

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

El-Kretsen 

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About El-Kretsen

The Year in Brief

We launch Batterikretsen

El-Kretsen's subsidiary Batterikretsen is up and running. The company has been approved as a producer responsibility organisation for all five battery categories, making it a neat one-stop-shop solution for producers who deal in both electrical equipment and batteries.

[BATTERIKRETSEN](#)



Solid national presence

All of Sweden's 290 municipalities have extended their cooperation agreements for the coming seven years, which ensures collection long term. This is proof that our collaboration with them and our suppliers works well and continues to be developed.

Reducing fire risks

During 2025, El-Kretsen made visits to a large number of collection sites to discuss and put into place new routines for lithium-based batteries. The aim was to reduce the risk of fires breaking out at collection points, during transportation and at the recycling stage.

Nordic PRO Solution – a collaboration designed for producers

A request from our affiliated producers is about harmonization and simplicity of managing multiple producer responsibilities within our neighbour countries. Such solution is already in place for the whole EU, called Pronexa. Together with Norsirk, Retur, TMR, Sumi and Elker, El-Kretsen can now present a complementary service specially designed for the Nordics. We call it Nordic PRO Solution.

Dynamic quality work

During the year, El-Kretsen has carried out audits of all of its transport and pre-treatment suppliers. These audits are a quality assurance tool and the results also serve as a contributing factor towards increased efficiency and security.

New regulatory framework

New requirements and proposals from both the EU and Sweden have resulted in making the regulatory frameworks concerning producer responsibility even more complex. El-Kretsen monitors and comments on such policy proposals through written feedback, our dialogue with politicians and cooperating with European umbrella organisations.

Guidance for producers

The complex regulatory frameworks – not least the new battery regulation – mean that producers have a need to map out and understand their obligations and opportunities. At El-Kretsen, this is indicated by the many questions we receive. This is a clear trend – and we welcome it. All these questions help us develop our advisory skills, and we are ready to assist online, in newsletters, seminars and individual meetings.



The film *Baka baklänges* ("Baking Backwards")

Communication that propels change

In 2025 we launched the campaign "Baka baklänges" ("Baking Backwards"), a film that motivates people to hand in their forgotten electronic waste to be recycled. The motivating factor comes from sharing the knowledge of what our WEEE actually contains and why it is important to make sure all these resources are recovered.

[THE FILM BAKA BAKLÄNGES](#)



Towards a more circular and robust future

2025 was an intense year, but it produced visible results. At EI-Kretsen, we have been celebrating our first quarter-century by spinning off our batteries business area into a separate subsidiary, Batterikretsen. The Swedish EPA has approved Batterikretsen as the first producer responsibility organisation in Sweden to cover all kinds of batteries, from portable ones to electric vehicle batteries. This is an important step towards more sustainable and circular battery management. The decision followed extensive preparatory efforts including analyses, data collection, forecasting and new business models. We are proud of the result and look forward to continuing to evolve together with our customers and partners.

At the same time, we are active in a context where regulations and incitements do not always harmonise. One example of this is the EU's WEEE directive, where the current method for measuring collection volumes may be counterproductive to fostering circular principles.

As repairs and reuse result in less WEEE, it looks like we are failing to meet our targets, even though reduction in waste this is the desired outcome. Here, we see it as our responsibility not only to deliver results, but also to contribute to more appropriate measures and policy instruments.

EI-Kretsen's collection result for 2025 amounted to 76 per cent (consumer WEEE excluding solar panels). This is a strong achievement, both historically and compared with other organisations. However, we still need to consider what these figures actually tell us about our route towards circular flows. What isn't measured might be overlooked. To get a better picture, we need greater cooperation, shared data standards and a responsibility that is shared by authorities, the industry and other players.

Against this background, traceability and data quality become more and more important. During 2025, we intensified our work in these areas, particularly in the light of increased demands in conjunction with critical raw materials and security of supply in Europe.

To ensure controls at the end of the value chain, we require robust processes and equal conditions from the very beginning. For this reason, producer responsibility organisations play an increasingly central role, not just operatively, but as guarantors for quality and transparency.

We can see parallels to this in other parts of our society: The need for robust, resilient systems that can cope with suddenly changing circumstances. The question "What happens if...?" is just as important as how these systems work today.

To conclude, I want to emphasise the huge importance of cooperation. None of the challenges we face can be solved by any individual player. It will take joint efforts, clear goals and a desire to keep developing our systems as well as the way we work. We are convinced that together with our customers and other stakeholders, EI-Kretsen can contribute towards a more circular, transparent and sustainable future.

Fredrik Benson, CEO



El-Kretsen

Turning 25 and looking to the future

In 2001, when producer responsibility for electrical and electronic equipment was introduced, EEE producers joined forces through their trade organisations to create a joint, efficient solution for handling the collection and recycling of WEEE. This pooling of national capacity for the sustainable treatment of resources resulted in El-Kretsen. Since 2009, our remit also includes batteries.

Our main mission is making it easy for producers to comply with producer responsibility. Through a nationwide collection system we make sure that WEEE and batteries are handled in a safe, resource-efficient way. Environmentally hazardous substances are correctly disposed of and valuable materials are reintroduced into the loop to become new products. But producer responsibility is not just collection and recycling. We also provide producer support in the shape of legislative interpretation, reporting to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and by contributing to safe and accurate compliance with current regulations.



Solid partnerships throughout Sweden

From the very beginning, we have been building close long-term relationships with Sweden's 290 municipalities. Together, we develop the collection system to keep up with the ever-changing products and technology in society. In the last few years, there has been a particular focus on lithium-based batteries. By improving the sorting process, updating routines at recycling centres and introducing fire-retardant materials across the country, we have greatly enhanced security and reduced the risk of fires – an important contribution to public safety and producer risk management.

Municipal recycling centres are not the only collection points. Others are stores and service points. Store-based collection still only accounts for a small part of the total collection, but there are many signs that it will start playing a larger role in the future.

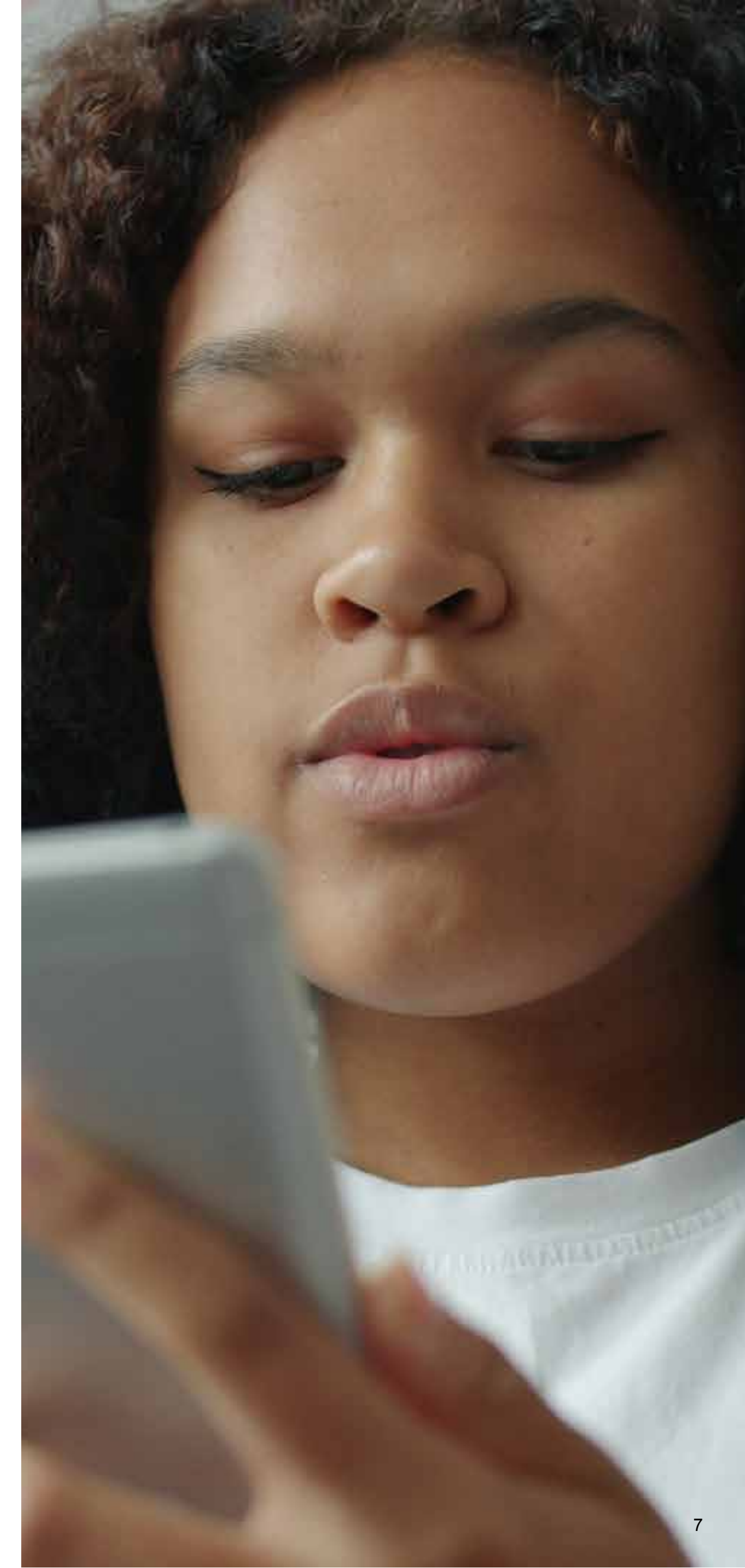
At the same time, we are facing new possibilities. The EU "Right to Repair" initiative is an example of an instrument that may lead to more products being repaired, which would extend their useful life. For producers, the initiative increases the need for traceability and a sound understanding of the systems involved – areas where El-Kretsen is already well-established. And when a product finally reaches the end of its useful life, we are there ready to ensure that it will be dealt with in the right way.

