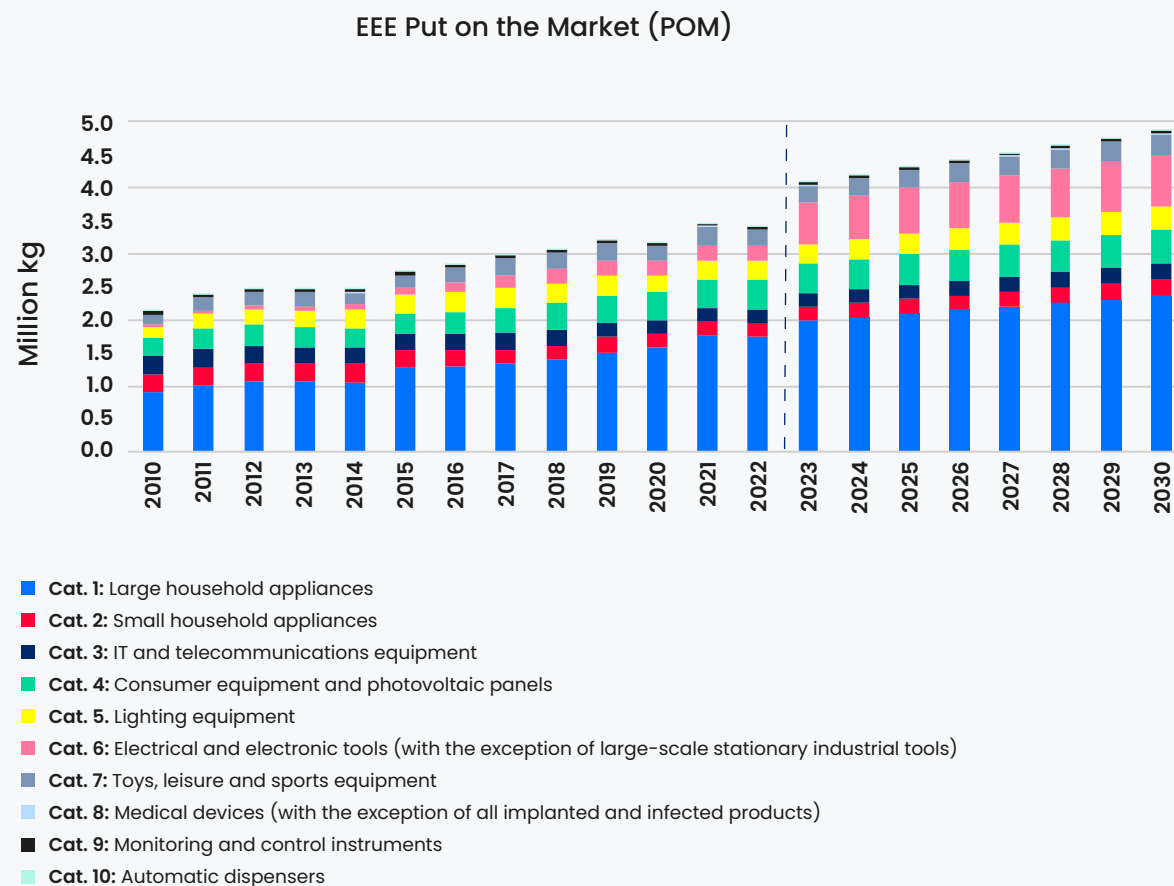


Figure 3. EEE POM in Guyana, 2010–2030

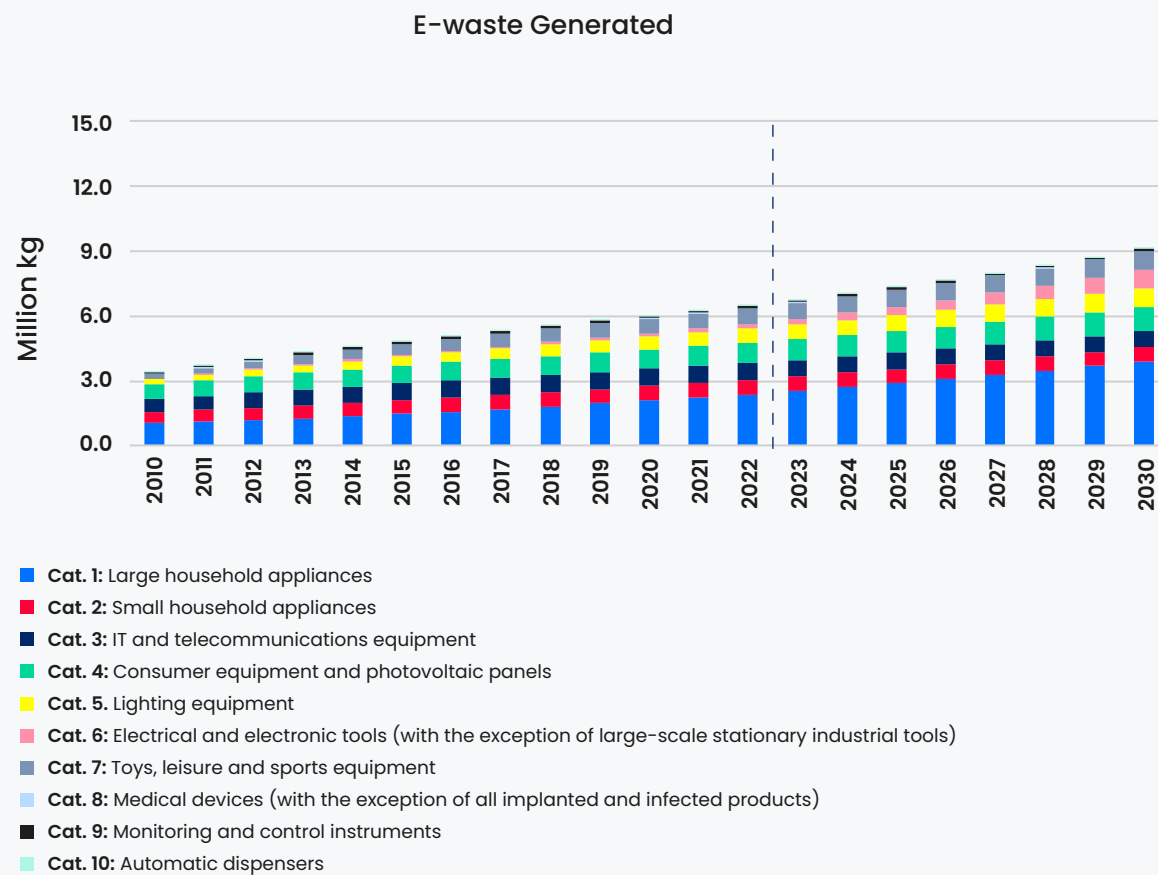


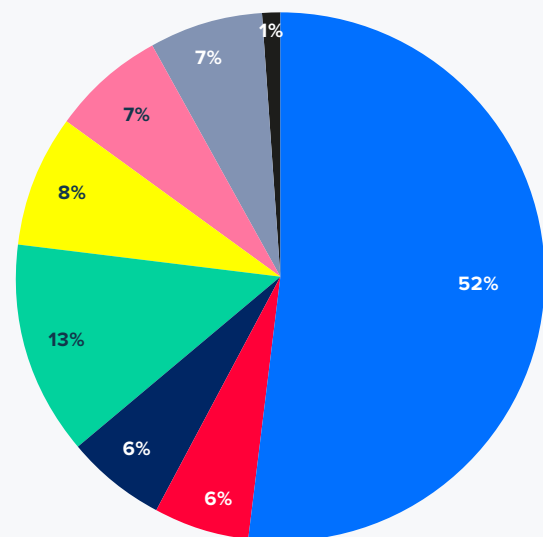
Figure 4. E-waste Generated in Guyana, 2010–2030

EEE Placed on the Market (POM) and e-waste data in Guyana estimated with the apparent consumption methodology show that the amount of EEE POM yearly has been rapidly increasing from 6.39 million kg in 2010 to 10.22 million kg in 2022, and it is projected to keep increasing and reach 14.59 million kg in 2030. During the same period, the amount of e-waste generated has almost doubled, from 3.41 million kg in 2010 to 6.50 million kg in 2022, and it is projected to increase up to 9.12 million kg in 2030.



