



2008 Activity Report

15 years
working
together for the
environment

SWICO
recycling

“ The first thing I do in the morning is switch the radio on. I love music, and the radio is my source of information. I have radios in every barn and in the car. Even our 8 cows, 30 beef cattle and 30 goats like music, it calms them. ”

**Eveline Berger, mountain farmer,
Langwies**



Editorial



In 2008, globally-based ICT companies have again strengthened their activities in Switzerland. In the Zurich area alone, two new development and innovation centres have just been opened. In view of the rather sombre forecasts by economists and market researchers, this behaviour may seem surprising at first glance. However, experience shows that precisely in times of economic difficulty, caution born of fear is not the answer. In particular, areas that are likely to be relevant when 2009 is just a memory have the potential to turn crises into opportunities in the longer term.

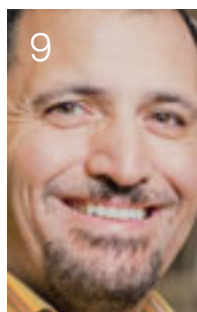
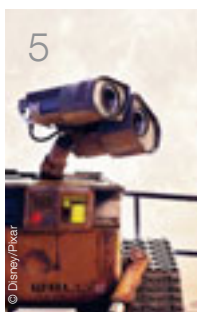
Recycling and environmental protection are areas with potential, as SWICO Recycling has demonstrated in Switzerland over the last 15 years. If issues such as energy efficiency and recycling used to be voluntary, nowadays they have become a corporate duty. Because they not only involve the

potential to save on operating costs, they also offer an opportunity for companies to position themselves better than their competitors. Moreover, they help make Switzerland attractive as a long-term ICT location. As the association for providers of information, communication and organisational technology, SWICO is therefore not only committed to free market development but especially to the environmentally-responsible and -aware behaviour of its members too. It promotes dialogue with federal departments and parliamentarians, with their industry and business associations and beyond national borders. SWICO Recycling offers important tools for this, now and in the future.

Andreas Knöpfli, President SWICO

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Cover: Karin and Maria Kobel's favourite game on their Playstation is car racing. "I usually win," says Karin (left of photo). The 15-year-old twins from Schönbühl are best friends and exactly the same age as SWICO Recycling. On the occasion of this anniversary, the two teenagers and

four other people present their favourite equipment in the SWICO Recycling Activity Report. They tell us what their device means to them. And they are happy to be able to dispose of it with a clear conscience at the end of its service life.

A pioneer on its 15th anniversary



What began at the start of the 1990s as pioneering work is today an established system that works well! It is now 15 years ago that SWICO began collecting and recycling electronic waste from information and communications technology in Switzerland.

SWICO saw the signs of the time early on: collecting electronic waste makes sense! Nowadays around 18 kilos per person of electrical and electronic equipment are sold in Switzerland each year. Since many devices often have short service lives, this gives rise to correspondingly large quantities of electronic waste, and this is now the fastest growing category of waste around the world.

Electronic waste in Switzerland is efficiently collected and recycled thanks to the commitment of SWICO and its members. The SWICO Recycling collection system covers the whole of Switzerland; customers can return old computers, mobile phones or radios to any sales outlet and to many other collection points free of charge. The disposal system is financed on a voluntary basis through advance recycling fees. Optimisations in the disposal system even enabled these fees to be reduced over the last few years. The large volumes collected, the extensive recycling of the materials and the environmentally friendly disposal of hazardous substances demonstrate how powerful the system is.

SWICO Recycling has largely developed and implemented all this on the basis of private enterprise. The federal regulation on the disposal of electronic waste provides the necessary framework and ensures a level playing field in the market. SWICO Recycling is therefore a prime example of how a problem can be solved in partnership between private enterprise and the public sector.

The issue in future in recycling will be to maintain the high level of technology and, if possible, to adapt to technical progress. The recovery of rare metals that are essential for the electronics industry will be a key focus for attention. Supplies of indium as a raw material, for example, which is needed to manufacture flat-screen monitors, are not inexhaustible.

Thanks to SWICO Recycling, Switzerland has long been a global leader in the recycling of electronic waste. I would like to congratulate SWICO Recycling on its 15th anniversary and wish it continued success!

Bruno Oberle, Director of the Federal Office for the Environment

2008 – the highlights

April

Greenforum raises awareness of environmental issues

The first Greenforum held on 7 April 2008 was a total success. Nearly 80 participants heard talks by representatives of Philips, Hewlett-Packard, ClimatePartner and Greenpeace. The talks encouraged the audience to discuss the issues of energy efficiency, product design and recycling of electronic equipment. SWICO Recycling organised the event to promote communication, to raise awareness of environmental matters and to propose solutions. A report on the Greenforum 2008 can be found at www.swicorecycling.ch/d/information_greenforum08.asp

New SWICO Recycling corporate identity



With a new logo, corporate brochure, flyer and its own website, SWICO Recycling launched its new image just in time for the annual conference and the first Greenforum. The goal of the new identity is to ingrain SWICO Recycling among the population as a Swiss label for environmentally friendly disposal of electrical and electronic equipment. Whilst the Advance Recycling Fee (ARF) has been familiar to the public for years, the SWICO Recycling organisation itself has so far taken something of a back seat. In addition to collection orders, important lists and forms for existing and potential Convention signatories, the website also contains background information on recycling. All the information, including the Activity Report, corporate brochure and flyer, can be downloaded from www.swicorecycling.ch

May

Merger of offices

The Board of the SWICO association decided to utilise synergies between the association and SWICO Recycling and to merge its Executive Board with that of SWICO Recycling. The office was taken on by Paul Brändli, previously the Managing Director of SWICO Recycling. Brändli succeeded Rita Wirz who led the association for four years and left the position of her own volition. The accounts of the SWICO association and SWICO Recycling will continue to be kept separately to guarantee cost transparency and the ring-fencing of the ARF.

Member of Swiss Recycling

On 1 May 2008, SWICO Recycling joined the Swiss Recycling association, which represents all the major system operators collecting recyclable materials. Swiss Recycling supervises and advises collection points on efficiency. This membership is also important to SWICO Recycling because it will help co-ordinate advertising activities or educational programmes in schools.