Our customers: The Producers

Our customers are producers. A producer is basically any company that manufactures or imports EEE and/or batteries and places them on the Swedish market. Foreign producers who sell directly to Swedish end customers can also sign up for our services. These producers now have to appoint a Swedish legal representative, and El-Kretsen is authorised to act as an "Authorised Representative" for EEE.

We are currently investigating the possibility of offering a similar service to foreign producers who sell batteries directly to Swedish end customers, as this is a requirement stipulated in the new battery directive. Being an El-Kretsen affiliated partner offers producers a comprehensive solution for complying with their producer responsibility: operationally, legally and administratively.

We also handle reporting to the Swedish EPA on behalf of our affiliated producers. This reduces their administrative burden and contributes to safe and accurate compliance with the regulations. At the end of 2025, El-Kretsen had 2,150 affiliated producers. This covers the majority of the EEE and batteries placed on the Swedish market.



About El-Kretsen

Services for businesses and organisations – flexible, safe and correct

In the last few years, El-Kretsen has extended its number of services to meet the current needs in the value chain. One important additional service is the collection of WEEE and batteries directly from businesses and organisations.

Since 2019, there is a requirement that any business that handles hazardous waste has to report this to the Swedish EPA within 48 hours. To facilitate this process, El-Kretsen has developed a user-friendly application that helps those who dispose of hazardous waste to register it correctly. The same information can also be used by collection points to report the deposited hazardous waste, which creates an efficient system with inbuilt traceability.

During 2025, we have continued to develop verksamhetsavfall.se, a website that contains guidance on the disposal of WEEE and batteries, as well as on how to report hazardous waste. The website promotes better handling quality and reduces the risk of discrepancies in reporting.

[VERKSAMHETSAVFALL.SE](https://verksamhetsavfall.se)



36,147

Avlämnarintyg ("Certificates of delivery") have been created with El-Kretsen's app Verksamhetsavfall.



Data driven insights and El-Kretsen's analysis facility

In our effort to continuously improve collection and recycling systems, we analyse 1.5 - 2 per cent of all collected WEEE in our statistics and analysis facility. Our aim is to find out what kind of items end up in the collections and the material distribution of an average crate.

Detailed studies of individual products, as well as entire product groups, enable us to collect statistically ensured data relating to factors such as volume, age, state and brand. This data provides a basis for development, innovation and future decisions and as such, it is valuable both to us and to producers who need to improve their understanding of product flows and life cycles.

About El-Kretsen

A strong European network

While producer responsibility is based on EU directives and regulations, EU countries implement this legislation in different ways. The result is that producers who operate in several countries may be faced with complex requirements and reporting models. This is why El-Kretsen was one of the founders of WEEE Europe (renamed Pronexa in 2025). Pronexa offers advice on and reporting of WEEE, batteries and packaging all over Europe, which facilitates coordination for producers operating across national borders.

El-Kretsen also participates actively in European cooperation organisations like WEEE Forum and Eucobat. This cooperation strengthens our voice in the EU and brings a possibility of impacting future legislation. The networks also promote a valuable international exchange of knowledge and information, an important element in preparing producers for coming requirements.

During 2025, the collaboration with our Nordic neighbours has developed. This means that we can now help producers through a single point of contact, both with guidance and reporting. The collaboration simplifies and creates security for all producers who have the Nordic region as a unified market. We call the collaboration Nordic PRO Solution.

Pronexa

[WEBSITE](#) →

WEEE Forum

[WEBSITE](#) →

Eucobat

[WEBSITE](#) →

Nordic PRO Solution

[WEBSITE](#) →



About El-Kretsen

Logistics and recycling - quality at every stage

WEEE and batteries have to be transported from the many collection points all over Sweden to specialised facilities where the materials are sorted and pre-treated before they are sent for recycling. The link below provides a list of the all transporters and recyclers El-Kretsen works with:

[TRANSPORT](#)



All our suppliers adhere to the European standards and continuously report the amounts they have dealt with and in what way. Through close cooperation, structured follow-up measures and transparent communication, we further developments focused on quality, safety and traceability throughout the chain. El-Kretsen's structure for handling collection inconsistencies and incidents will be discussed in a later section of this report.

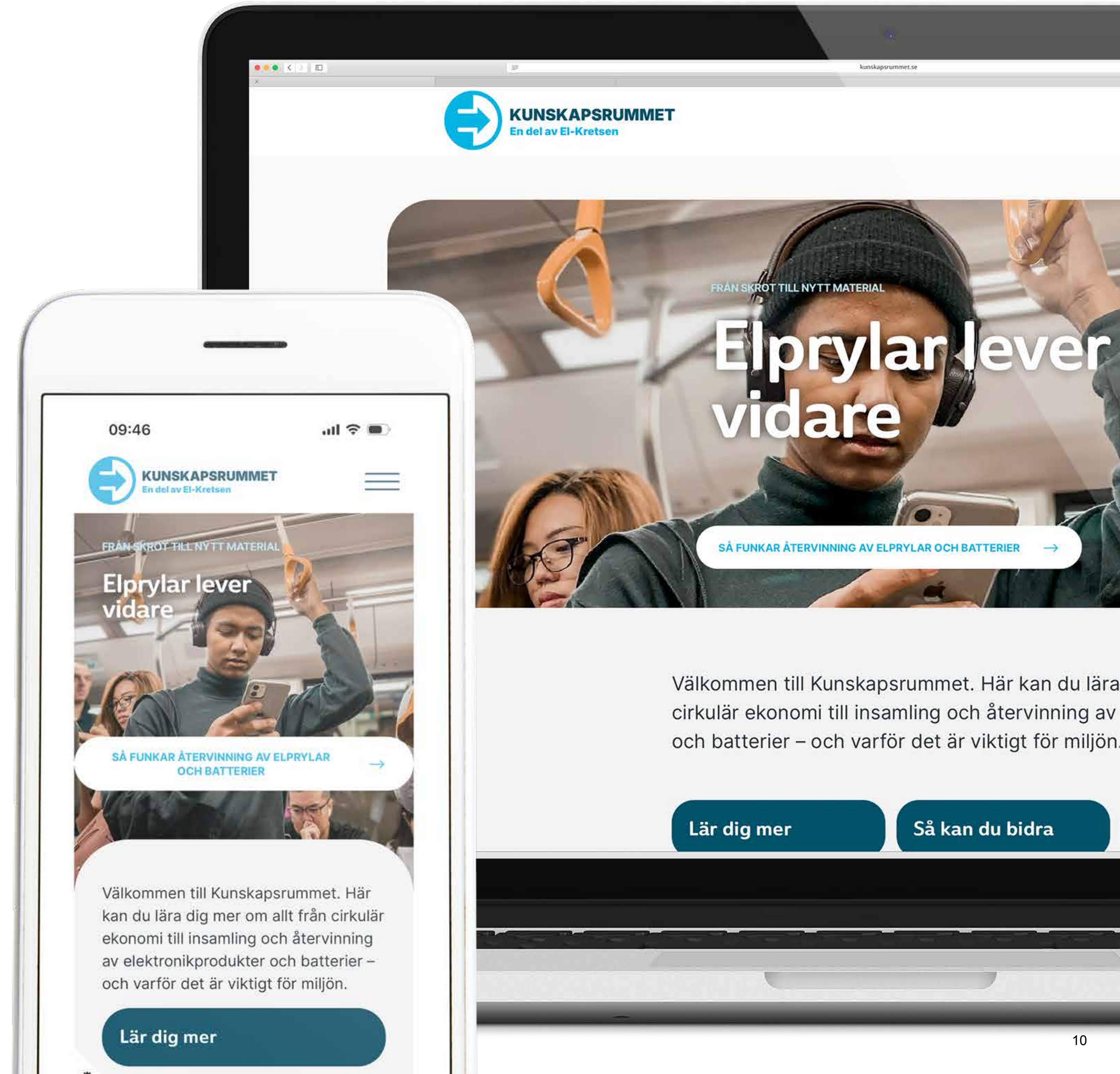
Knowledge that makes a difference

Kunskapsrummet.se ("The Sustainability Library") is El-Kretsen's open information platform for the general public, schools, decision makers and other interested parties. It provides easily accessible information on what producer responsibility entails, the recycling process and what challenges we face in the transition to a more circular economy.

On the platform, you also find more clear-cut educational materials for schools and links to our sustainability cooperation partners and other organisations that share our passion for recycling. Kunskapsrummet.se is a website that will continue to grow, and our goal is to increase our reach and empower people through better knowledge and understanding.

Kunskapsrummet.se is intended to raise general awareness and understanding of producer responsibility and producers can also use the website in their own information efforts.

[KUNSKAPSRUMMET](#)



Välkommen till Kunskapsrummet. Här kan du lära dig mer om allt från cirkulär ekonomi till insamling och återvinning av elektronikprodukter och batterier – och varför det är viktigt för miljön.

Lär dig mer

Så kan du bidra

Lär dig mer



Batterikretsen

El-Kretsen's subsidiary Batterikretsen is taking shape

We all knew that important sections of the EU Battery Regulation would come into force in August. However, as a PRO, El-Kretsen suddenly found itself at a fork in the road. Initially, it was neither obvious that we would get involved in all five battery categories, nor that it would happen in the shape of a new subsidiary company, Batterikretsen. But this is where we have ended up. One year of intense development, we have laid the foundation for battery management in the future. Batterikretsen has been approved as a producer responsibility organisation (PRO) and by that as a national collection system. This means that producers of all five battery categories can become affiliated with Batterikretsen and join its collection system. The subsidiary is a separate legal entity but will in practice be run by El-Kretsen, so affiliated producers will continue to use the same means of contact and there will be one single reporting point in El-Kretsen's portal "My Pages".

Reporting, structure and environmental fees

Battery producers will also be declaring the batteries they place on the Swedish market monthly or quarterly, stating quantity and weight in kilos.