In 2022, as it can be seen in Figure 5, the largest contributors to the POM in the country were Category 1 (52%), Category 4 (13%), and Category 5 (8%). When it comes to e-waste generated, as seen in Figure 6, Category 1 (37%), Category 4 (14%), and Category 3 (11%) are the largest contributors.

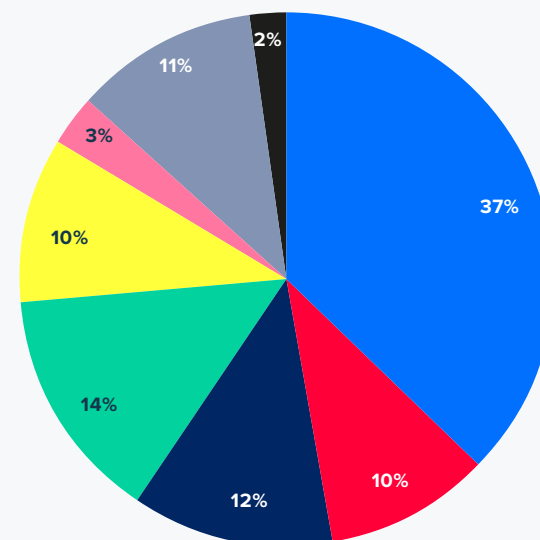
EEE POM per Category in 2022



- Cat. 1: Large household appliances
- Cat. 2: Small household appliances
- Cat. 3: IT and telecommunications equipment
- Cat. 4: Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
- Cat. 5: Lighting equipment
- Cat. 6: Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
- Cat. 7: Toys, leisure and sports equipment
- Cat. 8: Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products) 0%
- Cat. 9: Monitoring and control instruments
- Cat. 10: Automatic dispensers 0%

Figure 5. EEE POM per category in Guyana, 2022

E-waste Generated in 2022



- Cat. 1: Large household appliances
- Cat. 2: Small household appliances
- Cat. 3: IT and telecommunications equipment
- Cat. 4: Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
- Cat. 5: Lighting equipment
- Cat. 6: Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
- Cat. 7: Toys, leisure and sports equipment
- Cat. 8: Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products) 0%
- Cat. 9: Monitoring and control instruments
- Cat. 10: Automatic dispensers 0%

Figure 6. E-waste Generated per category in Guyana, 2022

Globally, Guyana is not a high contributor to the e-waste generated, as the largest contributions come from more populated countries. However, in terms of e-waste generated per capita, according to the Global E-waste Monitor 2024 (Baldé et al. 2024) **Guyana generated 8.1 kg/inhabitant in 2022, ranking 99th worldwide** – comparable to countries like China, Paraguay, and Albania. Within the Caribbean region, Guyana is comparable to countries like the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

The largest contributor to the EEE put on the market, in terms of mass, are large household appliances (Category 1), which account for 5.28 million kg of the POM in 2022 (52% of the total). This is due to the high average weight of the products included in this category (e.g., fridges, washing machines, dishwashers). Category 1 has almost doubled from 2010 to 2022, and it is projected to continue doing so up to 2030. Category 1 is also the largest contributor to the e-waste generated, with 2.39 million kg in 2022, accounting for 37% of the total e-waste generated in Guyana that year. **The amount of e-waste generated has been steadily increasing since 2010, and it is expected to keep rising.**

Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels (Category 4) is the second largest contributor to EEE put on the market, accounting for 1.33 million kg in 2022 – which corresponds to a 13% of the total. The amount of Category 4 equipment sold per year has steadily increased during the years, and it is projected to continue to do so. Regarding the e-waste generated, Category 4 is also the second largest contributor in the country – accounting for 0.94 million kg

in 2022, a 14% of the total e-waste generated in the country. The amount of e-waste generated has been steadily increasing from 2010 to 2022, and it is forecasted to continue this trend.

Lighting equipment (Category 5) are the third largest contributor to EEE put on the market, with 0.84 million kg sold in 2022 – 8% of the total – and follows a trend similar to the one seen in Category 4. E-waste generated from Category 5 accounted for 0.64 million kg in 2022, a 10% of the total, and has been increasing rapidly from 2010 until 2022, and it is forecasted to follow this trend up to 2030.

Electrical and electronic tools (Category 6) put on the market reached 0.68 million kg in 2022, representing a 7% of the total. Category 6 sold in Guyana has increased notoriously since 2010, when 0.12 million kg were put in the market. This trend is presumably due to the electrification of appliances that were formerly manual, and it is expected to keep increasing and reach 2.38 million kg in 2030. Category 6 accounted for 0.22 million kg in 2022, 3% of the total e-waste generated in the country. The amount of e-waste generated has also increased rapidly during the years, following a trend similar to the put on the market, and it is expected to continue increasing until 2030.

Toys, leisure and sports equipment (Category 7) accounts for 0.73 million kg in 2022 (7% of the total). The amount Category 7 equipment put on the market during the years has remained steadily increasing, and it is projected to continue to do so. E-waste generated from Category 7 equipment accounted for 0.73 million kg in 2022, a 11% of

the total e-waste generated in the country. The amount of e-waste generated has increased rapidly in the last years due to the short lifespan of the products included in Category 7, such that the amount of e-waste generated from Category 7 annually is almost the same of EEE put on the market. This trend is expected to continue until 2030. Small household appliances (Category 2) and IT and telecommunications equipment (Category 3) accounted for the 6% of EEE put on the market in 2022 each, 0.59 million kg and 0.62 million kg respectively. In both cases the amount of equipment put on the market during the years has been slowly decreasing, and it is projected to increase slightly until 2030. Probable reasons for this decrease can be that people are repairing and keeping their equipment, or that the household appliances now being imported are of better quality, making them last longer.

E-waste generated from Category 2 equipment accounted for 0.67 million kg in 2022 (10% of the total), and Category 3 accounted for 0.78 million kg (12% of the total). The amount of e-waste generated has been increasing moderately from 2010, and it is expected to continue doing so until 2030 for Category 2 and decrease slightly for Category 3. This difference in the future projection of the e-waste generated is probably due to the different lifespan of the equipment included in the categories, and therefore the time it takes for the EEE sold to become e-waste.