September

PCB study



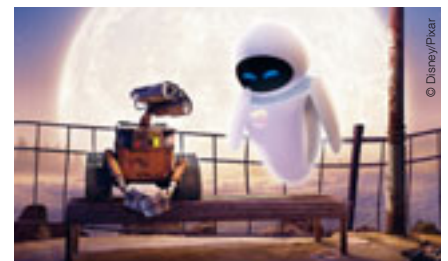
SWICO Recycling, the SENS Swiss Foundation for Waste Management and the SLRS Swiss Lighting Recycling Foundation jointly commissioned a study on PCB. The goal was to find out how many PCB-containing capacitors are still in circulation and whether the recycling processes need to be adapted. The study was carried out by Empa St. Gallen in conjunction with the agency for environmental chemistry. The study showed that 99 percent of PCB-con-

taining capacitors have been disposed of, but some of them may still contain substantial quantities of PCB.

Partnership with Cargo Domizil renewed

After examining all the bids for the logistics contract, the Environmental Commission decided to work with Cargo Domizil again for another two years with effect from 1 January 2009. You can read more about Cargo Domizil on page 13.

Wall-E keeps the environment clean



SWICO Recycling took part in a recycling campaign. Its protagonist is the recycling robot Wall-E from the Disney/Pixar film of the same name. More information can be found at www.helpwalle.ch

October

Change in tariff

At its closed-door meeting of 15 and 16 October, the SWICO Environmental Commission passed a change in the ARF tariff with effect from 1 January 2009. Among other things, the ARF will be reduced for various devices such as telecommunications equipment. More information can be found at www.swicorecycling.ch/e/information_tarife.asp

December

Increased number of signatories

SWICO Recycling has over 630 signatories as of 31 December 2008, representing a welcome increase of 10 percent. As of 31 December 2007 the number of signatories was 576.



Paul Brändli: "This year, for the first time, foreign recyclers will be eligible to bid."

"We now recycle 15 times more than in 1994"

On the 15th anniversary of SWICO Recycling, Managing Director Paul Brändli reflects on the past and looks to the immediate future.

SWICO Recycling is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year. What has the organisation achieved in this time?

Paul Brändli: When it was founded in 1994, SWICO Recycling had 30 Convention signatories. Today there are 630. Another success is that anyone who wants to dispose of their old television no longer has to pay a fee of CHF 40. There is no fly-tipping in the woods in Switzerland because the recycling system is established. The ARF is familiar to the public, and we use it to operate our con-

sumer-friendly take-back system. Customers can return used equipment free of charge to 6,000 Swiss shops and 500 public collection points.

Can you put the success of SWICO Recycling into figures?

Today we recycle nearly 15 times as many devices as in 1994, some 50,000 tonnes. If you assume that a device is used for 7 years, that is 85 percent – an excellent result compared with other countries. We

have been able to halve the cost per tonne of equipment recycled compared with when we started out – despite inflation.

Are there also areas with which SWICO Recycling is less happy?

Yes, the proportion of mobile phones being returned is unsatisfactory. Of the 2.8 million mobile phones sold each year, only 15 percent are returned to collection points. Nearly 8 million obsolete mobile phones are lying around in Swiss households.

Why is the recycling rate for mobile phones so low?

Most of the population are not aware that old mobile phones can be recycled. For this reason we are increasing publicity work in this area. The Pusch foundation for practical environmental protection in Switzerland will be holding a national campaign day in mid-May, entitled "True Values". We are supporting this campaign and will be providing communities with containers for collecting mobile phones. We are also launching an awareness campaign in schools, together with Pusch.

Let us look back for a moment: what was the one event that marked 2008?

The fluctuations in raw materials prices had a major effect on the recycling industry. For example, the price of copper fell by 70 percent in 2008, which made a nonsense of the recyclers' price calculations. Ultimately they had to pay to get rid of equipment containing iron – yet sales of this resource were until recently a fairly lucrative business.

With effect from 2008 you have been Managing Director not only of SWICO Recycling but also of the SWICO association. Why were the two positions merged?

This move enables us to deploy our staff more efficiently. But we will continue to run separate accounts for each area and also prepare two Activity Reports. There is no cross-subsidisation from one area to the other, especially since the ARF is ring-fenced.

What will challenge SWICO Recycling most in 2009?

The price of raw materials. The ARF has not been increased for 2009 but we will be keeping a close eye on it. Given the economic crisis, we can surmise that consumers will buy fewer devices, which will squeeze our revenues. Recycling costs will be lower because the equipment will probably be used for longer.

"Most of the population are not aware that old mobile phones can be recycled."

What are SWICO Recycling's main projects for 2009?

The focus is on the new recycling tender process which will run until mid-2009. As we are experiencing enormous price pressure internationally, bids from nearby foreign countries will be eligible for consideration for the first time. Of course the same stringent quality requirements apply to foreign recyclers as to Swiss recyclers, and Empa will monitor them. The disadvantage of working with recyclers abroad is the higher transport costs. These are included in our overall calculation, which works to the advantage of local recyclers. The argument is that the longer transport distances to other countries are less environmentally friendly. However, most recycled materials must be transported abroad anyway for reprocessing. For example, there are no copper mills in Switzerland. When you look at it like this,

the CO₂ emissions across all transport are more or less the same.

So will SWICO Recycling be recycling abroad from 2010?

Not necessarily. We will decide using economic and environmental criteria. But I think the Swiss recyclers should consider joining forces to offer us a single service package: there are many recycling operations in Switzerland but only a few recycle the equipment down to the raw materials. The other operations collect and dismantle the equipment. All of them must invest heavily in new technologies. In view of the low volumes recycled and the fragmentation of the Swiss recycling market, it is difficult for them to remain competitive compared with foreign operations. If SWICO Recycling works with Swiss companies for political reasons and prices are higher as a result, there is an increased risk that international manufacturers will leave the SWICO Recycling system and recycle within their European structures.

What does SWICO Recycling want to achieve by its 20th anniversary?

Of course we want to become even better: our goal is market coverage of 95 percent; currently it is 85 to 90 percent. We also want to increase the proportion of returns from 85 to 90 percent. Moreover, we want to reinforce SWICO Recycling's reputation as a quality label for sustainable consumption of electronic goods.