Batterikretsen has drafted a document with product codes and their corresponding environmental fees. These categories will now be reviewed and tested by several different parties, and we are still open to the idea of making amendments if and when there are more advantageous alternatives or ones that offer new possibilities. If you are a battery producer, we urge you to read the news letters – or get in touch with us directly with any questions!

A pilot project for improved battery handling safety

El-Kretsen has started a pilot project to make the handling and storage of lithium-ion batteries better and safer. The aim is to reduce the risk of fires,

increase general safety and cultivate a more preventive approach throughout the collection system.

This project includes a training programme relating to fire risk and information on how to handle potentially dangerous batteries, as well as new routines for sorting and storage. Two new kinds of battery safety boxes are also being tested for handling damaged and other high-risk batteries.

The main focus is preventing risks that may arise following physical damage. At worst, these factors can lead to what is known as "thermal runaway", which in turn can cause lithium-ion batteries to burst into flame.

The new routines include taping battery poles to reduce the risk of short-circuiting. Damaged batteries and lithium batteries of 24 volts or more are isolated and stored separately in the safety boxes. Regular monitoring and self-monitoring are also part of these routines.

The pilot project will continue throughout 2026. After this, it will be evaluated and assessed for potential implementation more broadly in 2027.

EI-Kretsen's sustainability journey

A changing world

The globalisation process is currently in retreat. Regardless of whether this is a temporary setback or a long-term paradigm shift, it is affecting trade, production and legal frameworks. At the same time, global mega trends continue to shape our reality.

The next digitalisation phase, where AI and data driven solutions rapidly change the ways knowledge is produced and systems are built, will create new possibilities for producer responsibility and a circular economy. Digital product passports and improved traceability will make it possible to identify materials, components and products throughout the value chain. To producers, this will mean increased transparency – which will also increase demands.

In parallel with this, another mega trend is on the rise: resilience. At a time characterised by geo-political concerns, trade restrictions and pandemics, the ability to secure resources and adapt to changing circumstances becomes crucial. For manufacturing companies, the challenge lies in securing access to materials and creating a flexible supply chain.

This is where circular economy and resilience meet. Using resources efficiently, recycling material and reducing the dependence on new raw materials is no longer merely important for environmental reasons – it is also a strategic point relating to competitive edge and risk management.

The EU requirement for double materiality assessments is an instrument intended to identify these very risks. The ambition is to strengthen European long-term sustainability and competitiveness at the same time as creating clearer ground rules for market operators.

In 2025, EI-Kretsen carried out a review and revision of its strategic goals. One result was placing greater emphasis on customer due diligence. This is a way of gaining insights faster and results in an ability to respond more promptly to changing circumstances. It also enables us to meet the expectations on us as suppliers of producer responsibility services. Closely linked to resilience you also find EI-Kretsen's keywords "resource efficiency" as a specific target area.

Strategy and goals

Several focus areas within EI-Kretsen's strategy can be linked to the sustainability reporting standard, ESRS. We work systematically to:

- E** Streamline our logistics and thereby reduce the climate impact.
- E** Increase the collection rate and return as much material as possible to the cycle.
- E** Quality-assured collection and recycling and thereby reduce the risk of spreading pollution.
- S** Increase knowledge of the environmental benefits we make when we sort, collect and recycle electrical equipment and batteries.
- G** Have a long-term and stable economy that secures collection and the services that affiliated producers pay for here and now but also in a longer perspective.

The Green Deal – a new version

As the world changes, so does the EU legal framework. The Green Deal remains in place, but the thresholds and time frames for certain legal frameworks have been adjusted through what's known as "the Omnibus initiative".


One example is CSRD. Previously, EI-Kretsen was subject to the requirement for double materiality assessments, but after the changes this is no longer the case. Despite this, we have opted to continue with part of this work. There are two reasons for this: One is that several of our affiliated producers are still subject to the extended requirements and need more detailed information from their suppliers. The other reason is that it is an important tool in our own development, helping us see beyond the innermost system boundaries and identifying new risks and possibilities linked to the environment, economy and the value chain.

El-Kretsen's sustainability journey

New requirements in 2025

At El-Kretsen, we actively monitor the world around us to see how legislation and legal frameworks are progressing. This enables us to prepare our own business as well as our affiliated producers for coming changes. Producer responsibility remains our core concern, but both we and our customers are affected by a number of adjacent directives and regulations. In 2025, the following changes were either implemented or initiated:

To producers, these changes mean, amongst other things, new requirements relating to registration, reporting, product design and traceability.

 Changes in the EU	When	What
EU Battery Regulation (2023/1542)	Article VIII came into force on August 18, 2025.	Mandatory registration and EPR compliance through PRO or individually.
Separate textile collection (2008/98/EG)	Came into force in January 2025.	Obligatory separate collecting of textile waste for recycling.
Recovery targets for municipal waste (2008/98/EG)	During 2025.	The EU target is for 55 per cent of municipal waste to be prepared for reuse and material recovery by 2025.
Right to Repair (2024/1799)	Implemented in part in 2025.	Rules that reinforce consumer rights to product repairs, and producer responsibility for sustainability.
Ecodesign Regulation ESPR (2024/1781)	New ecodesign requirements for smartphones from June 20, 2025.	Will gradually replace the old Ecodesign Directive.

 Changes in Sweden	When	What
Regulation (2025:815)	August 18, 2025	Changes to Regulation (2022:1276) on Producer Responsibility for EEE. For example regarding stricter design requirements for battery replacement and the Swedish EPA's supervisory role.
Regulation (2025:813)	August 18, 2025 January 1, 2026	Supplementary provisions to the EU Regulation on Batteries, for example producer registers.
Waste Ordinance (2020:614)	October 1, 2025 (and other dates)	Requirements for increased material recovery in Sweden.
Legislation including supplementary provisions to the EU Battery Regulation (2025:1071)	January 1, 2026	Regulating the powers of market supervisory authorities, for example with respect to the control of product requirements for batteries.
The Swedish Environmental Code	January 1, 2026 and other dates	Penalties for infringements of the new EU regulations on F-gas and ozone-depleting substances
Regulation (2025:814)	August 18, 2025	Changes to Regulation (2008:834) on Producer Responsibility for batteries.
Regulation on changes to the Waste Ordinance (2020:614) SFS 2025:820	October 1, 2025. Clarifies requirements for sorting and battery removal.	Changes to the legal framework concerning, for example, the sorting requirement and the removal of batteries from products.

El-Kretsen's sustainability journey

From regulations to actual benefit

At the core of our existence is helping companies comply with their producer responsibility. Our established, well-functioning national collection system and our processes for returning a growing number of resources ensure producer responsibility, while also making sure that El-Kretsen and its affiliated producers contribute to an increasingly circular economy.

We are well aware that the combination of EU regulations, additional Swedish regulations and sector-specific requirements may be both complex and time consuming. Our task is to turn legal frameworks into properly functioning systems and to support the producers who need guidance – whether the issue relates to an individual paragraph or how material flows are handled in practice.




Risks and possibilities in the value chain

“Double materiality assessment” is an instrument intended to generate an understanding of impact and financial risk. The analysis identifies the sustainability issues with the greatest bearing on a business and also how the business could be affected by external factors such as climate change or resource scarcity.

The result is not only relevant to El-Kretsen's own organisation. Risks and possibilities are directly or indirectly linked to the entire value chain, from the extraction of raw materials and manufacturing to collection, recycling and returning materials to the industrial sector.

To understand this interplay, the value chain must first be clarified. What happens upstream, what happens in our own system and what happens downstream? Only when the entire chain is visible can risks, possibilities and responsibility be allocated correctly.

This analysis points us in the direction of the next chapter: El-Kretsen's value chain. By visualising the flow – from the extraction of raw materials and manufacturing via use and collection to material recovery and new resources – we are able to get a clear picture of where we may be impacted, where risks can be identified and where value is created.

	Key topics ESRS	Subtopics	Significant impact	Financial impact	Risks & opportunities
 ENVIRONMENT	ESRS E1 Climate change	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increased climate-related risks, especially fire risk in waste streams, and increased volumes of climate-regulating equipment.
		Limitation and emission of greenhouse gases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emissions from transportation and refrigerant leakage contribute to climate impact in the value chain.
		Energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy use in transportation, sorting and processing has both impact and efficiency potential.
 SOCIAL	ESRS E2 Pollution	Pollution of air, soil, water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hazardous substances in electronics pose a risk of environmental and health impacts as well as increased regulatory requirements in the event of inadequate handling.
	ESRS E5 Resource use and circular economy	Resource inflows, resource outflows, resource use and waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Material recycling enables circular flows, but is limited by fractions that cannot be recycled.
 GOVERNANCE	ESRS S2 Workers in the value chain	Working conditions and equal treatment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Risks linked to the work environment in the supplier chain and increased costs in the event of changed treatment solutions.
	ESRS S3 Affected communities	Economic, social and cultural rights of societies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The operation contributes positively to structured collection, reduced littering and increased public safety.
	ESRS S4 Consumers and end-users	Social inclusion and information-related consequences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accessible collection systems are crucial for safe management of electronic waste and increased recycling.
	ESRS G1 Business conduct	Management of relationships with suppliers, including payment procedures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deficiencies in business ethics can lead to reputational and business risks in the value chain.

Above is a summary of El-Kretsen's analysis. These are the aspects that have been identified as significant, divided into the areas of environment, social issues and corporate governance. The analysis is based on the European Sustainability Reporting Standards, ESRS. ESRS is a mandatory standard for companies covered by the CSRD.

