

THE

ReCOlight

COMMITMENT

TO



THE CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY &  
SUSTAINABILITY

# The Recolight commitment to The Circular Economy & Sustainability

There has been a noticeable shift in perceptions around sustainability in the lighting sector. No longer do we assume that sustainability is simply about energy efficiency and getting our waste recycled. That is no longer enough.

For more than two years Recolight has run a series of webinars, focused on the Circular Economy. They have demonstrated that our industry needs to do far more to be genuinely sustainable. And with 2000 different people attending the webinars, many attending more than one, and with over 50 panelists and speakers, change is now becoming visible.

An increasing number of organisations are now willing to specify used/reconditioned lighting equipment. And more lighting manufacturers are now engaged in or considering remanufacture of used fittings as a business opportunity. In addition, more organisations of all types are implementing net zero plans.

There is still a great deal that we must all do, both within the lighting sector and beyond but it is good to recognise that change is in the air.

At Recolight, we recycle, but as we move towards a Circular Economy model, recycling is not always the best solution.

The Recolight commitment to the Circular Economy & Sustainability outlines the Recolight recycling process, offers solutions to facilitate re-use, and suggests practical steps for the lighting industry to become more sustainable.

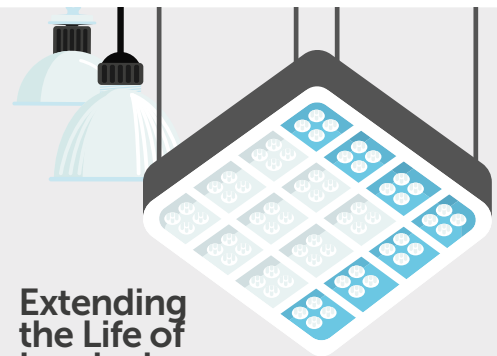


  
Nigel Harvey, Recolight CEO.

## Lighting & The Circular Economy

Transformation to a Circular Economy is an essential requirement for manufacturing businesses. This will become ever more important as demand for resources rises, and energy costs increase.

- **Resource depletion will begin to drive up the cost of raw materials, leading to more use of recycled materials.**
- **A route for fixtures to enjoy further lives after the original installation is a natural conclusion for Circular Economy adoption.**
- **New services are available to facilitate the re-use and repair of fittings. Re-manufacturers have indicated they will provide warranties and certification of reused product.**
- **There is an emerging opportunity for maintenance and manufacturing companies to offer re-manufacture or reconditioning services.**
- **Specifiers have a crucial role to play in educating end users about the importance of using products which embody Circular Economy principles.**
- **Reforms to the WEEE Regulations will incentivise re-use, and circular business models. Defra is considering setting separate targets for re-use.**



## Extending the Life of Luminaires

The need to no longer see luminaires as a single life product has been widely discussed in the Recolight Webinar series. At Recolight, we recycle, but as we move towards a Circular Economy model, recycling is not always the best solution.

Recolight is under a legal obligation to prioritise *re-use* over recycling, so we need to facilitate and encourage re-use.

Recolight has identified two opportunities for the lighting industry – Re-use of used lighting, and repurposing unsold surplus lighting, which will help to fulfil the obligation of:

- **Avoiding waste**
- **Reducing recycling**
- **Stimulating reuse**
- **Responding to the climate emergency**

Read more on page 5.

**Recolight have committed to be net zero carbon by 2030. We aim to reach this ambitious goal by addressing logistical, recycling and other operational activities, without using carbon offsets.**

Recolight is the first WEEE scheme to make this commitment. This commitment covers scopes 1,2 and 3. An independent environmental contractor assessed our baseline 2019 carbon footprint, and we then monitor our progress towards our target on an annual basis. There will be challenges in reaching this goal, but Recolight are totally committed to the process and the outcome.

# NET ZERO



by  
**2030**

## Recolight's Net Zero Actions

Several actions are already underway to achieve our net zero goal:

**Collection and delivery for lamps:** Offering additional containers to our collection partners, thus reducing the number of visits needed to collect. Investigating trial of an electric mobile crushing vehicle..