“ I need my GPS for competitions where the route flown is recorded. With paragliding, you are in the open air, and a wonderful panorama unfolds below you. Eagles approach to within ten metres. It's a great experience! ”

**Alex Graf, software engineer
and paraglider, Steinhausen**



A fan of the SWICO Recycling system

Roberto Vitaliano has been a member of the Environmental Commission since April 2008. His main concern is a standard and simple ARF tariff for the retail chain.



Roberto Vitaliano: "I can learn a lot from the other Commission members."

Roberto Vitaliano is the first member of the Environmental Commission who does not represent the first level of the business, i.e. manufacturers or importers. He is Head of Quality Assurance at IT distributor and logistics company ALSO and hence ensures that the interests of the second level of the business are also accounted for in the Commission.

"I was quick to say yes when I was asked to become a member of the SWICO Recycling Environmental Commission," explains Roberto Vitaliano. "I have been familiar with the SWICO Recycling system from the outset, and I am a big fan. It is simple and efficient." His colleagues in the Commission, he says, are much closer to the product and have a

great deal of knowledge in this field. "I can learn a lot from them. They are always faced with the question of whether the components in their devices are easy to recycle." He thought he knew the recycling process well – and was amazed at how many subtleties there are. Roberto Vitaliano has gained a deeper insight into the subject over the last year in a key task of the Environmental Commission, namely the logistics tender.

Standard tariff

Vitaliano is a member of the "Advance Recycling Fee tariff" working party: "I can make a full contribution here. One of my concerns is to ensure that the tariff is kept simple," he stresses. "If possible, I would like to stan-

dardise it so that there is no bureaucracy involved in calculating the ARF. We must look at this closely in the working party. Maybe it is much more difficult to recycle printers than computers." The focus in 2009 will be the tariffs for 2010–2011, and there will be more meetings for Vitaliano. The Commission members also keep in touch between meetings via e-mail, the Intranet and telephone conferences.

In addition to the logistics tender and the tariff, the Commission's main business in 2008 was the 15th anniversary, a SWICO Recycling CO₂ project, the processing regulations for recyclers in conjunction with the SENS Swiss Foundation for Waste Management and the development of the organisational and Commission regulations for the SWICO association.

Members of the Environmental Commission

Paul Brändli, Chairman
Alexander Bohny, Agfa-Gevaert
Roberto Vitaliano, ALSO
Brigitte Schmieder, Canon
Alex Lovis, Dell
Eric Hubacher, ESAG
Rolf von Reding, Hewlett-Packard
Hans Walker, IBM
Roland Vannay, Motorola
Paul Langlotz, Philips
Dr Jürgen Baumann, Siemens
Reiner Wolter, Sun
Christoph Schweizer, Xerox

“The Swiss think globally”

On her visit at SWICO Recycling, Chung Shan Shan from Hong Kong was impressed with how seriously we take climate change.



Chung Shan Shan in front of the Hong Kong Baptist University.

Chung Shan Shan

Chung Shan Shan is a member of the academic staff in the Department of Biology at the Hong Kong Baptist University. Her research fields are waste management and environmental management. She visited Switzerland at the end of August 2008 for the purpose of knowledge transfer. SWICO Recycling showed her how waste disposal is organised here, specifically for electrical and electronic equipment.

What was your reason for visiting Switzerland?

Chung Shan Shan: The government of Hong Kong would like to regulate the disposal of old electrical and electronic equipment. That is why I am looking at how other countries organise the financial, organisational and legal aspects.

And why did you choose Switzerland in particular?

Among other things because Switzerland is not an EU member state. The EU system for recycling electrical and electronic equipment is very well documented, and I had no need to look at it. Furthermore, many people in Switzerland speak good English, and I do not speak any other foreign languages.

What is the recycling situation like in Hong Kong?

At home, nearly 48 percent of municipal waste is recycled. However, only a few materials are recovered such as paper, metals and individual plastics. Most recycled materials in Hong Kong originate from industrial or commercial waste. Cleaning firms collect it and make a profit from it. The government of Hong Kong does not include electrical and electronic waste in its statistics.

What other differences are there between the recycling systems in Hong Kong and Switzerland?

The reprocessing capacity in Hong Kong is much lower than the volume of material collected. Therefore 95 percent of the material to be recycled is exported, mostly to China. Furthermore, until five or six years ago, the government here believed that waste recycling was a private matter and the state should not get involved. As a result there is still a lack of collection points or charges for municipal waste. Nor are there any programmes providing for product responsibility

by manufacturers or other accompanying measures that would promote the separation or avoidance of waste.

Would a similar recycling system to Switzerland's be feasible or desirable in Hong Kong?

Although the Swiss system would be commendable, it could not be transferred one-to-one to Hong Kong, the conditions are too different.

“Until a few years ago, our government believed waste recycling was a private matter.”

Is there anything that particularly impressed you in Switzerland?

Yes, two things struck me in particular: firstly the Swiss are very aware of global problems. In Hong Kong very few people take global warming seriously. Secondly I am impressed by the clear political will of the Swiss government. It takes the risk of introducing controversial measures. The government in Hong Kong lacks the courage to do this.

What works better in Hong Kong than in Switzerland?

Waste recycling in Hong Kong covers its costs, it is flexible and adaptable. On the other hand, the Swiss system aims more to be environmentally friendly and caring at the same time.

What can be done with plastics?

Empa is carrying out research for SWICO Recycling and the SENS Swiss Foundation for Waste Management into whether plastics containing hazardous substances can be recycled safely.

Each year, 25,000 to 30,000 tonnes of plastics accumulate from electrical and electronic equipment, around half of which is attributable to consumer electronics and ICT. There are very different types of plastic. Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) and high impact polystyrene (HIPS) clearly dominate by volume, accounting for just under 7,000 tonnes each in 2007. Polypropylene (PP) with approximately 4,500 tonnes and a mixture of ABS and polycarbonate (PC) with rather more than 2,000 tonnes as well as polyurethane (PUR) with around 1,500 tonnes also make up a significant proportion of the plastics used. The volumes of other plastics used range from a few tonnes to around 1,000 tonnes per annum. Some

of the plastics contain additives such as brominated organic compounds, lead, chromium(VI), cadmium or mercury. These are used as flame retardants, stabilisers, colourants or filling materials and can be hazardous to health or the environment. Harmful dioxins or furanes may also form when plastics with a high bromine content are recycled.

