E-waste recycling for items beyond repair

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS) collects recycling in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. 450 tonnes of electrical items end up in black bins each year in these areas.

At Repair Cafes our first aim is to fix items fixed, but when this isn’t possible we are keen to offer Repair Cafe visitors more convenient access to recycling facilities. There are two options: book an e-waste bin for your Repair Cafe and signpost Repair Cafe visitors to local e-waste recycling points.

Here’s how it works:

1. Book an e-waste bin for your Repair Cafe

   - Email vicky.lacey@scambs.gov.uk to book your bin from the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service well in advance of your event.
   - GCSWS provide text that you can use in your event publicity explaining what is accepted – you can use this alongside your Repair Café publicity or separately if you wish.
   - GCSWS make arrangements with your venue to deliver a 360 litre wheelie bin (locked) before your event, and to collect it afterwards.
   - At the event you bring the bin inside, unlock it and apply the signage to it (the key and signs are stored in the Admin box of the RC toolkit). A pull-up banner and leaflet rack which velcros onto the side of the bin are also in the Admin box/bag of signage.
   - Ask repairers to direct visitors with electrical items that are beyond repair to the e-waste bins. Please note that there are a few hazardous items that are excluded. Please avoid putting non-electrical items in the e-waste bins
   - Repairers are welcome to take components or items from the bin to facilitate repair.
   - At the end of the event you lock the bin and remove signage, and return the bin outside for collection.
2. Direct Repair Cafe visitors to local e-waste collection points

Eight new neon-pink collection banks have been installed across Cambridge for residents to recycle small electrical items. Please let Repair Cafe visitors know about these facilities.

The new banks are in addition to those at Milton and Thriplow Recycling Centres, Glebe Farm Drive, Fawcett Road, and Hawkey Road in Cambridge, and are located at:

- Gwydir Street car park, Cambridge
- Lammas Land car park, Cambridge
- Abbey Pool car park, Cambridge
- Chesterton Road public toilets, Cambridge
- Morrisons car park, Cambourne
- Tesco car park, Bar Hill
- Village car park, High Street, Melbourn
- Tesco car park, Fulbourn

All these sites and more are listed and mapped at www.recycleryourelectricals.org.uk. There are also leaflets in the Repair Cafe Admin box which you can give out to Repair cafe visitors.