El-Kretsen's value chain

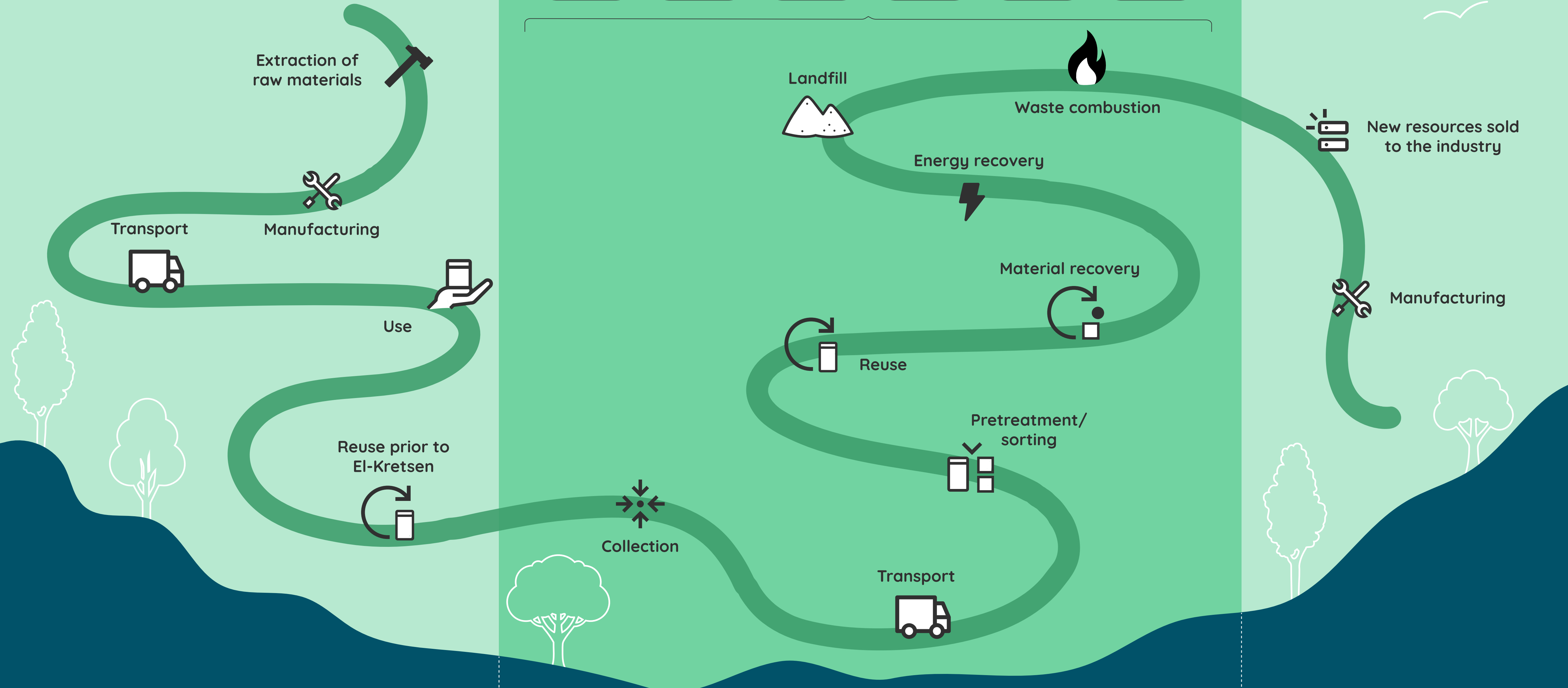
In order to calculate the overall environmental impact for a product, we have to follow it from cradle to grave. This also generates a better understanding of how each individual phase impacts the environment, which is a good start for identifying which stages would be most beneficial to address. It may seem far-fetched for El-Kretsen, who come in at such a late stage in a product's life, to ask questions about other phases. But knowing the constituents of a product, or the different life spans of different components, is information that may affect our decisions on how to handle products and materials. In the next few years, more and more products will come equipped with digital product passports (DPPs) featuring the materials and composition of the product. This will allow for a wider range of possibilities.

The illustration below clearly shows the phases that El-Kretsen has personal experience of. "Upstream" highlights manufacturing, transport and usage, while "Downstream" shows how materials are reintroduced to the manufacturing industry. In-between are El-Kretsen and all the other parties we cooperate with or who are affected by what we do.



El-Kretsen's value chain

- System coordination
- Regulatory compliance
- Data & reporting
- Procurement & control
- Risk management
- Additional services



UPSTREAM

EL-KRETSEN

DOWNSTREAM

El-Kretsen's value chain

How are EEE and batteries collected?

The majority of products are collected by the municipalities through our cooperation with Elretur. The public manned recycling centres form the core of this setup, but to improve access for as many residents as possible, all municipalities supplement this by offering in-situ and mobile collection services. Some waste is also picked up from collection points in stores and at service points. Finally, we and our suppliers also collect waste directly from offices, hospitals and other major organisations for transport to the next recycling stage.

What happens to the collected waste?

The initial stage for the WEEE and batteries we collect is sorting and pre-treatment. Environmentally hazardous substances are removed and the constituents undergo

rudimentary sorting according to material or chemical composition.

The purer and more homogenous the fractions are, the better the ensuing result and the greater the value will be in the next phase.

There are many different processes for sorting and purifying depending on product type. A lot of this work is still done by hand with basic tools like hammers and screw drivers, but it is gradually being augmented with automated processes. Plastic waste, for example, now initially goes into waterfilled tanks where plastics containing flame-retardant bromides sink to the bottom while the rest floats. The step after that involves optic sorting machines able to identify different types of plastic. And X-ray equipment is now used in a new way for of sorting batteries according to chemical composition.

All in all, a combination of techniques is used to raise efficiency and increase recycling quality.

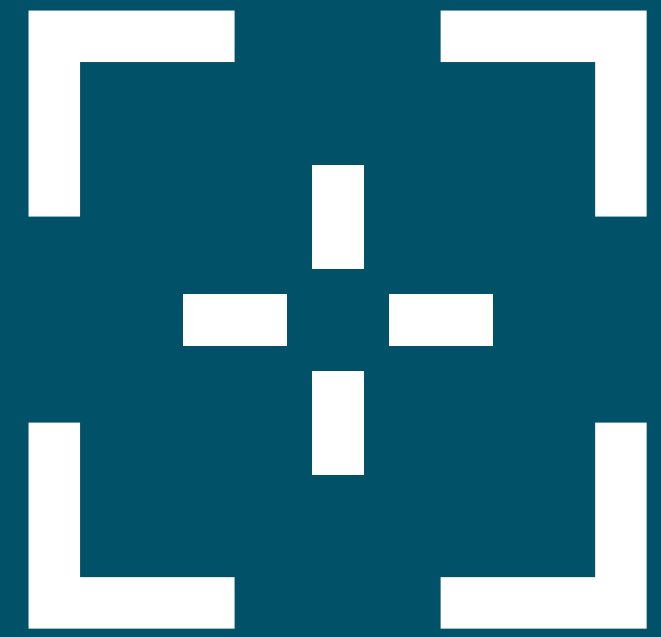
What does the recycling process look like?

Some waste is recycled in our suppliers' own facilities. This is the case with glass from light sources and certain plastic fractions. Other kinds of materials, like metals, cables and circuit boards, are transported to smelting shops for the final recycling phase.

Can you reuse electronic goods?

El-Kretsen and all Sweden's municipalities encourage people to mend, sell or donate their products in so far as is possible. We only want to find products that have come to the very end of their life in our collection vessels. Sorting the products before they reach El-Kretsen also improves the possibility for reuse. Moreover, we urge our suppliers always to be on the lookout for serviceable products among the WEEE they collect and to seize any opportunity for reuse.





Focus & results



Climate

EI-Kretsen’s activities require energy and generate emissions, but the overall climate impact is significantly lower than you would get from the extraction of new raw materials. Every kilo of recycled materials that replaces freshly sourced materials contributes to reducing emissions from the production of virgin materials. EI-Kretsen’s biggest single contribution to climate action is collecting and treating as much WEEE and battery waste as possible.

Some of the collected waste products contain greenhouse gases. If such products are not handled correctly, they can result in direct emissions. This in particular applies to refrigerants in cooling equipment. For this reason, EI-Kretsen is actively engaged in identifying and reducing any risks linked to these product groups. We require our suppliers to follow standardised and quality-assured processes and we carry out regular follow-up visits and revisions. If an inconsistency or inaccuracy occurs, we follow it up with analyses, assessments and continued monitoring. In this way, both we and our suppliers learn and become better and better.

A new way of calculating CO₂

In 2025, we started using a model provided by our European umbrella organisation WEEE Forum for calculating climate data. This new calculation method clearly shows how we can lessen the climate impact by increasing material recovery and using our resources more efficiently. The model also leaves us in a better position to analyse and compare different handling scenarios and it is synchronised with current sustainability reporting requirements, including CSRD.

The main difference between now and the calculations made in 2024 is that the earlier model showed the climate gain of EI-Kretsen’s recycling in relation to the production of virgin materials. Although still based on LCA methodology, the new model has been developed to be more flexible and analytical.

We use this model to:

- Evaluate the environmental impact from the current common system for electronic waste run by producer responsibility organisations (PROs) within the WEEE Forum

- Compare the environmental impact of alternative strategies for the handling of WEEE
- Analyse scenarios that include reuse
- Create adaptable scenarios based on user-specific data

Since 2025 was the first year this new model was used, there is no historic data available for comparison. Instead, the results we have achieved will serve as a starting point, or a baseline, that can be used to follow developments and make comparisons over time. The new model also provides EI-Kretsen with a more flexible and useful analysis tool, which will make it easier to assess the environmental impact from the WEEE Forum’s common system for handling electronic waste. It will also enable us to compare different treatment alternatives and study scenarios that include reuse. Moreover, this model can be adapted to individual data, which results in more accurate analyses and provides better records for making informed decisions. It also makes it easier to compare different kinds of material handling.

What does CO₂-equivalent mean?

Greenhouse gases come in different concentrations. Methane, for example, impacts the environment 25 times as much as carbon dioxide, and laughing gas almost 300 times as much. By creating a standardised unit called “CO₂ equivalent”, we can compare different greenhouse gases and also assess their joint impact on the climate.