Medical devices (Category 8), monitoring and control instruments (Category 9), and automatic dispensers (Category 10) only account for 0.03, 0.10, and 0.01 million kg of EEE

put on the market in 2022 respectively, which corresponds to less than 2% of the total. The e-waste generated from categories 8, 9, and 10 account for less than 3% of the total, 0.01, 0.11, and 0.01 million kg in 2022 respectively. The amount of Category 8, 9, and 10 equipment being put on the market and e-waste generated annually has remained relatively stable during the years, without undergoing significant changes.

Regarding the e-waste management, **there is no quantitative data available on the e-waste being formally collected and recycled in Guyana currently**, and the qualitative information that has been compiled is going to be presented in the next chapter.

2.3 TRANSBOUNDARY FLOWS OF WEEE

WEEE exports are legitimate, in principle. WEEE can be exported for recycling purposes, and exporters of WEEE need to ensure that it will be recovered or recycled safely in the receiving country. In some cases, transboundary movements (TBM) of WEEE or its components are necessary to recover high-value materials (the transportation of waste printed circuit boards to specialised recycling facilities of WEEE from regions where no WEEE management systems exist). Furthermore, transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes, including WEEE, can pose significant challenges and have an adverse impact on the environment and on human health when not managed properly in countries lacking adequate infrastructure and capacity for managing WEEE in an environmentally sound manner. Therefore, it is important to put in place rules and procedures for distinguishing between illegal and legal transboundary movements (Baldé et al. 2024).

The main international instrument regulating the transboundary movements of waste, including WEEE, is the Basel Convention, which entered into force in Guyana in 2001.

In June 2022, at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, amendments to Annexes II, VIII, and IX of the Convention were adopted, mainly aimed at increasing the control of transboundary movements of WEEE and making all electronic and electrical waste, including non-hazardous waste, subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.

As mentioned, in some cases, WEEE can be exported to other countries, but they must be subject to the PIC procedure – which forms the heart of the Basel Convention control system and is based on four key stages: 1) notification, 2) consent and issuance of movement document, 3) transboundary movement, and 4) confirmation of disposal (D'Angelo et al. 2025).

According to the entities interviewed during the in-country mission, and from an analysis of previous assessments in Guyana, **the country exports e-waste for further treatment and processing.**

Export of e-waste is currently the main mechanism via which environmentally sound management (ESM) of e-waste occurs in Guyana (BCRC 2022). Useful materials captured through dismantling are therefore traded through the only authorized company exporting e-waste from Guyana, namely the Eternity Investments Inc. established in 2009 in Georgetown. However, the frequency of exports is low with no exports requested in 2024 as reported by the EPA.

The company provided for this project the following information related to its exports in 2024.

Out of the 36 Mt of e-waste stored in 2024 by the company, an estimated 20 Mt were indicated as the monthly quantity either exported or sold locally / internationally.

As reported by a previous assessment conducted in 2022 by BCRC, Eternity Investments Inc. receives most of the

e-waste by drop-off method, in addition to those collected by governmental agencies. 70% of them come from urban areas.

The e-waste is then exported to countries such as South Korea, Pakistan, Thailand, Taiwan and India for recycling and recovery. However, waste is usually stockpiled until enough has accumulated to meet quantities agreed contractually by both the exporter and the importer. No certificate of destruction or recovery is provided to the company as proof of Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of the e-waste, since the buyers are usually third parties in the importing countries.

Based on what was reported by Eternity Investment during the previous assessment (BCRC 2022), the company exported almost 142 Metric tons (Mt) of e-waste between 2019 and 2021, more specifically: 45.2 Mt of e-waste in 2019; 36 mt in 2020 and 60.5 mt in 2021. The main category exported was Electrical and Electronic tools (84% of total in 2019–2021), followed by large household's appliances and Information Technology (IT) and Telecommunication equipment (see more in details: BCRC, 2022 – page 68).

The figures represent the weight of valuable components exported (e.g. motors, radiators, circuit boards, copper and aluminium parts) which were retrieved from each category of EEE, after dismantling.

So, the weight of the exported WEEE cannot be compared to the e-waste generated, as in that case the numbers correspond to the entire equipment, while Eternity Investment

only records the weight of valuable components for which payment must be issued, and not the entire EEE.

Moreover, from an analysis of the national reports submitted to the Basel Convention Secretariat, only one report was available related to e-waste exports, for the year 2019: the report indicates 84Mt of electronic scrap exported in 2019, categorized under code A1180, directed to Korea, for recovery operation R4 – Recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds.

Exactly the same amount, 84Mt of electronic scrap, was also reported in 2018– always directed to Korea for recovery operation R4. It is uncertain if this is a repetition or not.

In 2017, a total export of 230 Mt was reported – including the following codes: A1010, A1160, A1170, A1180 – which means in principle also e-waste. However, in the description of the items, only used lead acid batteries were explicitly mentioned, therefore the content of the export is unclear. The final destination was again Korea, for recovery operation R4. In 2016 and 2015 no e-waste exports were reported, while previous years were not part of this analysis.

Data from the Basel Convention reporting do not exactly correspond to what was reported by the Eternity Investments, since the last reporting to the Basel Convention was done in 2020 by EPA. However, it can be assumed that the export is overlapping, at least partly, with their export activities – being the only authorized exporting company for e-waste at present in Guyana.



Chapter 3.

Technical and Infra-structural Capacity for WEEE Management

As previously highlighted, chapter 3 provides an analysis of the responses to the online survey collected at national level, integrated with additional inputs gathered through bilateral interviews and meetings conducted by the consultancy team during the in-country visit in Guyana by representatives of the UNITAR consultancy team from 29th June to 3rd July 2025

The objective is to outline the current situation in the country regarding the overall infrastructural capacity and the status of other conditions (e.g. level of public awareness, public and private support and funding, etc.) necessary to ensure the establishment and development of a durable and sustainable WEEE management system in Guyana.

INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Operational bodies in Guyana require **expertise and improved infrastructure** amongst others to effectively manage WEEE, as reported by stakeholders. With regards to resources, it was stated that this is not a challenge, as **budgets for waste management have increased in recent years**. However, the government is not looking into recycling waste but would like to encourage private sector initiatives by creating an inviting environment.

The current level of coordination among key stakeholders (producers, recyclers and waste managers) in Guyana's waste management sector is unknown.

Currently, there are no **NGO-driven voluntary initiatives** or measures put in place by the **industry** to contribute to WEEE management. The main reason for this is that WEEE is not a widely recognized or prioritized issue, as most NGO-driven initiatives tend to focus primarily on plastics.

FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

In Guyana, the **electronics** market is defined as **nascent or underdeveloped**, with minimal local production, few market players, and heavy dependence on imports with weak industry infrastructure.

The financial instruments currently in place to finance the management of WEEE in the country include:

1. Government Funding – Taxes, municipal budgets, and public funds
2. Waste Collection Fees – Businesses pay for waste services
3. Advanced Disposal Fee (= a non-refundable fee added to the price of a product and paid by the consumer to cover future disposal and recycling costs)

There are no waste collection fees for households, and the government does not have the intention to introduce this in the future.

In addition, the following other economic and market-based instruments could be used to support the WEEE management:

EPR SCHEMES

Advanced deposit fee and deposit refund fee (when a refundable deposit is added to the price of a product, which is refunded to consumers when they re-turn the used product or packaging)

Advanced disposal fee (when a non-refundable fee is added to the price of a product and paid by the consumer to cover future disposal and recycling costs)

COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In Guyana, there is no official WEEE collection scheme in place.