**Collection and delivery for luminaires:** Reducing the distance travelled by using recyclers closer to the collection point.

**Lamp treatment:** The Recolight tender for lamp treatment now includes additional areas for assessment.

1. Adaptation: space heating/cooling, energy source, energy efficiency measures, plastics, no distillation of powders.
2. Mitigation: preparation for flooding, power failures, heatwaves, superstorms etc.

**Luminaire treatment:** Recolight are leading an industry working group on net zero for the WEEE sector.

**Influencing:** Recolight's plans for net zero were presented to EucoLight members at the annual conference in May.

## Net Zero suggestions for regulators

Recolight make the following recommendations to regulators to accelerate and incentivise the industry:

**Licence Approval:** Net zero plans to be a condition of Producer Compliance Schemes approval for annual Approved Authorised Treatment Facility (AATF) license.

**Compulsory Reuse as well as recycle facility:** All AATFs required to have reuse capability.

**Separate reuse targets** and/or material incentives to meet collection targets using reuse.

**Exceptions for plastics:** Energy recovery of plastics without carbon capture storage should not count towards targets.

**Extend time limits** for WEEE collection under S2 waste exemption and Non Waste Framework Directive exemption .

**Penalise failure to reuse:** Tackle the destruction of brand new, compliant product.

# Services

## ADVANCING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

RE-USE

Zero-Waste\*

Reduce Raw Material

RECYCLE

ReCOlight  
LIGHTING  
PRODUCT  
DESIGN  
WORKSHOPS

### Lighting product design for a Circular Economy

Workshops to help manufacturers embed Circular Economy principles in the design of lighting products.

These are one day in-person workshops which provide practical guidance on circular design issues including design for long and extended use, upgradeability and repairability, replaceability, choice of materials, use of recycled raw materials, and design for recovery.

They also describe Circular Economy standards and specifications that companies can use to show the circularity of their products.

A series of case studies show how these requirements can be implemented in practice. Furthermore, participants have the option to bring their own company product to the workshop, for review by attendees, to consider how it might be adapted for greater circularity.



### Circular Lighting Live

Circular Lighting Live is the UK's first major conference dedicated to sustainable lighting. Established by Ray Molony, and ReColight, the event is a vital step on the industry's journey to a low carbon, circular economy.

To understand this new landscape, the conference brings together leading experts, specifiers and policy makers to share their insights into forthcoming standards and legislation, emerging technologies and new business models.



### Recolight webinars

Recolight Circular Economy webinars have been attended by lighting manufacturers, users, designers, specifiers, distributors, and contractors – the whole supply chain.

Recolight are encouraged to see the lighting industry taking steps to become more sustainable. It is a given that we produce light sources that are very energy efficient. The understanding of how our industry can really become sustainable is evolving – and that needs change right across the supply chain.



### Assessment against TM66

Technical Memorandum 66 (TM66) is a detailed specification developed by the SLL and CIBSE. It includes a Circular Economy Assessment Method which comprises of over 60 different criteria to evidence the circularity of lighting products.

Criteria cover the design of the product, manufacture, the materials used, and the ecosystem within which the product is made. Each criterion is scored on a range of 1-4. The methodology aggregates those scores to give each fitting, or family of fittings, a single, easy to understand rating on the 1-4 scale,

Recolight are providing an independent assessment and validation of a TM66 score, using data collated by the producer. Following issuance of a ReColight certificate, approval will also be given for the producer to use a ReColight certified circularity mark. TM66 will help manufacturers to substantiate claims of circularity. Critically, it will also help specifiers to differentiate products that are genuinely circular, from those that are not.

# Services

## REUSE SERVICES FOR LIGHTING



### USED LIGHTING –

#### The re-use/re-manufacture of *used* lighting

Recolight collects more than 1000 tonnes of light fittings each year. Many are fluorescent fittings, some LED fittings, and many are collected from large scale projects. A large numbers of identical fittings are removed.