WEEE Category	EI-Kretsen’s CO ₂ -eq emissions* (tonne)	Net savings**
Fridges and freezers	90 092	35 797
Large household appliances	22 785	-24 605
Screens and monitors	8 307	-5 278
Miscellaneous small WEEE	52 501	-62 519
Lamps	1 575	-756
Total	177 260	-57 361

* Load based on the emissions generated by collection and recycling.

** “Net savings” equals the gains made when recycling instead of producing virgin raw materials.

Adjustments, assumptions and comparisons

The results show the carbon footprint generated by our operations. Emissions can be allocated to our affiliated producers, meaning that customers who need to report their climate impact, such as within Scope 3, can access their share.

The net savings shown in the right-hand column above describe the climate benefit created by our operations. They represent the difference between recycling and the production of virgin materials. The treatment of cooling and freezing appliances is energy-intensive, as refrigerants must be destroyed. For this reason, their net savings differ from those of other categories.

The CO₂ calculator is developed at a European level for use by all Producer Responsibility Organisations of Weee Forum. Each country and PRO can adapt the model to reflect real conditions, such as

transport distances between collection and recycling, the types of fuel used, the Swedish electricity mix, and how materials are actually treated.

An alternative scenario is to compare with a more limited recycling approach, where only economically valuable materials such as iron, aluminium and copper are recovered. In such a comparison, El-Kretsen's operations contribute to savings of approximately 650,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents.

This corresponds to nearly 1,000 trips around the world by air.





Pollution

“Pollution” is a broad concept. It can mean different things depending on what substances we discuss and where they end up. To make things a little more straightforward, EI-Kretsen has divided it into two categories: Direct (happens instantly) and indirect (happens gradually).

- **Direct pollution** occurs “there and then”. It can be the result of an accident or faulty handling. Releasing oil, heavy metals, crushed glass and plastic can be harmful to humans, animals and nature. Air, water and passing animals can also end up spreading these substances over a wider area. For people, direct pollution may involve contact with hazardous substances that give rise to immediate harm, like skin corrosion, or more long-term health problems, like when breathing in fumes from mercury or asbestos.
- **Indirect pollution** may occur during the recycling process or be impurities in recycled materials that are imported into new products. Another kind of indirect pollution may be from products that never get into the collection system and as such are at risk of not being properly handled. An example of this is incinerating plastics without filtering out harmful smoke gases. The more waste we can handle in EI-Kretsen’s system, the lower the risk of this kind of outcome.

We are actively engaged in working to enhance general awareness of how to handle waste. Through information campaigns and cooperation projects, we strive to make it simple to do the right thing. Below are a few different examples:

- [Kunskapsrummet.se](https://kunskapsrummet.se), our platform for sustainability information (in Swedish)
- Our cooperation with all of Sweden’s 290 municipalities
- Providing support to schools to help increase knowledge in future generations

EI-Kretsen also cooperates closely with its suppliers to improve the quality throughout the chain. Through clear instructions, follow-up measures and an ongoing dialogue, we improve handling and continue to develop work practices. Moreover, recycling facilities are required to report their processes and results in accordance with EU requirements.

Approaches for reduced pollution

It is important that nothing gets lost in or between the processes of collection, handling/sorting and recycling, and EI-Kretsen has well-established routines to make sure of this. We pick up ID-labelled crates which are scanned at the collection point and weighed at the drop-off point, and last, but not least, we receive a report on how much of the waste has been recycled or recovered in some other way. This enables us to monitor flows and act in case of discrepancies.





Resources and a circular economy

Collection and recycling

EI-Kretsen collaborates with all Sweden’s 290 municipalities to produce efficient collection tailored to local conditions. Some 600 manned recycling centres throughout the country form the core of the system. In addition to this, there is a network of on-site and mobile collection points, battery bins and in-store collection from shops and retailers. The collectors we work with also offer collection straight from business organisations like stores, offices, hotels and hospitals. As a result, EI-Kretsen can present statistics that cover the vast majority of the household WEEE and batteries collected in Sweden and also the most common kind of consumer EEE and batteries that are collected through businesses. Reporting to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been divided into the product categories stipulated in the Ordinance for Producer Responsibility for Electric Equipment (2022:1276).

This, in turn, is based on the WEEE Directive (2012/19/EU) and the Swedish Ordinance on Producer Responsibility for Batteries (2008:834). The old Battery Directive was finally repealed in August 2025 when the new Battery Regulation (EU 2023/1542) entered into force. As batteries are reported to the Swedish EPA annually, the total quantities for 2025 will be reported in accordance with the old directive.

Recycling results

EI-Kretsen's collected batteries and consumer e-waste as shown in the table above totals 151,000 tonnes. Distributed across Sweden's population, this means that each person submitted just over 14kg in 2025.

EI-Kretsen also receives electrical waste that is not consumer electrical waste,

Tonnes collected	2025	2024
Product categories		
1. Temperature exchange equipment	31 292	27 575
2. Screens and monitors	11 327	10 643
3. Lamps	1 946	1 891
4a. Large equipment	49 117	46 437
4b. Large equipment – Solar (PV) panels	53	104
5. Small equipment	45 055	40 370
6. Small IT and telecommunication equipment	7 637	7 247
7. Batteries	4 325	4 066

or waste that is not classified as producer responsibility material, and which is difficult to categorize in any of the product groups.

How much do we collect from what is put on the market?

The WEEE Directive contains requirements for member states regarding how much must be collected. Since 2019, the requirement is that at least 65% of the average weight of electrical equipment placed on the market in the previous three years must also be collected.

The requirements are on the member state. EI-Kretsen's level is therefore not necessarily the same result as Sweden as a whole. In 2025, EI-Kretsen's collection level for

consumer electricity contracts was 76%. This figure does not include professional electrical products, solar panels and industrial batteries.

73%
of all collected materials have been material recovered.

Recycling results electronic equipment

1. Temperature exchange equipment

Reuse*	1,7%
Material recovery	83,9%
Other recycling**	12,3%
Other kinds of treatment***	2,1%

3. Lamps

Reuse*	0,0%
Material recovery	58,5%
Other recycling**	24,2%
Other kinds of treatment***	17,3%

4b. Large equipment - Solar (PV) panels

Reuse*	0,0%
Material recovery	45,0%
Other recycling**	49,0%
Other kinds of treatment***	6,0%

6. Small IT and communication equipment

Reuse*	0,2%
Material recovery	70,3%
Other recycling**	24,9%
Other kinds of treatment***	4,6%

2. Screens and monitors

Reuse*	0,0%
Material recovery	89,5%
Other recycling**	10,2%
Other kinds of treatment***	0,3%

4a. Large equipment

Reuse*	1,0%
Material recovery	68,3%
Other recycling**	24,5%
Other kinds of treatment***	6,3%

5. Small equipment

Reuse*	0,2%
Material recovery	70,3%
Other recycling**	24,9%
Other kinds of treatment***	4,6%