There are two WEEE recycling companies according to stakeholders, namely **Cevons Waste Management and Eternity Investments Inc.. Both companies are private sector** – driven and collect and accept WEEE at their recycling facilities, with Eternity Investments Inc being EPA authorized. Puran Brothers which is also an EPA authorized waste management company, stated that they do not deal with WEEE, however if the opportunity existed, they would like to partner to do so. There are also other facilities that manage, collect, and store scrap metal and while E-waste is not their main business, they collect it to recover metals and sell some of the electrical parts to Eternity Investment Inc.

While these companies exist and recover and dismantle WEEE to some extent, it is reported that the **majority still ends up comingled with other wastes at the landfills** throughout the country.

Currently, Eternity Investments Inc, **salvages metals (copper, aluminium etc.), electric motors, circuits boards and small transformers** mainly from WEEE and dispose of the remaining parts at the landfills. It was reported that an average of **10% of the incoming WEEE is salvaged because of its value and that the remaining 90% is dumped at the landfill**. Compliance with best available techniques (BAT), best environmental practices (BET) and environmental standards are unknown at these facilities, however they do report on types and quantities of waste processed and shipped to the EPA.

The Haags Bosch landfill has a white goods section and an electronic section. Most of the bulky e-waste goes to the white goods section (fridges, washing machines, freezers). There are about 80 to 100 waste pickers there, informal recyclers, that salvage valuable items from the landfill.

WEEE from hospitals have a designated storage room (called a bond) at the Haags Bosch Sanitary Landfill, however a large portion is dumped at the landfill. Unit rooms at hospitals are also used to store WEEE, as the only solution the government currently has is storage. For lab equipment, some hospitals have contracts that hold the supplier responsible for disposal. This equipment is sent back to the supplier once rendered unserviceable, noting that this doesn't always work for all suppliers.

The following elements have been ranked, from the most to the least relevant, as needed to scale up the existing facilities for WEEE dismantling and treatment:

What is needed to scale up existing WEEE dismantling/treatment facilities? – Guyana

MOST
LEAST

1. Expansion of facility and capacity and land availability
2. Training and development of skilled workers
3. Investment in advanced recycling technologies
4. Better waste sorting and pre-processing system
5. Increased access to specialized equipment for dismantling
6. Technical expertise for efficient management of other WEEE categories
7. Other

Additionally, stakeholders recommended the following measures to scale up WEEE management:

1. National legislation, regulations, guidelines and policies. The increase of WEEE due to current development and future development (50% cut on power price by 2023) will become a growing problem that requires regulations, policies, and direction. The current influx of e-bikes has also become a challenge.
2. Enforcement of these regulations and guidelines. This should be considered with sanctions for non-compliance.
3. Capacities for waste processing and inspections for specific sectors. E.g. inspections are not done regularly, and expertise is lacking and not always tailored to the specific sector such as hospitals.
4. Establishment/improvement of recycling/recovery and collection facilities
5. Need for better systems to manage waste. The MLGRD is currently responsible for waste collection throughout the country, and they are regulated by EPA or at least their contractors are regulated by EPA, however better systems are needed.
6. Develop standards for EEE being imported and equipment being donated, to prevent cheap, unserviceable and hazardous equipment entering the country.
7. Need for awareness at a household level. However, systems will need to be in place first, before people are thought how to segregate their waste at home.
8. Finding a sustainable market for WEEE, as this is not established in Guyana.
9. Create an **enabling environment for private recyclers of WEEE.**

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

At present, in Guyana, there is nothing in place to support public awareness and engagement in WEEE disposal and recycling. **No awareness or educational programs** are in place at a country level.

INFORMAL SECTOR

In terms of the involvement of the **informal sector** in the WEEE management, it was reported that it these are **predominantly waste pickers at the landfill** and are mainly active in the **sorting and dismantling of WEEE for metals, electric motors, circuit boards and other parts that are usable**. These fractions are sold back to recyclers, with the remaining parts being dumped at the landfill. The size of this informal sector, in the WEEE management is estimated to be about 80 to 100 individuals.

Furthermore, stakeholders were not aware of any current program or initiative in place or planned, aimed at integrating the informal system into the formal one, at national or local level. However, this was done in the past.

A project was conducted by the Inter-American Development Bank and the MLGRD to set up a recycling facility at the landfill and integrate waste pickers, or the recyclers, from Le Repentir to the Haags Bosch sanitary landfill. The name of the project was 'George Strong Solid Waste Management Program'. A facility was set up for the pickers to stay with storage rooms, washrooms etc., however much of that has been ruined. They have also outgrown the facility and focus on waste with higher value. The project ended in 2015. It is currently unclear if there are any plans to continue this project, however the EPA will be visiting the Haags Bosch landfill before the end of 2025 and will evaluate if the project is still viable and what the status is.

READINESS TOWARDS EPR SYSTEM

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach that makes producers responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products, particularly for take-back, recycling, and final disposal. In the context of electronic waste (e-waste), EPR shifts the financial and operational responsibility for collection, recycling, and safe disposal from governments and consumers to manufacturers. This encourages producers to design more sustainable, durable, and recyclable electronics.



This approach is increasingly adopted worldwide, including in developing countries. As an example, in India, the E-Waste (Management) Rules mandate that producers of electronic goods must collect and channel e-waste to authorized recyclers through EPR plans approved by the Central Pollution Control Board. This policy has led to the formalization of parts of the informal recycling sector and improved compliance with environmental standards (OECD 2024).

Good practices reported at country level in Guyana or outside related to **EPR scheme** are related a EPR scheme being researched for **plastics and some contracts in the medical sector** requiring suppliers to take back spent medical lab equipment. Also, current landfills are being closed down, and the MLGRD is moving on to waste management sites, focusing on disposing waste, recovery/recycling and composting.

According to the stakeholders, the following public and private actors should be involved in the implementation of an EPR scheme for WEEE, in an order of relevance:

Public and private actors to be involved for the implementation of EPR scheme - Guyana

MOST
LEAST

1. Government agencies
2. Private sector/ producers
3. PROs
4. Recycling facilities/ industry experts
5. Consumers
6. NGOs / CSOs
7. Other

No challenges were foreseen in the adoption of an EPR scheme for WEEE management in Guyana, however the following was recommended to support its implementation:

1. EPR will have to be built in a policy, requiring EEE importers to take responsibility for WEEE disposal. The government – public sector will have to be in charge of this and take the lead and later include the private sector. It is also important to note, that the government will need data to support evidence-based policy development.
2. Product design will need to be considered, encouraging a circular approach and hazardous chemical limitations.
3. Budgetary allocation can be better managed from a national level.
4. Private sector investors will need to be encouraged, as **the government does not have the intention to recycle waste.**

As legal and regulatory challenges seem to be the most impactful in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE management in the country, according to the stakeholders, the elements most needed in the legal framework, to effectively support the EPR implementation are the ones below, ranked from the most to the least important.