Currently, virtually none are reused, although some are in very good condition before removal. Much of the value is destroyed by recycling.

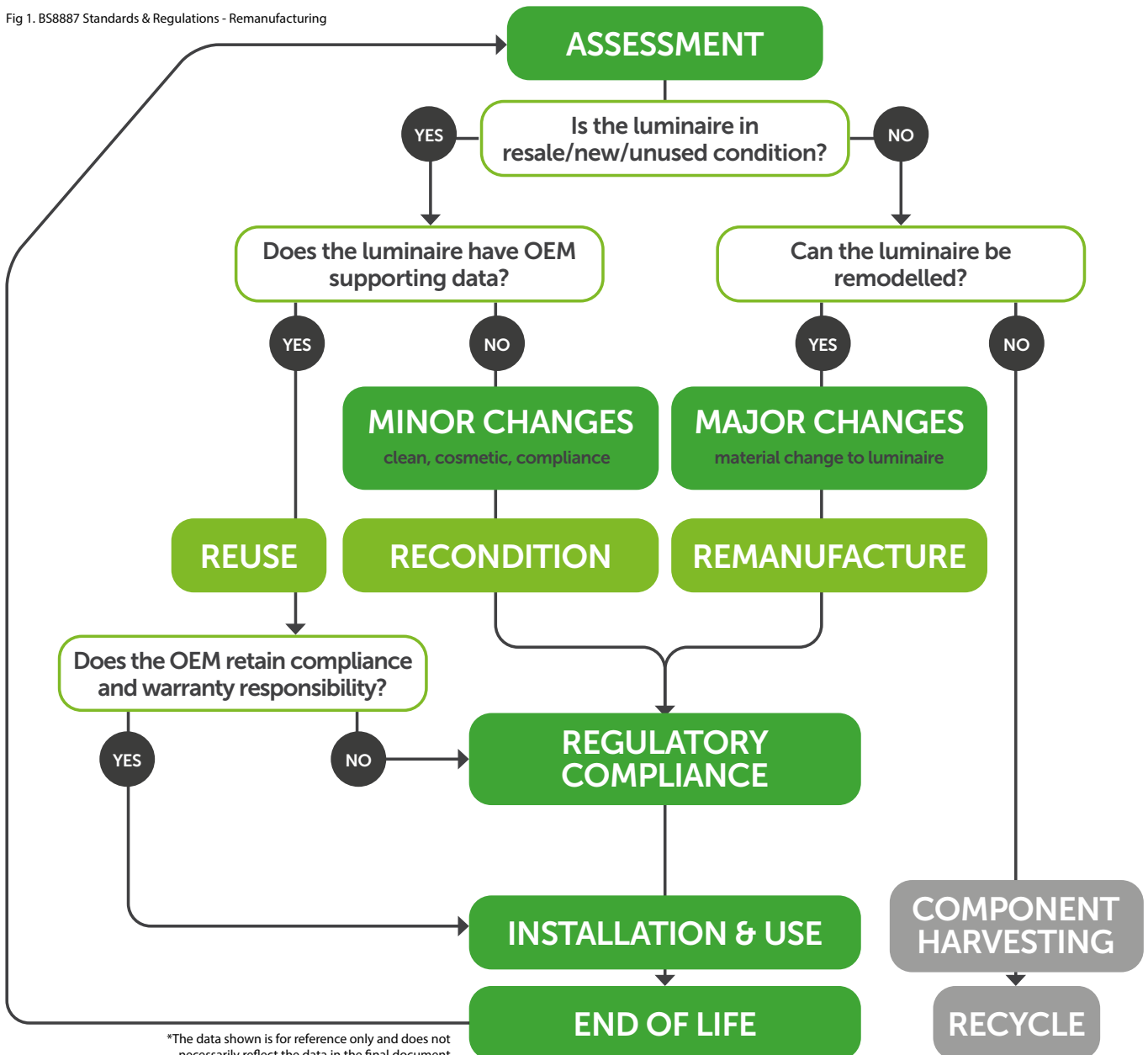
### SURPLUS NEW LIGHTING –

#### Putting unsold *new* lighting equipment into service

Many manufacturers hold unsold stock which takes up valuable warehouse space and the decision to discard is often made at short notice. The aim of the service is to avoid unnecessary recycling and waste.