* Reused after collection

** Energy recovery and materials that replace virgin materials, for example fillers or construction material.

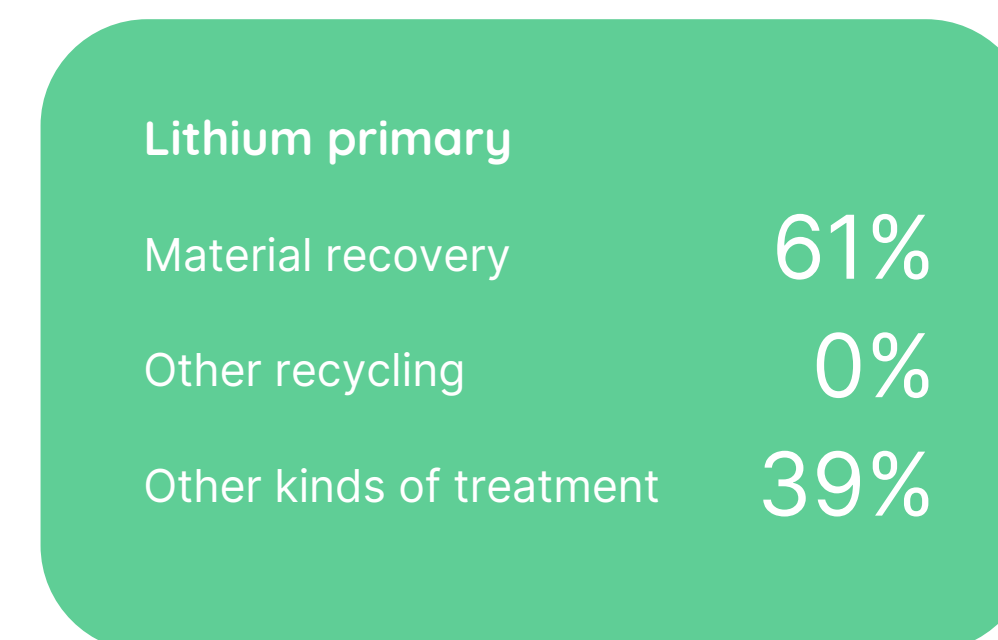
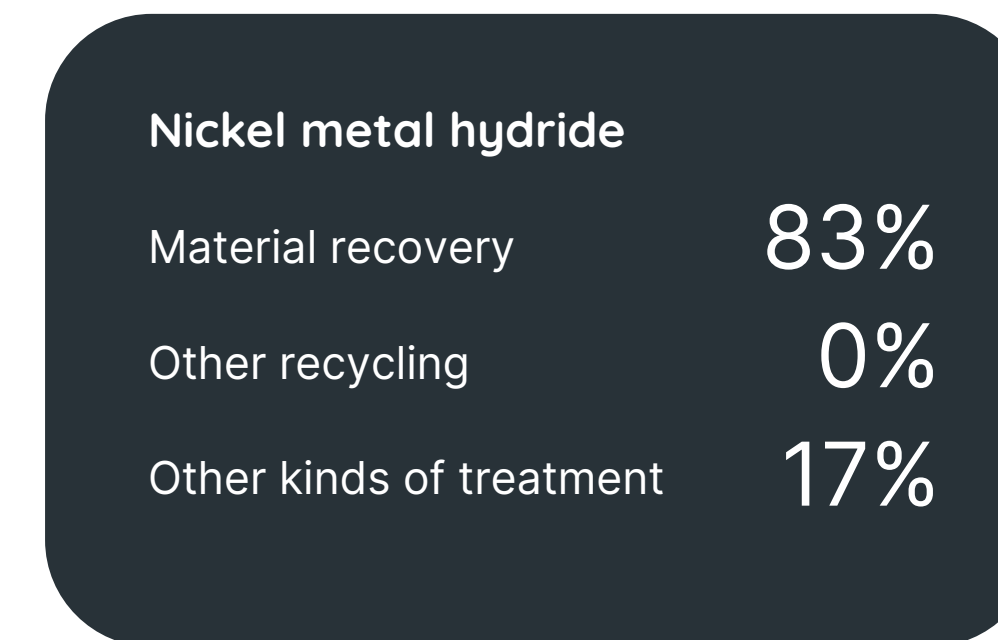
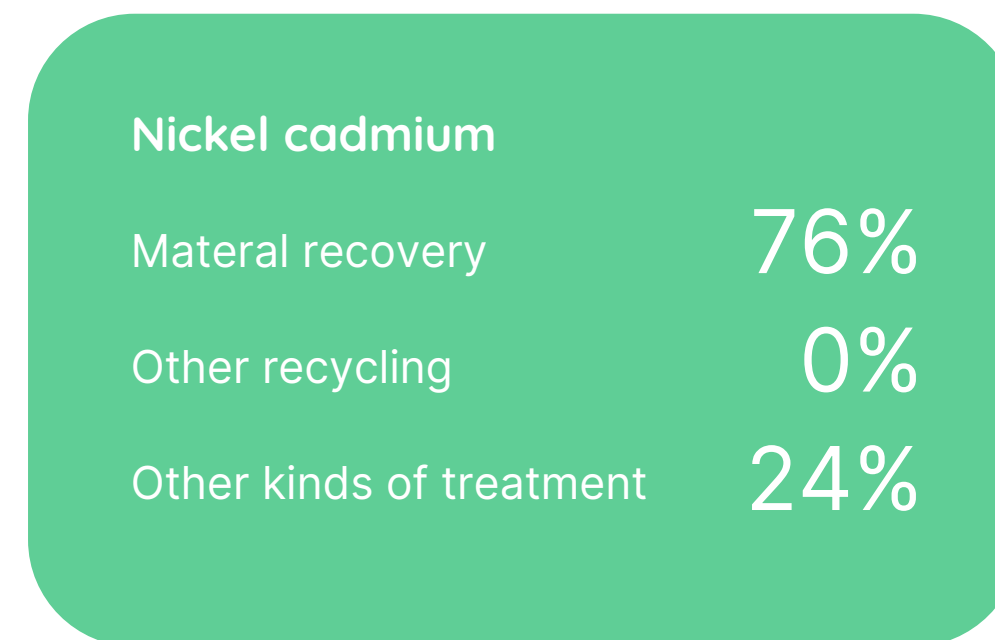
*** Concrete, porcelain and similar materials that are not recycled, as well as environmentally hazardous materials that undergo thermal combustion.



The collection requirements in the Electrical Equipment Regulation and EI-Kretsen's results in 2025

Category	Recycling		Of which material recycling	
	Requirement	Results	Requirement	Results
1. Temperature exchange equipment	85%	97,9%	80%	83,9%
2. Screens and monitors	80%	99,7%	70%	89,5%
3. Lamps	80%	82,7%	80%	58,5%
4a. Large equipment	85%	93,7%	80%	68,3%
4b. Large equipment – Solar (PV) panels	85%	94%	80%	45%
5. Small equipment	75%	95,4%	55%	70,3%
6. Small IT and communication equipment	75%	95,4%	55%	70,3%

Recycling results batteries



What's behind the treatment terminology?

Reuse

Organisations like Blocket, Myrorna, Vinted, Refurbed, charity shops and others in the reuse sector account for the lion's share of the second-hand market. There is no joined-up statistics report for this sector, which makes it difficult to say exactly how many products or kilos change hands here. Some of the products El-Kretsen receives are also reusable in their entirety or in part, but this volume is negligible compared with the main players. While component reuse does not make a big impression in the statistics relating to weight collected, the environmental gain is considerable, as component production requires substantial resources.

Something that hardly affects the weight collected but has a very positive effect on the environment is the oil we empty and collect from compressors. This oil is inspected and purified, after which it can be reused as a new product. Compressors are found in products like fridges and freezers, which also contain refrigerants which would have a massive negative impact if they were released into the environment.

These are treated separately in sealed chambers. Through gas separation we are able to extract and reuse hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid, for example.

Material recovery

73 per cent of the WEEE collected is forwarded for material recovery. Different metals are harvested, iron being by far the most common (in weight). But copper, aluminium and minor amounts of precious metals are also recovered. Other materials like plastics and glass are also recycled and returned to manufacturers as resources for making new products.

Other recycling

The category "Other recycling" includes the waste we turn into heating, such as unrecoverable plastics, wood, fabric and other combustible materials. This also includes materials that are used as a substitute for other materials.

Other kinds of treatment

Finally, there is waste that cannot be recovered, recycled or reused as energy. The bulk of this category is made up of the weights used in white goods such as washing machines. In the past, these weights were made of metal, but these days they are made from concrete or some similar stone-based material.

"Other kinds of treatment" also covers hazardous waste that goes into storage, like mercury or the radioactive units found in smoke alarms. Other examples of hazardous waste may be materials or liquids with particularly dangerous properties. These have to be burned in special incinerators.

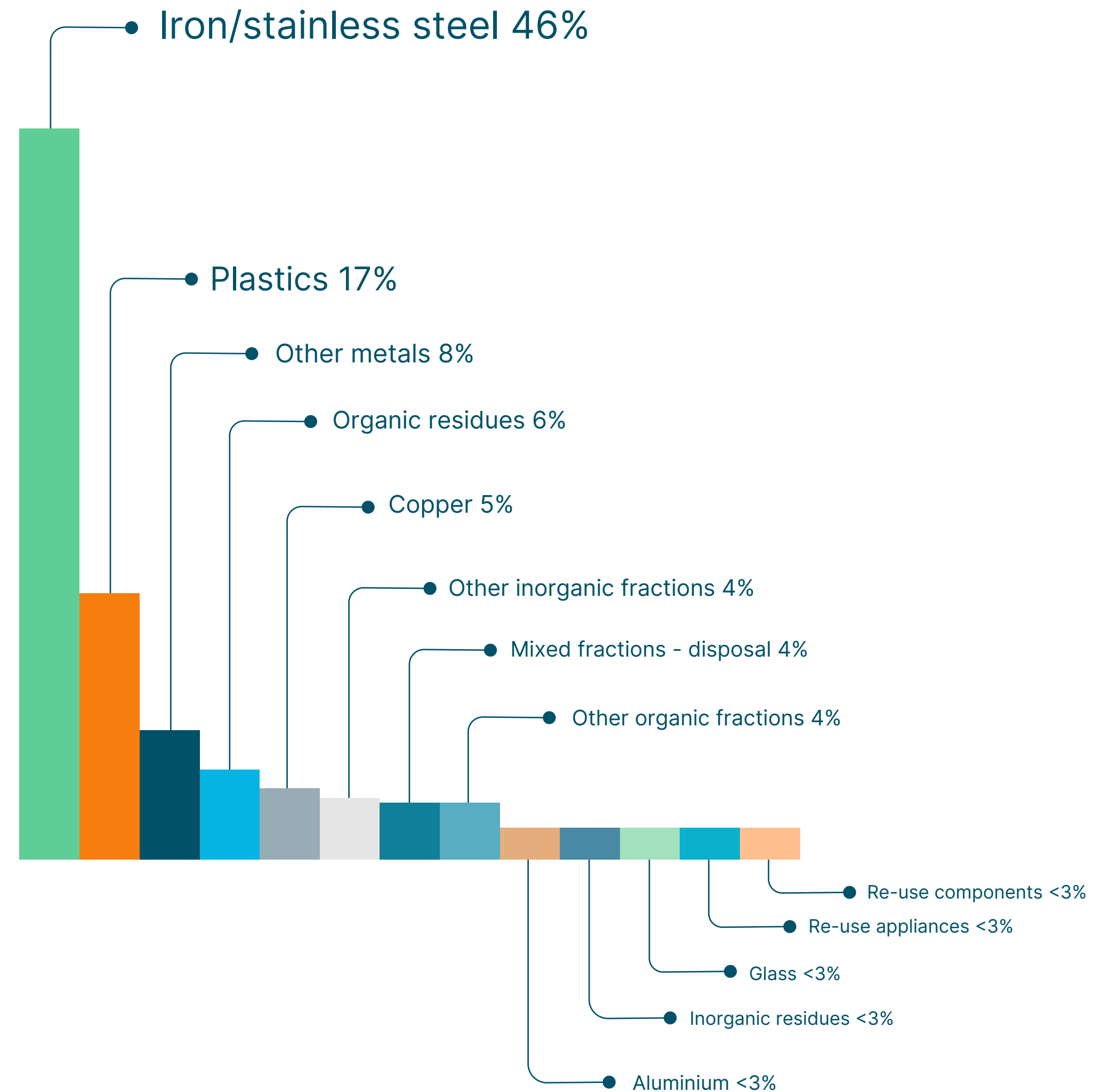


Material content

Composite materials - a recycling challenge

Modern electronics contain a vast range of different materials and chemical substances. One reason for this is the fact that electronics are now integrated in many everyday products, like furniture, clothes and tools. Moreover, these products have become technically more advanced with ever more functions, which in turn increases the demand for more components and different materials.