Elements most needed in the legal framework to effectively support the EPR implementation - Guyana

MOST
LEAST

1. Clear definition of producer's responsibilities
2. Transparency and reporting requirements
3. Improved collection and recycling systems
4. Consumer engagement and awareness
5. Capacity building
6. Funding and financial mechanisms
7. Enforcement mechanisms

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Stakeholders reported that their WEEE is disposed of at the landfills with other waste types, however while they have heard of landfills or dumping sites where WEEE is disposed of in a non-environmentally sound manner, they have no evidence.

In terms of social impact, stakeholders stated that while it is possible considering the predicted increase of EEE imports, they **do not have evidence of possible jobs creation** in the WEEE sector and/or in the green sector for the upcoming years; it is also **unknown** if children and/or other vulnerable groups are involved in the informal sector.

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

The following current limitations of the WEEE management system have been listed by stakeholders:

1. Lack of political commitment. WEEE will have to be put on the agenda
2. Lack of legislation, policy and guidance and enforcement mechanisms
3. Outdated and fragmented laws amongst the MLGRD, the local authorities under the MLGRD, EPA and Ministry of Health, which can hamper coordination of waste management efforts
4. Improved collection and recycling programs and
5. Capacity building

REGIONAL COOPERATION

In terms of policy harmonization and cross-border cooperation at regional level for WEEE management, at the moment this is reported as **non-existent**, so no formal cooperation or coordination is in place between countries in the Caribbean region. **No legal or practical initiatives** are in place at regional level related to WEEE management. Stakeholders were however supportive of a regional approach towards the implementation of an EPR scheme, stating that it would reduce implementation costs (considering shared infrastructure and systems reducing financial burden), harmonize regulations and enhance cross-border cooperation.





Chapter 4.

Economic Impact of WEEE Management Facilities at National Level

In consideration of the lack of precise financial data related to WEEE management and infrastructure (see also the Methodological note), the present paragraph provides an overview of elements offering insights on the economic impact of such activities at national level, mainly based on the qualitative information gathered.

Stakeholder consultations conducted during the project confirm that Guyana's e-waste management system continues to be characterized by the **coexistence of formal and informal actors (waste pickers), engaged primarily in preliminary waste handling and dismantling activities**. The overall structure remains largely similar to conditions described in the Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (E-Waste) Assessment Report for the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (BCRC 2022), which first mapped the sector's composition.

According to the stakeholders interviewed, e-waste management in Guyana is still dominated by **small-scale manual disassembly, with limited downstream recycling infrastructure**. Informal recyclers and waste pickers operate at key disposal sites such as Lusignan, Esplanade, New Amsterdam, and the Haags Bosch Sanitary Landfill. These individuals manually extract metals and reusable components for resale, with the remainder being dumped. The (BCRC 2022) Assessment Report had already highlighted the environmental and social implications of this unregulated activity, including the **unsafe disposal of plastic casings with brominated flame retardants**.

Formally, Eternity Investment Inc. remains the sole EPA-authorized company for e-waste handling and export. This situation mirrors the 2022 findings, although the company has since expanded its collection network to include more public and private institutions. Puran Brothers continues to handle municipal waste without specific e-waste processing capacity.

COLLECTION AND FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

As of 2025, Guyana still lacks a national collection mechanism dedicated to e-waste. WEEE, commonly mixed with other waste types is transported to disposal sites, including the Haags Bosch Landfill, without prior segregation.

Stakeholders indicate that informal waste pickers continue to play a critical role in resource recovery at dumpsites. The BCRC 2022 report estimated around **70 informal workers** operating at Haags Bosch; current stakeholders' estimates suggest this **number has increased to roughly 80–100 individuals daily**. Their activities remain outside formal regulation but contribute modestly to livelihoods among low-income groups.

Formal e-waste collection, led by Eternity Investment Inc., has grown modestly since 2022. The BCRC 2022 report highlights that Eternity Investment purchases scrap metal (inclusive of e-waste) from dealers, who are most times exporters, in instances where they are unable to accumulate enough valuable components to meet a buyer's demand. On the other hand, collectors purchase e-waste from the GT Recyclers Cooperative Society and also go house to house with horse carts and canters to collect obsolete EEE from residents. These are delivered to Eternity Investment Inc for sale. Its operations remain primarily focused on manual dismantling, with valuable materials separated for export and non-marketable residues (e.g., plastics and rubber) directed to landfill disposal.

Public funding continues to cover most waste collection and disposal costs. Both the BCRC 2022 Assessment Report and 2025 stakeholders' consultations highlight the absence of a dedicated financial mechanism, such as producer responsibility fees, cost-recovery systems, or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes. Stakeholders in 2025 again emphasized the **potential for an EPR framework if supported by clear importer obligations and appropriate incentives.**

TREATMENT AND MATERIAL RECOVERY

Manual dismantling and component recovery continue to dominate Guyana's e-waste processing landscape. Eternity Investment Inc., which began operations in 2018 and was already profiled extensively in the BCRC 2022 Assessment Report, remains the only licensed operator for e-waste treatment and export.

According to company and stakeholder data collected in the project, Eternity processed approximately 36 tonnes of e-waste during 2024 representing a very small share of the e-waste generated (less than 1%), of which around 20 tonnes were exported for further recycling abroad. The BCRC 2022 report suggests that on average, in the period 2019–2021, approximately 47.5 tonnes were exported annually during that period (see also chapter 2.3 on Transboundary movements).

Recovered materials include printed circuit boards, non-ferrous metals such as aluminium and copper, electric motors, small transformers, and batteries. Exports continue to be sent to established recycling destinations including South Korea, Pakistan, Thailand, Taiwan, and India. The company does not charge a recycling fee and all types of e-waste is accepted. However, only the parts that can be resold are stripped and the remaining parts (e.g. plastics, rubber etc.) are dumped at the landfill.

The parts that are dismantled to be exported are:

1. electronic board
2. metals like aluminum and copper
3. small transformers
4. electric motors for water pumps, refrigerators, washing machines

The shipment of recovered materials remains a complex and often delayed process. This is particularly the case for printed circuit boards (PCBs), which have not yet been exported. To proceed with an export, the company must first accumulate at least 28,000 kilograms of material to meet shipping and logistical requirements. Once this threshold is reached, documentation must be prepared and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a process that can be time-consuming and uncertain, further complicating the feasibility of regular shipments.

Verification challenges persist as in 2022, exporters do not typically receive certificates of recycling or material recovery from overseas processors, limiting traceability and assurance of environmentally sound management.

No domestic recycling market exists for plastics, rubber, or composite residues. These fractions continue to be disposed of at landfill sites. Both the BCRC 2022 Assessment Report and the 2025 field findings identify this as a major environmental gap. Some improvement in facility organization and **basic worker training** has been reported since 2022, but occupational safety equipment and structured environmental monitoring remain limited.

Sometimes electronic devices may be resold into the market, this is the case of mobile phones, of which 10% approximately can be reused while the rest are being disposed of at the landfill.

OPERATIONAL COSTS AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

The financing of e-waste management in Guyana remains **predominantly government-based**, with no cost-sharing mechanisms from producers or consumers. Stakeholders confirm that revenues generated from the export of recyclable materials are minimal and insufficient to sustain operations independently.

Current observations indicate that profitability in the existing system depends almost entirely on the recovery of high-value metals, leaving the majority of material fractions unprocessed and disposed of at landfill.