Recolight want to make it as easy as possible for a manufacturer (donor) to hand over new lighting equipment that they will no longer offer for sale. This could be ex-demonstration stock, unsold stock, or returned stock in “as new” condition. It also needs to be as easy as possible for a third-party company (recipient) to receive that product so that it can be offered for sale, or otherwise put into service.

Fig 1. BS8887 Standards & Regulations - Remanufacturing



\*The data shown is for reference only and does not necessarily reflect the data in the final document

# Luminaires | Lighting Fittings

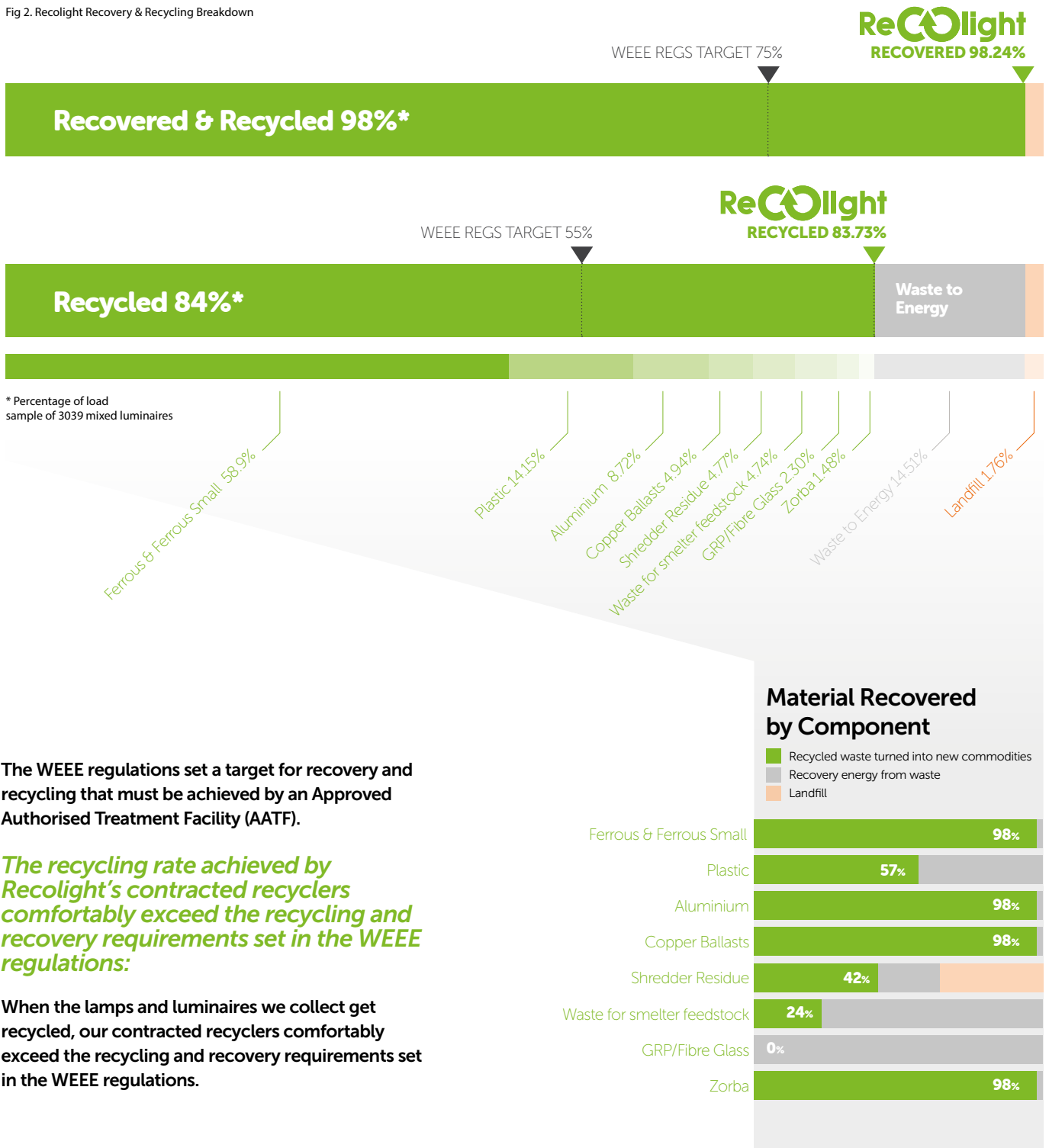
## RECYCLING & RECOVERY RATES

Where reuse is not possible, for technical or commercial reasons, recycling is the next best option.

Lamp collection rates in the UK have grown faster than any other waste electrical equipment category. The lighting industry is unique in taking such an effective, sector specific approach to waste and recycling. With electrical contractors, wholesalers and manufacturers working together, the industry can be justifiably proud of its recycling record, and this additional contribution to sustainability.

The best way to increase non-household collection rates is for specifiers to insist, when purchasing new luminaires, that producers always take responsibility for the collection and recycling of the waste luminaires that arise.

Fig 2. Recolight Recovery & Recycling Breakdown



# Bibliography

## SOURCES & FURTHER INFORMATION

### **BS8887 – The process of remanufacture**

Lighting specific edition is under review with a team from across the lighting industry.

[www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/our-services/product-certification/](http://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/our-services/product-certification/)