This increased material complexity also affects the possibility of successfully returning all these materials to their natural and original forms. We need a process that separates the materials and substances. Products containing combinations of textiles, wood, plastic and metal can pose a serious challenge depending on how they have been put together. A glued product is much more difficult to recycle than one that has been screwed together. Then, individual materials also contain different additives that may need to be separated before the unique elements can be reproduced.



The contents explained

Examples of organic residues and fractions

Umbrella term	Substance	Can be found in	Content/impacts/handling
Plastic	ABS, PVC, PS, PC	Sheaths, casings, cables, keyboards	May contain flame retardants
Flame retardants	PBDE, TBBPA	Circuit boards, plastic details	Environmentally hazardous, endocrine disruptor
Oils and greases	Mineral oils, PAH	Compressors, radiators, engines	May be contaminated
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls	Older capacitors, transformers	Poisonous

Examples of inorganic residues and fractions

Umbrella term	Substance	Can be found in	Content/impacts/handling
Metals	Copper, aluminium, iron	Cables, chassis, engines	Can be recycled
Precious metals	Gold, silver, palladium	Circuit boards, plugs	Can be recycled
Heavy metals	Lead, mercury, cadmium	Batteries, solder, fluorescent tubes	Extremely poisonous
Ceramic materials	Ceramic isolators	Certain components	Withstands high temperatures
Glass	Glass screens, lamps	TV-sets, monitors	Old glass may contain lead

"Mixed fractions – disposal" is yet another example of composite residual materials. This includes those that cannot be sorted as one single material and recovered, and which are sent on for energy recovery instead.





Stakeholders and communication

S2 S3 S4 Producers

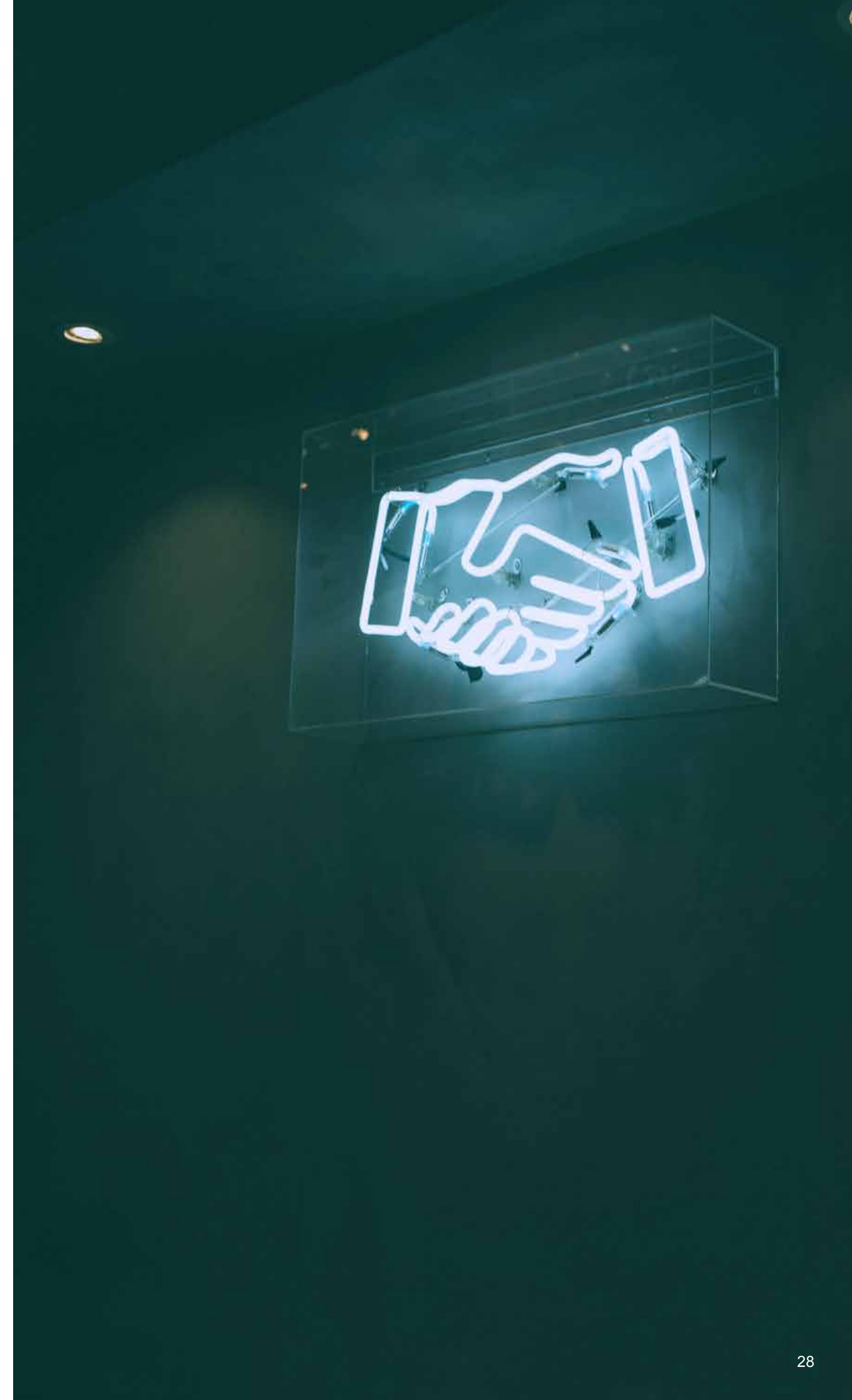
Companies who have producer responsibility for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and batteries are mainly manufacturers or importers of products that are made available on the Swedish market. Also foreign companies that sell electronic products directly to end users in Sweden are subject to producer responsibility. To fulfil their obligations, these companies must be affiliated with a producer responsibility organisation (PRO), and foreign companies must also appoint a legal representative in Sweden – an Authorised Representative. Of El-Kretsen’s 2,150 affiliated producers, almost 300 are foreign companies who have appointed El-Kretsen as their Authorised Representative.

An important part of producer responsibility is disseminating knowledge and information. The new battery regulation emphasises the responsibility of everyone who handles a battery during its lifetime. The umbrella organisation WEEE Forum has introduced “International E-waste Day” to encourage all those involved in this industry to work together on spreading information on why and how WEEE and batteries should be collected and handled in the right way.

S2 S3 S4 Suppliers

During 2025, 151,000 tonnes of WEEE and batteries were handled by El-Kretsen’s large range of suppliers. This work involves collection, transport, sorting and pre-treatment of WEEE before it can finally be recycled. Just over 110,000 tonnes of the collected WEEE have been returned to the industrial sector as new resources. The rest has been used for energy recovery, save for a very small proportion that has either been sent to landfill or burnt in special incinerators (a way to neutralise hazardous substances).

The everyday dialogue with our suppliers is conducted through phone calls and e-mails, but we also pay visits, carry out revisions and arrange regional meetings. In 2025, we expanded this side of the business by appointing a Coordinator for Municipalities and Collection.



Educational materials

S2 S3 S4 The Public

One way we create environmental benefit is by using ever more efficient recycling technology. Another is by making sure that WEEE and batteries end up in the correct collection vessels from the start. This is as much to do with having an understanding of what happens to the collected waste as it is to do with a person's motivation and choices when purchasing, using, sorting and recycling a product. At EI-Kretsen, we believe that teaching children the values of circularity is the way to go. This is why we invest in teaching the next generation – people who make small decisions today, but will be bringing up another generation soon enough.



Through the book Natur & Miljöboken we provide Swedish elementary schools with information materials that have been adapted to the national curriculum. They also arrange competitions where the pupils work creatively on sustainable solutions.

[NATUR & MILJÖBOKEN](#) →



Together with the publishing house Egmont, EI-Kretsen has created a special edition of the much-loved comic Bamse. We distribute classroom kits free of charge to all primary schools in Sweden. The kits include a poster and a teacher's handbook.

[BAMSE](#) →

Sopor.nu



In a joint project with Avfall Sverige (Swedish Waste Management) and the producer responsibility organisations NPA and Recipo, EI-Kretsen has set up [sopor.nu](#), a website providing comprehensive information on all kinds of waste. Sopor.nu is visited by over 20,000 people every month.

[SOPOR.NU](#) →

Kunskapsrummet.se



Kunskapsrummet.se is a website for school children, students and other curious souls who want to understand producer responsibility and the sustainability issues we deal with at EI-Kretsen.

EI-Kretsen is also on social media. On LinkedIn, we post news updates from any activities we have taken part in that are also of interest to many of our target groups.

[KUNSKAPSRUMMET.SE](#) →

[LINKEDIN](#) →

S1 Employees

Employees is not part of the materiality analysis but is described here in general terms.

EI-Kretsen has an employee handbook which offers important practical information on EI-Kretsen as a place to work. It also offers support when introducing new employees and provides a clear picture of how the organisation operates. In addition to this, the handbook contains several policy documents concerning issues like equality, work environment, complaints procedure and drug and alcohol matters.

The ISO 9001 Quality Management System includes clear guidelines on producing job descriptions, holding career development talks and drawing up training plans. To monitor the needs of our organisation and make relevant plans, these issues are regularly discussed in the management group.

Skills and competence development takes place in-house and through planned activities. In 2025, we arranged several workshops on both general and specific topics to raise the level of knowledge of the entire workforce.

How the employees rate EI-Kretsen as a place to work is measured and followed up every year using an external HR resource.

In addition to the Chairman of the Board, Bo Thunberg, EI-Kretsen's board is made up of representatives from the industry associations that are also our owners. You can find both our board members and our owners here:

[OUR OWNERS](#) →

At EI-Kretsen, we don't want to slow down or become complacent. We want to do everything we can to contribute to a circular economy. Being assessed by authorities and collaboration partners is one way of ensuring this. Business intelligence and taking active part in external contexts are other active ways of gaining inspiration and building competence, all of which contributes to our continued development.

We are involved in our European umbrella organisation [WEEE Forum](#) and [Eucobat](#), and we are part owners of [Pronexa](#). We have also recently started a new collaboration, [Nordic Pro Solution](#), with our Nordic neighbours. Moreover, we visit and take part in courses, seminars, fairs and conferences. This gives us an opportunity to spread the word on how we work at EI-Kretsen and the results we achieve. What we get in return is knowledge, which we invest in our organisation.



Circular Materials Conference

EI-Kretsen took part in Circular Materials Conference, a Nordic forum for developments within circular use of different materials. Last year's conference focused on the handling of WEEE and recycling of EV batteries. There were discussions on the challenges of complying with EU regulations, on efficient systems for collecting and recycling, and also on ways of producing, using and recycling batteries in a more sustainable way to secure the supply of critical raw materials.

The conference was held in Copenhagen in October, 2025.



EI-Kretsen had an exhibition stand and conducted talks at the Elmia Solar fair in Jönköping.

Elmia Solar, February 2026

As things stand today, we collect virtually no solar panels. But in the coming 15-20 years, solar panels are expected to generate up to 20,000 tonnes of WEEE every year. Additionally, the number of energy storage units is growing. This is specifically larger batteries for homes and other buildings. In order to have established a smart and efficient handling system for these once they start turning up at collection points, we need to design logistics and technology solutions for these specific product groups.

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Business conduct

El-Kretsen's quality work

To ensure that the electronic waste is handled in a safe and responsible manner, El-Kretsen carries out regular revisions of our partners in the collection and treatment chain.

Revision is an important tool for making sure that all work is done in accordance with the legislation, industry standards and El-Kretsen's own requirements. It also serves to assist in our continuous ISO improvement process.

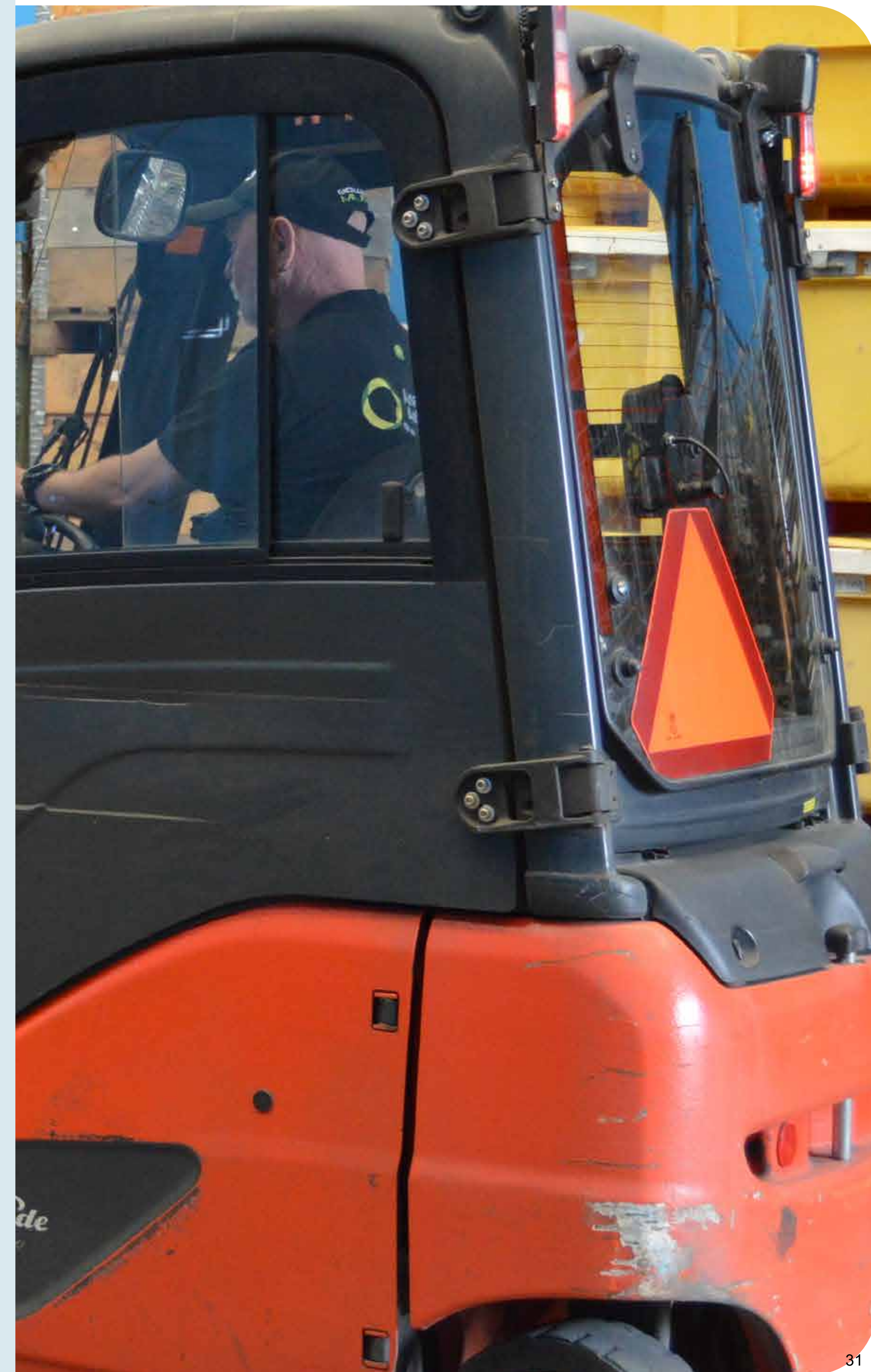
The overall legislative framework for how to handle electronic waste in the EU can be found in the WEEE Directive (2012/19/EU). In addition to this, there are common standards for how to collect, handle and treat electronic waste. Two names that will be familiar to European suppliers are WEEELABEX and CENELEC.

WEEELABEX has been an important tool for developing European industry standards. Today, two established kinds of revision come into play when an organisation is being certified: WEEELABEX revisions, which are based on the WEEELABEX standard, and CENELEC revisions, which form the official European standard.

Suppliers who work with sorting and pre-treatment have to be certified according to CENELEC. This is a fundamental principle. To be able to make this demand, El-Kretsen also has to be certified according to CENELEC. We need to practice what we preach.

In Sweden, these revisions are carried out by independent experts who possess specific expertise on the handling of WEEE. They will have received WEEELABEX training and have extensive knowledge of the standards, their development and of practical handling of electronic waste. Many also have WEEELABEX auditor accreditation and long-standing experience of the sector, particularly handling refrigerators and freezers.

El-Kretsen's application of both WEEELABEX and CENELEC revisions contributes to high quality, increased transparency and better compliance with regulations when it comes to WEEE management in Sweden – all in line with our remit and the EU legal framework.



Business conduct

Collection inconsistencies, incidents and continuous improvement

At El-Kretsen, we have clear routines for making sure that suppliers throughout the chain comply with both legal and environmental requirements. We are actively engaged in monitoring collection inconsistencies as a tool for discovering errors and weaknesses. Highlighting these is a way of enabling developments and changes. A way of perfecting the system. During 2025, collection inconsistencies have related to physical handling, like broken collection vessels, as well as reporting and follow-up measures, like when someone has discovered a shortcoming or a temporary error. An inconsistency of a more serious kind was noted last autumn, when media wrote about one of our suppliers being suspected of committing an environmental offence. Operations were immediately suspended temporarily while the situation was looked into.

An external expert who specialised in legal frameworks and technical handling was hired for an independent in-depth examination. All in all, two extensive revisions were carried out at the location and weekly follow-up reports were submitted in a dialogue with the supplier and the supervising authority in charge. Also, a meeting was held with the Swedish Heat Pump Association where the requirements for handling, depositing and environmental work were discussed in order to strengthen the industry's compliance with regulations.

The overall assessment was that no systematic weakness could be found in complying with the legislation or with requirements.

No major inconsistencies relating to processes, technology or working method were identified, and the temporary suspension was lifted. In conjunction with this, El-Kretsen also carried out follow-up examinations of the rest of the pre-treatment suppliers to make sure that everyone complied uniformly with the law as well as with the contractual requirements.

The above is a concrete example of how El-Kretsen deals with collection inconsistencies – and what an effort it can be to assess a suspected major inconsistency. However, it all comes under the heading of “learning” and becomes an important part of our efforts to constantly improve. A continuous focus on advancement is key to El-Kretsen's operations and the management system we use for quality and the environment: ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.

As a result of last years' management of inconsistencies, we are now reviewing the requirements we place on different suppliers for their routines and competence with respect to reporting, follow-up measures relating to transparency and traceability. Suppliers working with refrigerators and/or freezers or other WEEE that contains coolants also need to comply with the new F-Gas Regulation (EU 2024/573).

We can't guarantee that accidents will never happen in our system, or that there will never be any weaknesses. But we can keep working with inconsistency reporting, dialogue and revision to safeguard our long-term ambition to comply with all regulations, to minimise risks and continuously strive to improve our supply chain. It is a central piece in our sustainability strategy.



Lastly

A sustainability report shines the light on the most important issues, the challenges we take on as an organisation and our direction forward. Risks are identified and handled systematically, and whenever possible they are converted into multi-level possibilities.

Electronic products and batteries have gone from relatively simple constructions to complex combinations of different materials and this has created new recycling challenges. At the same time, many hazardous substances have been phased out and our ability to identify, separate and harvest valuable resources has improved considerably. As this development continues, we look forward to a future where increased traceability and better access to product information will enable us to take our circular processes to the next level.

In our capacity as producer responsibility organisation, we have developed skills not only in the areas of collecting and recycling, but also when it comes to the practical and regulatory concerns that are a part of producer responsibility. Some examples of this are our on-site business collection, our reporting of hazardous waste and our cooperation within Europe and the Nordic countries.

Thank you for your trust in us these past 25 years. We look forward to the journey ahead!





El-Kretsen AB