Both the 2022 and 2025 findings underscore the same structural barriers: lack of e-waste-specific legislation, fragmented institutional responsibilities, and limited public awareness. However, government priorities are evolving. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has continued to pursue the establishment of controlled waste management sites across all ten administrative regions, with the goal of replacing open dumps and integrating recycling and recovery operations. This policy direction presents a significant opportunity to formalize the e-waste value chain, integrate informal recyclers, and encourage private investment.



Chapter 5.

Conclusions and Way Forward

CONCLUSIONS

- In 2022, Guyana counted 10.22 million kg of EEE POM and 6.50 million kg of e-waste generated. Category 1 (large household appliances), Category 4 (consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels) and Category 5 (lighting equipment) are the biggest contributors to both EEE POM and e-waste generated. Category 1 only represents 52% of the national EEE POM and 37% of the e-waste generated.
- In terms of e-waste generated per capita, Guyana generated 8.1 kg/inhabitant in 2022, ranking 99th worldwide.
- No official statistics were made available on WEEE collected, processed and exported.
- WEEE handling is private sector driven, with minimal processing, focused on the recovery of valuable metals and electronic parts.
- At present, the MLGRD is closing down current landfills. New established landfills will become waste sites, where the focus will be on waste disposal, recovery/recycling and composting, including WEEE management. The aim is however, to involve the private sector in the recovery/recycling activities at these sites.
- Public awareness and education campaigns are conducted with respect to waste in general but are not specifically targeting WEEE.
- The 2025 consultations highlighted growing pressure from the rapid expansion of the oil and gas sector and increased importation of electrical and electronic goods. Consequently, e-waste generation is expected to rise substantially over the next decade.



WAY FORWARD

Considering the current situation with regard to WEEE management in Guyana, summarized above in the conclusions, the following items are indicated as possible recommendations and way forward, to improve the current system:

- Establish a coordinated effort in the waste management at national level, including on WEEE management
- Establish dedicated WEEE management regulation and support relevant authorities in the following enforcement phases
 - EPR policy recommended, involving all relevant actors
- Establish dedicated WEEE management regulation and support WEEE dismantling and recycling companies with the following:
 - Professional training programs in safe WEEE management and advanced dismantling techniques
- Developing a national e-waste policy—aligned with Basel Convention principles and incorporating an Extended Producer Responsibility framework—remains a key recommendation, consistent with the 2022 baseline study but now reinforced by stronger stakeholder consensus. If implemented, such a policy could transform the current system from a largely informal, resource-leakage model into a structured circular economy chain that promotes green employment, material recovery, and environmental protection.
- Establish a system for regular monitoring of e-waste flows through dedicated data collection and analysis
 - Include in the monitoring system, measures to quantify the WEEE collected and recycled at national level (including costs of fractions, shipments costs etc.)
- More accurate estimates of WEEE generated and relevant future projections could help in establishing an efficient system for WEEE management what would take in consideration the current situation but also the expected needs
- Support educational and awareness programs on a national level
- Support the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanisms, to exchange information and good practices on WEEE collection and recycling – leveraging on countries with more advanced infrastructure and knowledge and working on the elimination of legal barriers.



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Annex 1. Online Survey

1. THE AIM OF THE SURVEY IS TO GATHER QUALITATIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CURRENT WEEE MANAGEMENT SITUATION IN THE SURVEYED COUNTRIES.

The survey covers the following aspects: legislative and regulatory framework; institutional and organizational structure; financial mechanisms; collection, recycling and disposal infrastructure; data and monitoring; public awareness and participation; informal sector; readiness towards EPR system; environmental and social impacts; transboundary movements; challenges and barriers; regional cooperation.

Countries in scope: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, The Dominican Republic, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Target audience: main actors involved in the WEEE management and in the possible establishment of a regional EPR system. This includes national stakeholders from the 12 project countries, including governmental authorities, recycling companies, WEEE importers/exporters, EEE producers (if existing), CSOs, NGOs, representatives from the informal sector etc.

Instructions: Kindly answer all sections / questions relevant to your field of work/expertise. You can skip those questions that are not relevant to your area of work.

Contacts: If you require assistance, including if you'd like to discuss a different way to compile the survey (through interview, offline format etc.), please contact the Project Coordinator elena.dangelo@unitar.org.

2. GLOSSARY

Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE): all products with circuitry or electrical components and a power or battery supply. It encompasses a wide range of products such as refrigerators, stoves, washing machines and hairdryers, mobile phones, wireless headphones and tablets, etc.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE or e-waste): EEE that has been discarded by its owner as waste, without the intent for reuse

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): policy approach that makes producers responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products, including collection, recycling and disposal. It aims to reduce waste and encourage sustainable product design by shifting the burden from governments to manufacturers. In practice, EPR can involve setting up take-back systems for recycling, paying fees to fund collection and recycling programs, or ensuring products are designed for easier recycling.

Best Available Techniques (BAT): refers to the most effective and advanced stage in the development of activities and their methods of operation, which indicate the practical suitability of particular techniques for providing the basis for emission limit values and other permit conditions designed to prevent and, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions and the impact on the environment as a whole. In the context of waste management facilities, BAT includes techniques that are economically and technically viable for reducing emissions and environmental impacts.

Best Environmental Practices (BEP): are the application of the most appropriate combination of environmental control measures and strategies. BEP aims to prevent or minimize the generation of waste and its harmful effects on the environment. This includes practices such as waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and proper disposal methods.

Informal sector: the informal sector in waste management refers to unregulated, small-scale activities where individuals or groups collect, sort, and recycle waste materials outside formal systems, often without legal recognition or protection.

3. CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name

Last Name

Phone Number

Email Address

Organization

Country

Gender: How do you identify?

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Other

4. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

If WEEE legislation of WEEE-related policy are in place in your country, which are the products covered? (Please copy paste the list of products from the relevant legislation/policy).

If there is no specific WEEE legislation in the country, are any of the products listed in the 'Correspondence table with UNU-KEY' (included in the data gathering excel) covered in the general waste legislation or specific legislation? If yes, please provide below the official title of the legislation and possibly a link to access it.

Which elements are most needed, in your country's legal framework, to effectively support the EPR implementation? (Please rank from the most to the least needed).

- Clear definition of producer responsibilities – law must outline the obligations for producers to manage end-of-life products _____
- Improved collection and recycling systems – regulations should enhance the creation or support of infrastructure for collecting and recycling products _____
- Capacity building – initiatives to train stakeholders in maintaining collection and recycling systems _____
- Enforcement mechanisms – strong measures to ensure compliance with EPR requirements, including proportional penalties for non-compliance, combined with capacity building for inspectors _____
- Funding and financial mechanisms – legal provisions for financing EPR schemes, such as producer fees or eco-taxes _____
- Transparency and reporting requirements – laws should mandate regular reporting and transparency in the handling of waste and recycling efforts, supported by capacity building initiatives _____
- Consumer engagement & Awareness – regulations to promote public participation and education on EPR practices _____
- Other _____

5. INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Do you believe the operational bodies in your country have sufficient resources, expertise and infrastructure to effectively manage WEEE?

- ☐ Not adequate at all
- ☐ Very little adequate
- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Fully adequate
- ☐ I don't know

How would you assess the current level of coordination among key stakeholders (producers, recyclers and waste managers) in your country's waste management sector? (Select the most appropriate option).