Statutory regulations

Swiss law therefore restricts substantial recycling of plastics from old electrical and electronic equipment. For example it prescribes thresholds for cadmium and brominated flame retardants. Since the equipment consists of so many different plastics,

some of which contain hazardous substances, it is very difficult to recycle plastics. Therefore there is usually no option but to incinerate the plastic.

As part of a project commissioned by SWICO Recycling and SENS, Empa in St. Gallen is now investigating the conditions under which plastics from old electrical and electronic equipment can be recycled harmlessly. Following an initial phase to establish the types of plastic used in old electrical and electronic equipment and their hazardous substances, essentially by studying documentation, a second phase will consist of an in-depth analysis of selected types of plastic.

The end of the cathode ray tube

Empa is looking for ways to dispose of cathode ray tubes responsibly.

Nobody in Switzerland is interested in cathode ray tubes (CRT) anymore. But how long will Swiss recyclers have to keep processing the lead-coated glass from them? In order to get an idea, Empa developed a model to establish this from various historical data (SWICO Recycling, Federal Statistical Office, Billag, customs, etc.) and display the information over a period of 80 years (1950–2030). It showed that the number of televisions and computer monitors in households, businesses, hotels, etc. rose continuously for decades, reaching a peak in the year 2000 with approximately

110,000 tonnes of CRT glass. Numbers have reduced quickly since then. They halved by 2008, and CRT glass will have completely disappeared from Switzerland by 2018. The reasons for the rapid decrease are that CRT has been superseded by flat-screen TVs and monitors, and a lack of space. Ultimately, a total of 300,000 tonnes of CRT glass will have entered Switzerland, of which SWICO Recycling will have collected 100,000 tonnes for controlled recycling. The rest was recycled prior to the introduction of the ARF. Whether or not the glass from Switzerland will continue mostly to be



Disposal of cathode ray tubes.

incorporated into new displays as it has been so far depends on when the recycling market will collapse owing to a lack of demand. If this happens before the numbers in Switzerland have been reduced to zero, different recycling methods for CRT glass or safe disposal sites will be required. Otherwise there is a risk that the lead-coated glass will end up in poor countries where it will not be disposed of properly.

“ I like to compose using my electric guitar. These numbers turn out to be harder rock than those composed at the piano. I get my inspiration when I am travelling, on my bike, on the tram. I adore Björk, but my musical creativity is my own. ”

**Linnéa Racine alias Evelinn Trouble,
musician, Zurich**



A partnership that's on a roll

The cooperation with Cargo Domizil is as old as SWICO Recycling itself, even though the logistics contract is put out to tender every two years.

For partners of SWICO Recycling who want to dispose of their used equipment it is very simple: all they need to do is complete the online collection order on the SWICO Recycling website with their address, number of pallets and covers, when everything should be delivered and when the equipment should be collected. The pallets will be delivered on time, and the used equipment will be collected just as punctually, as early as 24 hours after completing the online collection order. The entire service, including delivery of the pallets, is free of charge to the company. SWICO Recycling's logistics relies on Cargo Domizil, an association of road transport companies who operate mixed cargo transport. Mixed cargo transport means that a railway carriage or lorry carries goods for different clients, which is both environmentally and economically sensible. The routes are combined as expediently as possible, and the lorries are filled to the best possible capacity. When a fax or

online order is received at the Cargo Domizil office in Berne, it is faxed to the nearest of the 12 regional offices. On the requested date, the driver collects the used equipment, brings it to the regional centre and weighs it. Together with equipment from other deliveries, it is transported for dismantling or recycling. Of the 12,000 transport orders that Cargo Domizil executes every day, 200 are for SWICO Recycling.

Best service

SWICO Recycling and Cargo Domizil have worked together from the outset. SWICO Recycling's 15th anniversary is also the anniversary of the partnership with Cargo Domizil. And that's not something to be taken for granted, because SWICO Recycling puts the logistics contract out to tender every two years. So far Cargo Domizil has always come up trumps. Paul Brändli, Managing Director of SWICO and SWICO Recycling, says, "The reason why we keep work-



Cargo Domizil has the best price and the best service.

ing with Cargo Domizil is that they offer the best price of all the bidders combined with the best service and great flexibility. Cargo Domizil covers all the needs of SWICO Recycling's partners. They will collect deliveries from just one pallet in size and within just one day if required." But that's not all. 15 years of experience of providing transport for SWICO Recycling is naturally a strong argument in favour of continuing this logistics partnership.

A shopping centre in reverse

The residents of the Canton of Zug are the Swiss champions when it comes to separating waste: two thirds of it is recycled. What are they doing that is so much better than in the rest of Switzerland?

The 12 "Ökihof" centres in the Canton of Zug work like a shopping centre – but in reverse. Instead of being able to buy anything there, you can get rid of anything.

From books to Nespresso capsules, from armchairs to porcelain cups and corks from wine bottles. And, of course, old electrical and electronic equipment. Around 30 different potential recyclables are accepted.

Helpers show the way and provide information. Anything that can be recycled can be disposed of for free, anything that needs to be incinerated is charged at CHF 0.50 per kilo. This system saves the residents of Zug CHF 30 per person each year compared with the costs that would be incurred for waste incineration. It is also efficient because the communities have joined forces for the logistics of recycling in the form of

the ZEBA Association of Local Authorities of the Canton of Zug for Waste Disposal Administration and jointly organise bulk transports to the dismantling and recycling companies. For example, there is a railway carriage for electronic waste from the SWICO Recycling system. When it is full it travels to a recycling partner, where the equipment is dismantled and processed.



The Kobel family have experienced the technology revolution: daughter Maria, mother Maria, daughter Karin and father Hanspeter (L to R).

From baby monitor to mobile phone

Twins Karin and Maria are the same age as SWICO Recycling. The world of electronics has changed while they have been growing up.

Their parents can easily tell the twins apart. Hanspeter "Hämpu" Kobel explains: "Maria is neater, more creative and prefers learning whereas Karin prefers to enjoy life." The twins were born in Spain, their mother's home country. At the age of three months, they and their mother moved to Switzerland where their father lived. Their mother had to prepare a bottle every four hours: "Each baby had a different rhythm," Maria Kobel

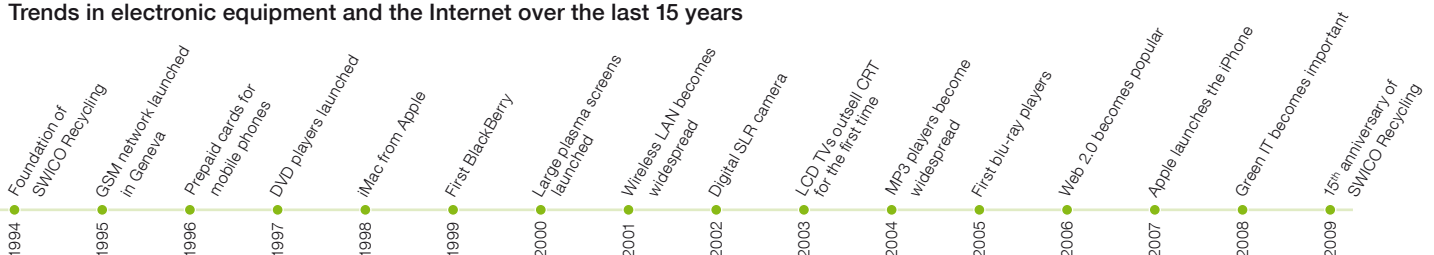
remembers. Their father adds: "We were delighted to have a baby monitor. It allowed us to watch television quietly in another room but still keep an eye on the children. Nowadays mobile phones fulfil a similar function."

Over the last 15 years, the Kobel family's electrical and electronic goods have changed: the toy cassette player has be-

come a Playstation on which Karin likes playing Tomb Raider. The family photos, which used to take great effort to stick into albums by hand, are now stored digitally. And the bad ones can just be deleted. Even contact with relatives in Spain is easier – thanks to a MacBook, a video camera and Skype! Hämpu does his banking via the Internet and is amazed that his daughters research presentations on the Internet, prepare them in PowerPoint and submit them on a USB stick.

The stress of having baby twins is a thing of the past, their parents are happy that the teenagers are never alone and always have a friend with whom they can talk about anything and do anything. Maria Kobel even says: "I sometimes wish I had had triplets."

Trends in electronic equipment and the Internet over the last 15 years



Art from electronic waste

Works by artist Jutta Znidar were exhibited at SWICO Recycling's Greenforum and auctioned for a good cause.

This is how it began: Jutta Znidar took expressions literally and turned them into images. She says, "Initially I focused on plays on words. I created the 'Maustreiber' (mouse driver), the 'Headcrash', the 'Weisse Mäuse' (white mice), the 'Chips', 'Memories', 'Intelligent Buildings'. The material I used mostly comprised hardware components such as printed circuit boards, CDs, printer parts and computer mice."

And why did she choose to make art from computer waste in particular? "I was fascinated by the beauty of equipment that was still intact but obsolete. I had a need to create order when the parts were just lying in a container. I wanted to give them a new reason for existence."

During the course of the process, her works became simpler and clearer. Individual parts

were allowed just to be and hence attracted a new significance. She also kept finding new components that needed a new reason for existence. Cables, for example. She created various works such as "Kabelsalat" (mess of cables), "Kabelbäume" (cable harnesses), "alte Zöpfe" (antiquated traditions), "Medien" (media) and "Networker". "Later I began to cut up thick grey and black cables and discovered a gorgeous colourful inner life – cable souls," Jutta Znidar remembers.

This was the time in which the World Wide Web was rapidly becoming more widespread. Jutta Znidar was inspired by a press release: "Over one million web pages in Switzerland," I read and immediately thought of fabric. However it quickly became clear to me that it had nothing to do with 'weben' (weaving)." In 1997 she began to create her first large-scale "Webseiten" and "Netz-

werke" (networks) as real, material objects. Because Jutta Znidar works with obsolete equipment, she sees trends come and go. "At one time dictation devices were all the rage. Now they are nothing but scrap. Just like CRT displays."

Jutta Znidar

- Born 1952 in Bielefeld
- Studied Business Administration
- 1978 job at an American office automation manufacturer in Frankfurt
- Living in Switzerland since 1980
- Freelance artist since 1990 with a studio in Dietikon

www.artwork-jutta-znidar.ch



Fascinated by the beauty of the equipment: Jutta Znidar with some of her work in her studio in Dietikon.

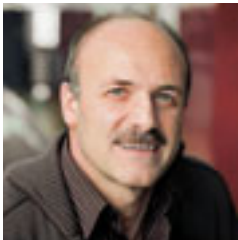
Anniversary congratulations

SWICO Recycling has built up good partnerships over the 15 years of its existence. Convention signatories and partners offer their congratulations.



*Max Zulliger,
Director of Inobat,
special interest
organisation for the
disposal of batteries*

“A good cooperation has developed over the years between us and SWICO Recycling. This simplifies administration for retail and benefits consumers.”



*Marco Buletti,
Deputy Head of
Section at the Federal
Office for the
Environment FOEN*

“The recycling of electronic waste closes the circle and protects our resources!”



*Hans Ulrich
Schwarzenbach,
Director of ZEBA,
the Association of
Local Authorities of
the Canton of Zug
for Waste Disposal
Administration*

“As the world’s largest manufacturer of musical instruments, Yamaha is delighted to be a SWICO Recycling signatory and to show that we take the issue of environmental protection and recycling seriously.”



*Thomas Glutz,
Branch Manager
of Yamaha Music
Switzerland*

“For 15 years SWICO Recycling has been synonymous with safe and environmentally friendly recycling. Congratulations on your anniversary and thank you for the good cooperation.”



*Reto Grunder,
Head of Recycling
CDS Cargo Domizil*



*Jacques A. Staehli,
President of the
Swiss Imaging Sup-
pliers Association
imaging.ch*

“Our members have been using the SWICO Recycling infrastructure since 2002, and we would like to thank the organisation for the enjoyable cooperation.”

“As a monitoring expert who has worked for SWICO Recycling for many years, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on its 15-year success story and look forward to continuing to work with you!”



*Patrick Wäger,
Empa monitoring
expert*



*Isabelle Marthaler,
Director of Swiss
Recycling*

“Our latest scion – SWICO Recycling – has settled into our Swiss Recycling family well. We hope it continues to thrive!”

“The members of the Swiss association of electrical and electronic recyclers, FVG, have been able to drive forward technical development in the Swiss waste disposal market substantially over the last 15 years. The many tonnes of SWICO equipment have contributed to this.”



*Bernard Loosli,
Director of the FVG
trade association for
waste disposal under
the VREG regulation*

What happens to the used equipment?

A major part of Empa's verification activity is to analyse and monitor the flow of materials.

The monitors at Empa not only verify that the processing requirements are being complied with in the recycling operations, but also the flow of materials. During the check, the processed quantities and the fractions generated are verified and evidence of the other processing steps is checked.

In 2008, SWICO Recycling collected 50,754 tonnes of old electronic equipment. The volume increased only slightly compared with the previous year (+3.5%). However, LCD monitors (+97.8%) and laptops (+67.2%) saw a sharp increase. On the other hand, numbers of CRT monitors and printers fell substantially (–33.3% and –26.1% respectively).

Data about the various components is broken down using processing experiments in the recycling operations attended by Empa. In the experiments, a certain quantity of the same device is collected and then dismantled and processed separately from the flow of other materials, and a report is written. These experiments were carried out in 2008 at Edi Entsorgungsdienste AG, Reonik Recycling AG, Solenthaler Recycling AG and Ruag Components AG. The experiments to arrive at a breakdown by components were performed

by examining the processing of desktop PCs, laptops, mobile phones and mixed IT, telecommunications and consumer electronics equipment.

Just under half of the fractions processed are metals such as iron, aluminium, copper or chromium steel. The second largest fraction, accounting for around a quarter, are plastics, followed by CRT glass at 15%. Printed circuit boards are insignificant in terms of volume, but they contain various precious metals (including gold, silver and palladium) and are therefore of particular interest in terms of recycling the materials. Components containing hazardous substances are separated by the recycling operations and conveyed into a special recycling or waste disposal process. Just under 1% of the quantity processed are hazardous substances such as batteries, capacitors or mercury-containing components.

In another experiment, in 2008 Empa also verified whether the fractions from specific brands of computer differed from the average of the mixture of computers from various manufacturers. It was found that the differences in the composition of computers from various manufacturers are negligible.

Recycled quantities by device type (A and B signatories)

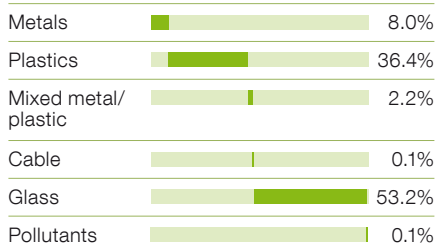
	Quantity	Average weight (in kilograms)	Metals (in tonnes)	Plastics (in tonnes)	Mixed metal/ plastic (in tonnes)	Cable (in tonnes)	Glass and/or LCD modules (in tonnes)	Printed circuitboards (in tonnes)	Pollutants (in tonnes)	Others ³⁾ (in tonnes)	Total (in tonnes)	Increase/ decrease from 2007
CRT television sets	256,796	31.3	646	2,933	173	9	4,279	–	8	–	8,048	–3.5%
CE, mixed ¹⁾	984,557	5.3	2,972	1,104	412	148	10	61	83	438	5,228	+14.5%
CRT monitors	290,691	20.0	467	2,117	125	6	3,088	–	5	–	5,808	–33.3%
LCD monitors	140,125	6.4	392	190	–	–	252	60	–	–	894	+97.8%
PC/servers	370,566	15.9	4,883	338	11	178	–	468	14	–	5,892	+8.7%
Laptops	151,487	4.4	354	95	64	7	27	102	13	–	662	+67.2%
Printers	423,008	11.2	2,859	1,364	249	33	56	151	10	3	4,725	–26.1%
Large equipments/copiers ²⁾	27,545	117.8	2,225	424	200	85	61	148	2	99	3,244	+9.7%
Other equipments	–	–	9,234	3,433	1,283	459	31	190	259	1,364	16,253	+37.4%
Total in tonnes			24,032	11,998	2,517	925	7,804	1,180	394	1,904	50,754	+3.5%
Total percentage			47.3%	23.6%	5.0%	1.8%	15.4%	2.3%	0.8%	3.8%		

¹⁾ Consumer electronics, mixed, excluding TVs

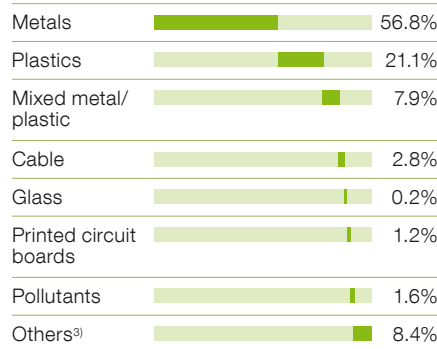
²⁾ Currently includes large copiers only

³⁾ Packaging and other waste, toner cartridges

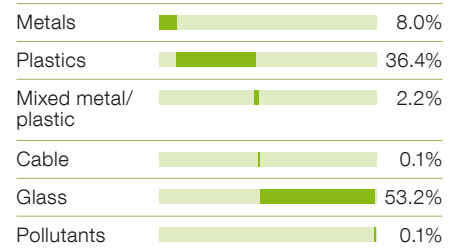
CRT television sets



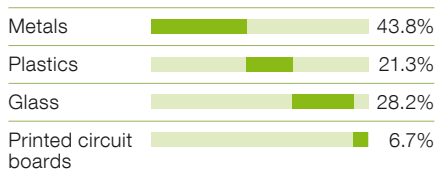
CE, mixed¹⁾



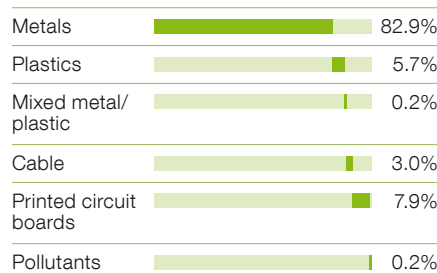
CRT Monitors



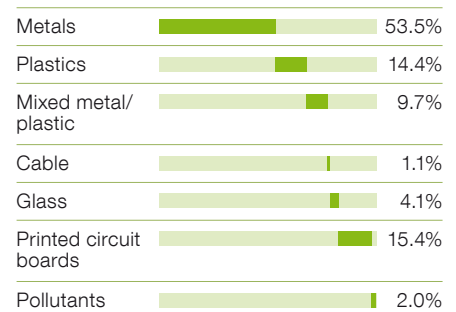
LCD monitors



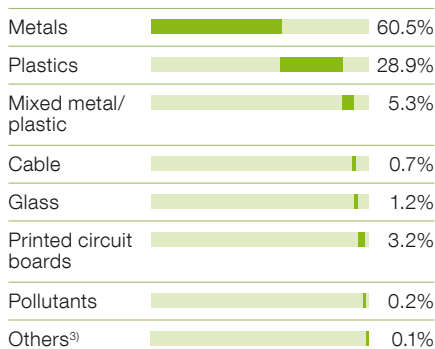
PC/servers



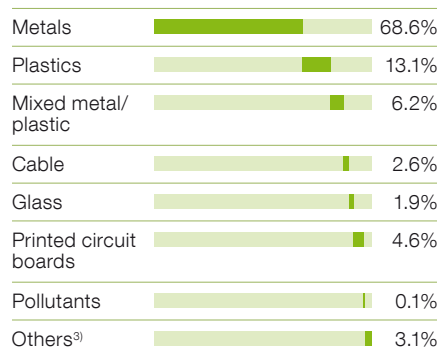
Laptops



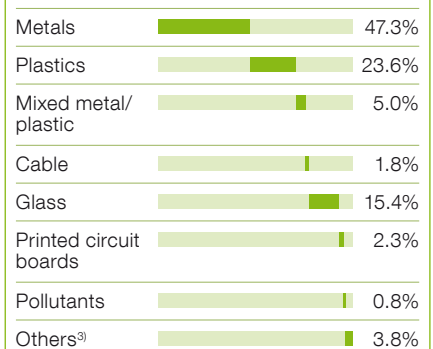
Printers



Large equipment/copiers²⁾



Total recycled components in %



¹⁾ Consumer electronics, mixed, excluding TVs

²⁾ Currently includes large copiers only

³⁾ Packaging and other waste, toner cartridges

Source: Roland Hischier, Empa

Trend in signatories

Convention signatories

As of 31 December 2008, SWICO Recycling has 630 Convention signatories from the areas of IT, office electronics, consumer electronics, communications, dental equipment, photographic equipment, and measurement and medical technology.

Again, three A signatories decided to become B signatories in future owing to a lack of their own returns. A minimum billing amount of CHF 500 was introduced in 2008. As a result, signatories with lower revenues from recycling fees resigned from the system. Another resignation took place when an importer changed status to a dealer. In total, 32 signatories left the SWICO Recycling system. However, the number of signatories saw a net increase of 100 as the result of acquisitions.

By division Since 01.04.1994	A signatories	B signatories	Total
1994	36	0	36
1995	41	19	60
1996	44	24	68
1997	48	35	83
1998	50	51	101
1999	51	75	126
2000	49	100	149
2001	44	159	203
2002	43	207	250
2003	40	242	282
2004	34	295	329
2005	30	341	371
2006	26	445	471
2007	23	553	576
2008	20	610	630

By divisions (in percent)	2008	2007
Office electronics/information technology	50	53
Consumer electronics	31	30
Communication	11	10
Dental equipment	4	3
Photographic equipment	4	4

Share of costs

B signatories	2008	2007
Expenditure as percentage of total costs		
Recycling hardware	43.9	53.8
Logistics	26.4	22.2
Collection points	11.4	9.1
Packaging disposal	9.9	9.3
ADF on batteries	2.7	1.7
Audits	1.6	1.1
PR work	1.5	0.4
Administration	2.6	2.4

Source of goods

52% of total recycling

or 26,477 tonnes of electronic waste were disposed of by private households in 2008 via collection points and retailers.

Business		48%
Consumer		52%

Cargo Domizil transport volume

Logistics partner of SWICO Recycling

48% of the total volume of electrical and electronic waste was transported by Cargo Domizil. The remaining 52% was delivered by the recycling partners in conjunction with local hauliers. At collection events, it is the end consumers themselves who bring the goods directly to the recycler.

CDS Cargo Domizil AG	2008	2007
Tonnes transported per year	24,138	24,521
Pallets transported per year	101,874	102,351
Shipments per year	25,991	26,259
Shipments per day	104	105
Original weight per pallet in kg	237	240
Number of online orders	32,896	29,752
Number of online orders per day	132	119
Proportion of total volume	48%	50%

Quantities

50,000-tonne mark passed!

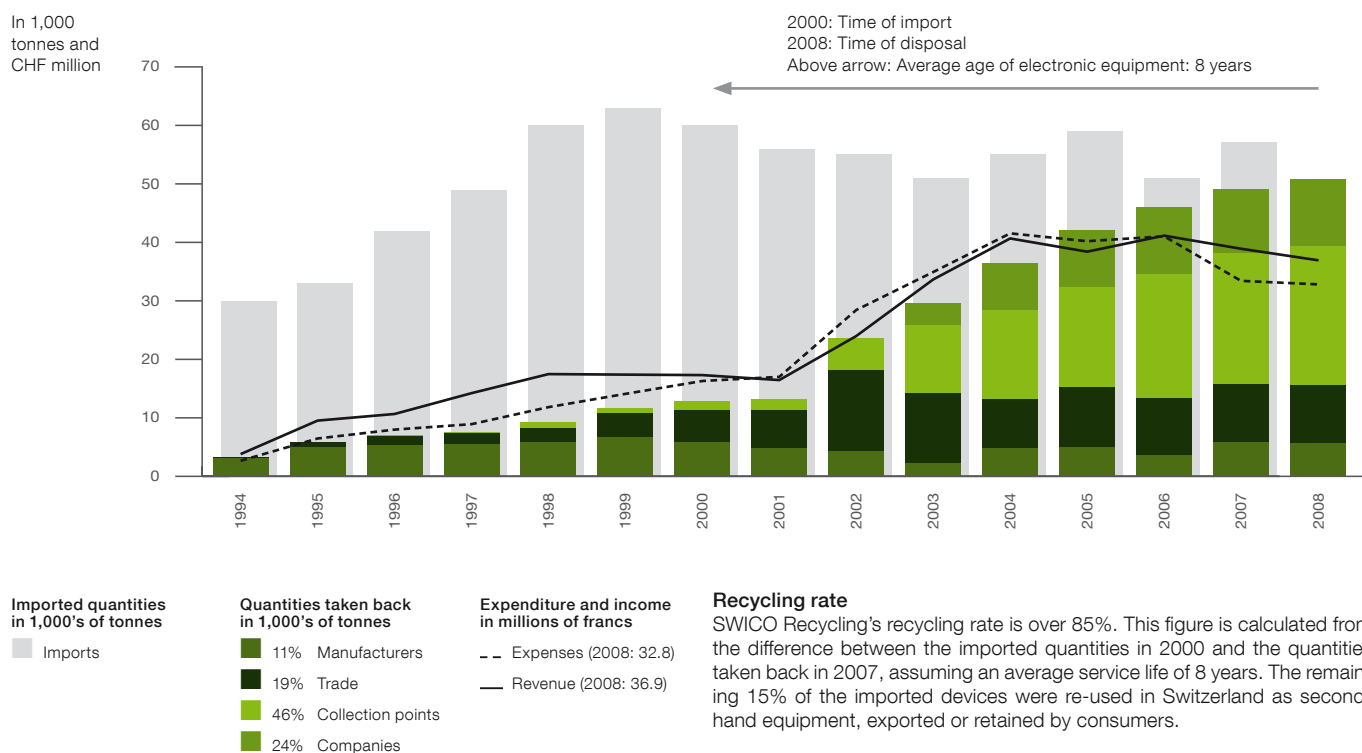
The increase in quantities taken back in 2008 was around 3.5%, meaning that the 50,000-tonne mark was passed for the first time. Exactly 50,753 tonnes of used equipment was taken back.

Quantities taken back (in tonnes)	Manu- facturers	Trade	Collection points	Com- panies	Total
1997	5,472	1,832	310	–	7,614
1998	5,838	2,439	967	–	9,244
1999	6,631	4,192	871	–	11,694
2000	5,920	5,443	1,418	–	12,781
2001	4,772	6,565	1,879	–	13,216
2002	4,284	13,839	5,570	–	23,693
2003	2,270	11,895	11,758	3,700	29,623
2004	4,900	8,309	15,100	8,100	36,409
2005	5,054	10,108	17,268	9,687	42,117
2006	3,687	9,677	21,198	11,521	46,083
2007	5,887	9,812	22,567	10,793	49,059
2008	5,537	9,704	23,346	12,166	50,753

By divisions (in tonnes)	2008	2007
Office electronics/information technology/ security technology	24,969	26,071
Consumer electronics/music	24,117	21,180
Communication	1,510	1,669
Photographic equipment	81	82
Dental equipment	76	57
Total	50,753	49,059

By divisions (in percent)	2008
Office electronics/ information technology/ security technology	49.2%
Consumer electronics/ music	47.5%
Communication	3.0%
Photographic equipment	0.2%
Dental equipment	0.1%

Expenses, revenue and quantity growth



Balance sheet as of 31 December 2008 (in 1,000 francs)

Assets	2008	2007
Liquid funds	6,856	8,142
Accounts receivable	3,803	2,922
Accruals	339	311
Financial assets	25,120	18,507
Total assets	36,118	29,882

Liabilities	2008	2007
Accounts payable	4,749	2,903
Deferrals	3,379	3,042
Latent waste disposal obligation	27,990	23,937
Total liabilities	36,118	29,882

Balance sheet

A high level of liquidity and the increase in the latent waste disposal obligation led to an increase in financial assets. The valuation was made at market rates as of 31 December 2008. In addition, a reserve of CHF 2.8 million was created to cover fluctuations. The latent waste disposal obligation of CHF 27.99 million is equivalent to 90% of recycling expenditure. This means that the target 100% coverage of the annual recycling expenditure has almost been achieved.

Income

As announced in the last Activity Report, SWICO Recycling was expecting income to fall, and it did, by 5%. Despite a reduction in tariffs by an average of 20%, revenues were practically unchanged. The financial income item was valued at book value as of 31 December 2008.

Expenditure

Direct costs for recycling, transport, collection points and disposal of packaging fell last year from CHF 30.362 million to CHF 29.984 million or 11%. At the same time the quantity of equipment recycled rose by 3.5%. The recycling costs alone fell from CHF 17.296 million to CHF 12.930 million or 25%. The tender process for recycling services will be launched in spring 2009, and new contracts will be concluded with effect from 1 July 2009.

Profit and loss account (in 1,000 francs)

Revenue	2008	2007
Advance Recycling Fees		
A signatories	10,199	12,627
B signatories	27,753	26,214
Other income	72	33
Financial income	-1,083	-131
Total income	36,941	38,743

Expenses	2008	2007
Personnel expenses	620	619
Recycling	12,930	17,296
Transport	7,772	7,134
Collection points	3,367	2,933
Disposal of packaging	2,915	2,999
Disposal of batteries	793	519
Del credere on accounts receivable	-	-94
Audits, analyses, PR, operating expenses	1,691	1,841
Endowments		
WS reserve for fluctuations	2,800	-
Latent waste disposal obligation	4,053	5,496
Total expenses	36,941	38,743

Organisation and processes even more transparent

In February, the Environmental Commission approved the Executive Board's application to adopt a new business model in accordance with SN EN ISO 9001:2008. An internal audit system (under the Swiss Code of Obligations), to which SWICO Recycling has a legal obligation based on the balance sheet total, will be integrated into this.

Headed up by an external consultant, in May 2008 SWICO Recycling began analysing and optimising the business processes, and defining and documenting the interfaces. The complete documentation came into force in November 2008 and is available to all employees in electronic form. SWICO Recycling will have the business model certified by SQS in spring 2009, after which it can further optimise the processes. This will make SWICO Recycling more transparent and efficient and will form the basis for further development of the business activities.

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“ Our 15-year-old mixing desk is ‘our old lady’: working with it has a certain style. The analogue technology is excellent quality and often better than new technologies. We have used it to record Züri West, Herbert Grönemeyer and Pepe Lienhard. ”

**Moritz Wetter, sound engineer,
Winterthur**



15 years of recycling: SWICO would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our success.

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