### **TM66: The CIBSE and SLL Technical Memorandum: Creating a Circular Economy in the Lighting Industry**

TM 66 is an algorithm which quantifies how circular a lighting product actually is. It's clearly key to empowering specifiers to make informed choices and choose fittings that have robust circularity credentials.

[www.cibse.org/society-of-light-and-lighting](http://www.cibse.org/society-of-light-and-lighting)

### **The LIA Technical Statements LIA TS41**

The Circular Economy: an interim guide

[www.thelia.org.uk/page/LIA\\_TS\\_MEM](http://www.thelia.org.uk/page/LIA_TS_MEM)

### **The Green Light Alliance**

is an alliance of suppliers, specifiers, and educators with an objective to help everyone in the lighting sector understand their role in adopting and promoting the Circular Economy. They work towards industry standards that are universally recognised, trusted and sought-after.

They invite you to join an alliance of suppliers, specifiers, and educators to shape the debate and make the difference.

[www.greenlight-alliance.com/](http://www.greenlight-alliance.com/)

### **LightingEurope guidelines**

Ecodesign and energy labelling

[lightingeurope.org/ecodesign-guidelines](http://lightingeurope.org/ecodesign-guidelines)

### **The Regen Initiative**

Reusing, re-engineering and re-manufacturing from a localised supply chain, in line with Circular Economy principles.

[www.fmark.co.uk/](http://www.fmark.co.uk/)

### **Recolight's Re-use services**

Helping to avoid unnecessary recycling in the lighting industry.

<https://www.recolight.co.uk/re-use-service/>

### **UK Green Building Council**

Circular Economy resources: Lighting as a service, and more.

<https://www.ukgbc.org/ukgbc-work/circular-economy/>

### **Zhaga White Paper**

How Zhaga Addresses Sustainability & the Circular Economy

[https://zhagastandard.org/media/acfupload/How\\_Zhaga\\_addresses\\_Sustainability\\_and\\_Circular\\_Economy\\_-\\_September\\_2021.pdf](https://zhagastandard.org/media/acfupload/How_Zhaga_addresses_Sustainability_and_Circular_Economy_-_September_2021.pdf)

### **European Commission – