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environCom welcomes scrappage scheme proposals for Domestic Appliances

environCom welcomes proposals to incentivise the disposal and safe treatment of higher energy consuming appliances. Any incentive that stimulates the need to cut carbon emissions and subsequently address global warming is very much part of a sustainable future.

Domestic Appliances such as fridges / freezers & washing machines that are 10 years old are large contributors to climate change and have a higher environmental impacts occurring during the use phase when compared to newer appliances.

It is also equally important to point out that old appliances must be treated properly when these are disposed of at the end of their life or when exchanged through any proposed scrappage scheme. The priority of an Appliance Scrapage scheme has to be focused on products such as Fridges & Freezers which are being disposed of today and still contain CFC's, HCFC's & HFC's, all of which have high Global Warming potential and subsequently a high carbon equivalent impact.

Regulations are currently in place to address this and Producers as well as Compliance Schemes acting on their behalf must take a leading role in ensuring that if appliances are part of any scrappage scheme they are indeed passed to an Approved Authorised Treatment Facility as opposed to leaking from the WEEE collection system. A scrappage scheme for fridges & freezers must however include a requirement for all of these products to be sent to specialist State of the Art Fridge recycling plants such as the one operated by environCom where controlled processes are in place to ensure that harmful substances are recovered.

As targets for the re use of WEEE are an inherent part of the WEEE legislation, one must also therefore consider the balance between incentivising the removal of high energy consuming appliances with regulatory needs. Converting a proportion of WEEE into EEE at an Approved Authorised Treatment Facility must not however be discouraged in this process.

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