- ☐ Very effective – there is already strong collaboration, with clear roles and effective communication between stakeholders
- ☐ Somewhat effective – stakeholders communicate regularly, but coordination could be improved in certain areas
- ☐ Ineffective – stakeholders rarely coordinate, resulting in inefficiencies in waste management and unclear communication channels
- ☐ Uncertain – it is unclear how well stakeholders coordinate in the waste management sector
- ☐ Other

Which main public and private actors in your country should be involved in the implementation of an EPR scheme? (Please rank from the most – 1 – to the least important – 7).

- Government agencies – responsible for setting regulations, monitoring compliance and ensuring enforcement _____
- Private sector / producers – accountable for financing/organizing collection and recycling systems + ensuring product design for recyclability _____
- Producers Responsibilities Organizations (PROs) – coordinating collection, recycling and reporting compliance with EPR regulations _____
- Recycling facilities / industry experts – managing the infrastructure for recycling and disposal of WEEE, ensuring efficient processing _____
- Consumers – engage in proper disposal and circular strategies (reuse, recycle..) _____
- NGO / Civil society – support in public awareness, education and monitoring efforts to promote effective recycling/circular strategies _____
- Other _____

Are you aware of voluntary initiatives or measures put in place by the industry to contribute to WEEE management?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please specify below, by providing title/info or the link to the relevant initiatives.

6. FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

How would you describe the structure and maturity of the electronics market in your country? (Select the most appropriate option).

- ☐ Well-developed and competitive – mature market with strong local and international producers, diverse product offerings, and advanced supply chains
- ☐ Growing, but still in development
- ☐ Some established players, increasing local production, and expanding market potential, but with room for growth
- ☐ Emerging market
- ☐ Limited local production, reliance on imports, and underdeveloped supply chains
- ☐ Nascent or underdeveloped
- ☐ Minimal local production, few market players, and heavy dependence on imports with weak industry infrastructure
- ☐ Other

What are the financial instruments currently in place to finance the management of WEEE in your country? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Government Funding
- ☐ Taxes, municipal budgets, and public funds
- ☐ Waste Collection Fees – Households and businesses pay for waste services
- ☐ Landfill Tipping Fees
- ☐ Charges for waste disposal at landfills
- ☐ Private Sector Contributions – Voluntary recycling programs by businesses
- ☐ International aid and grants – Funding from NGOs and or global organizations
- ☐ Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) schemes

- ☐ Advanced Deposit Fee / deposit refund fee (= a refundable deposit is added to the price of a product, which is refunded to consumers when they return the used product or packaging)
- ☐ Advanced Disposal Fee (= a non-refundable fee added to the price of a product and paid by the consumer to cover future disposal and recycling costs)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None

Which other economic and market-based instruments could be used to support WEEE management / EPR system (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Government Funding – Taxes, municipal budgets, and public funds
- ☐ Waste Collection Fees – Households and businesses pay for waste services
- ☐ Landfill Tipping Fees – Charges for waste disposal at landfills
- ☐ Private Sector Contributions – Voluntary recycling programs by businesses
- ☐ International aid and grants – Funding from NGOs and or global organizations
- ☐ Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) schemes
- ☐ Advanced Deposit Fee / deposit refund fee (= a refundable deposit is added to the price of a product, which is refunded to consumers when they return the used product or packaging)
- ☐ Advanced Disposal Fee (= a non-refundable fee added to the price of a product and paid by the consumer to cover future disposal and recycling costs)
- ☐ Other

7. COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Is there a WEEE collection system in place in your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How is WEEE collected in your country? (Please select all options that apply).

- ☐ Collection points (e.g. bin/boxes in streets or retail stores, collection centers etc.)
- ☐ Pickup at household by informal sector (e.g. informal waste pickers, local collectors)
- ☐ Door-to-door collection system (formal sector)
- ☐ Other

Are there dismantling / recycling facilities in place in your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are existing facilities implementing best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BET)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

Do WEEE recycling and disposal practices in your country comply with environmental standards?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

Are dismantling / recycling facilities equipped with proper tools and safety equipment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

Are workers in the WEEE management sector duly trained to handle collection, dismantling, recovery processes etc.?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

What is needed to scale up existing WEEE dismantling / treatment facilities? (Please rank from the most to the least relevant).

- Expansion of facility capacity and land availability _____
- Investment in advanced recycling technologies _____
- Increased access to specialized equipment for dismantling _____
- Technical expertise for the efficient management of the other WEEE categories _____
- Training and development of skilled workers _____
- Better waste sorting and pre-processing system _____
- Other _____

8. DATA AND MONITORING

Who is responsible for collecting WEEE data? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ National statistic body
- ☐ Ministry of Environment (or other GOV institutions)
- ☐ International organizations
- ☐ WEEE collection companies
- ☐ WEEE treatment companies
- ☐ Other

Is there a regular (e.g. annual) reporting system in place on EEE and WEEE.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not yet, but it is planned
- ☐ I don't know

9. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

What is currently in place in your country to support public awareness and engagement in WEEE disposal and recycling? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Efficient network of collection points
- ☐ Public awareness campaign and education programs
- ☐ Incentive programs (e.g. consumers are rewarded through financial incentives for returning WEEE to formal collection points or recycling centers)
- ☐ Other

Can you specify which awareness and education programs are in place?

How do consumers typically dispose of their WEEE ? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Drop off at designated collection points or recycling centers (formal channel)
- ☐ Dispose through informal collectors
- ☐ Dispose with other waste (e.g. household waste)
- ☐ Uncertain or unknown

10. INFORMAL SECTOR

At which stages is the informal sector involved in WEEE management? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Collection
- ☐ Sorting
- ☐ Dismantling
- ☐ Treatment
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other

Can you assess the size of the informal sector, in the WEEE management sector in your country?

- ☐ <25% of the overall WEEE management?
- ☐ Between 25–50%
- ☐ Between 50–75%
- ☐ >75%
- ☐ Unknown

Are there any programs/initiatives aimed at integrating the informal sector into formal systems? (If yes, please provide title, short description and website if available).

11. READINESS TOWARDS EPR SYSTEM

Are the main challenges foreseen in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE management sector in your country? (Please rank from most (1) to least (6) important).

- Legal & regulatory - lack of specific legislation, enforcement challenges or unclear responsibilities _____
- Financial & Economic - High implementation costs, insufficient funding mechanisms or resistance from producers _____
- Technical and infrastructure - Limited recycling facilities, collection systems, or technology for proper WEEE processing _____
- Stakeholder Cooperation - Lack of coordination among government, businesses and informal sector _____
- Public awareness and participation - Low consumer awareness or engagement in proper WEEE disposal _____
- Other _____

Do you have good practices related to EPR scheme in your country or outside to share (e.g. some steps taken to implement in EPR in WEEE or in another waste stream such as plastic waste etc.)? (If yes, please provide title, short description and website if available).

12. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Do you have evidence, in your country or in the region, of landfills or dumping sites where WEEE is disposed of if a non-environmentally sound manner (including mixed with other types of waste, ELVs, metals etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I've heard about them but never saw them
- ☐ I don't know

Have new jobs related to the WEEE sector been created in the last 5 years in your country?

- ☐ No
- ☐ It is possible, but we do not have evidences
- ☐ Yes, but we do not have specific data
- ☐ Yes, and data are available from responsible entities (please provide information)

Are there plans, at national level, that envisage the creation of new jobs related to the WEEE sector and/or green sector in the next 5 years?

- ☐ No
- ☐ It is possible, but we do not have evidences
- ☐ Yes, but we do not have specific data
- ☐ Yes, and references are available from the responsible entities (please provide reference information)

Are women, children and/or other vulnerable groups involved in the informal sector – e.g. in the collection, dismantling of WEEE?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown

13. TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS

Does your country export WEEE for treatment purposes?

- ☐ Yes, to other countries in the region
- ☐ Yes, globally
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown

Please list the main receiving countries.

Does your country import WEEE for treatment or other purposes?

- ☐ Yes, from other countries in the region
- ☐ Yes, from other countries globally
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown

Please list the main sending countries.

14. CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

What are the current main limitations of the WEEE management systems (please rank/order them from the most to the least important).

- Gaps in legislation _____
- Gaps in infrastructure, technology and expertise related to WEEE management _____
- Lack of financing _____
- Lack of political commitment _____
- Lack of effective enforcement _____
- Competition from the informal sector _____
- Illegal exports _____
- Political and economic stability _____
- Lack of consumers' interest and commitment to properly dispose of WEEE _____
- Other _____

What are your suggestions for improvements of the WEEE management system in your country?

15. REGIONAL COOPERATION

What is the current level of policy harmonization and cross-border cooperation in the region for WEEE management (please select all options that apply).

- ☐ Well established – Formal policies, agreements and active collaboration exist between countries
- ☐ Moderate – Some cooperation exists, but it is limited in scope or effectiveness
- ☐ Minimal – Few cross-border initiatives, with occasional ad-hoc cooperation.
- ☐ Non-existent – No formal cooperation or coordination between countries

- ☐ Regulatory barriers – Legal or policy restrictions hinder cross-border collaboration
- ☐ Ongoing discussions – Efforts are in progress to establish cross-border partnerships
- ☐ Other

Are there any legal or practical initiatives in place at regional level related to WEEE management (e.g. bilateral or regional agreements, regional recycling centers etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please provide details.

Would a regional approach facilitate the implementation of an EPR scheme? (Please select all options that apply).

- ☐ Yes, it would reduce implementation costs – shared infrastructure and systems can help reduce the financial burden on individual countries
- ☐ Yes, it would create harmonized regulations – a regional approach can ensure consistency in EPR requirements across borders, making compliance easier for producers and stakeholders
- ☐ Yes, it would enhance cross-border cooperation – collaboration between countries can improve recycling and waste management systems, benefiting the region as a whole
- ☐ No, it may create additional complexity – differences in national laws, political systems, and waste management capacities might complicate a regional approach
- ☐ No, each country context is too different – local needs and conditions may require tailored, country-specific EPR schemes rather than a regional approach
- ☐ Uncertain – it is unclear whether a regional approach would be beneficial for EPR implementation in my country
- ☐ Other

Annex 2.

Economic Impact Analysis Template

COLLECTION INFORMATION

COLLECTION						
Which e-waste category is collected in your country?	Comment (if the 10 categories are not used, please provide national code or description of the products collected)	How is the category (Column A) or product (Column B) collected in your country?	How is the system (Column C) currently financed ?	Comment (if 'Other' in Column D, further detail here)	What is the estimated number of people involved in the collection in your country?	What is the estimated price for the collection of one tonne of e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) in your country? [USD\$]
Example						
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Informal	Self-financing		200	150
Cat 1		Informal	Self-financing		200	150
Cat 2		Informal	Self-financing		200	120
Cat 3		Informal	Self-financing		200	160
Cat 4		Informal	Self-financing		200	300

TREATMENT OPERATION

TREATMENT													
Is the collected e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) treated in your country?	If 'No, outside the country' (Column H), to which country the e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) is sent to?	What is the average sale price of one tonne of e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) exported for recycling [+ or - USD\$]	What is the treatment capacity of the e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) in your country? [tonne]	Comment (Column K – specify if the treatment capacity refers to a mix of e-waste categories, codes or products)	What is the estimated number of people involved in the treatment in your country?	Which processes are mainly used to dismantle, treat or recycle the e-waste category (Column A), code or product (Column B) in your country?	Comment (if 'Other' in Column N, further detail here)	What are the main output fractions that are separated?	Comment (if 'Other' in Column P, further detail here)	How much of the output fraction (Column P) is produced yearly in your country? [tonne]	What is the average sale price of the fraction (Column P)? [+ or - USD\$]	Where is this fraction (Column P) usually traded?	To which country this fraction (Column P) is traded to?
Example													
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 2	50	Physical Treatment – magnetic separation		Metal frame		250	50	In the country	
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 2	50	Automated separation/ dismantling		Compressor		5	25	In the country	
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 4	50	Automated separation/ dismantling		Metal fraction		90	30	In the Caribbean region	SUR
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 5	50	Physical Treatment – magnetic separation		Plastic fraction		80	-10	In the Caribbean region	TTO
Yes, in the country	MEX, USA	50	500	this is valid for cat 1 and 6	50	Physical Treatment – separation		PCB		2	72	Outside the Caribbean region	USA
Yes, in the country	MEX, USA	50	500		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Magnet		6	20	Outside the Caribbean region	MEX, USA
No, outside the country	MEX, USA, EU	-50	150		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Ferrous metals		20	50	I do not know	
No, outside the country	MEX, USA, NLD	100	200		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Compressor		4	20	I do not know	
I do not know	MEX, USA, NLD	100	350		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Compressor		2	20	I do not know	

Annex 3.

In-country Mission Plan and Stakeholders

OVERVIEW OF MEETINGS/SITE VISITS

Country	Organization/company	Representative	Date	Address
Guyana	Environmental Protection Agency	Ms. Odessa Ducan and Ms. Nikita Urquhart	June 30 th , 2025	Ganges Street, Sophia, Greater Georgetown
	Customs and Trade Operations	Ms. Xuxa Chan	June 30 th , 2025	200-201 Camp St, Georgetown
	Puran Brothers	Mr. K. Puran	July 1 st , 2025	7 Bella Street, Pouderoyen, West Bank Demerara
	Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS)	Ms. Jo-Ann Busgith	July 1 st , 2025	Track MB, Block B, National Exhibition, Centre, Sophia, Georgetown
	Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development	Mr. Satrohan Nauth	July 2 nd , 2025	Waterstreet St. Georgetown Guyana
	St Joseph Mercy Hospital	Mr. Enoch Gaskin	July 2 nd , 2025	130 Parade St, Georgetown
	Eternity Investments (a recycling company)	Mr. Holder / Mr. Brian	July 2 nd , 2025	Tract G' Madewini Eastern Side, Linden, Soesdyke Linden Hwy, Soesdyke

PICTURES FROM THE IN-COUNTRY MISSION



Dismantled motors from WEEE (refrigerators etc.) stored at Eternity Investment Guyana (July 2nd, 2025)



Motors storage at Eternity Investment Guyana (July 2nd, 2025)



Motors storage at Eternity Investment Guyana (July 2nd, 2025)



WEEE dropped off at Eternity Investment Guyana for dismantling (July 2nd, 2025)



Stored separated circuit boards at Eternity Investment Guyana (July 2nd, 2025)





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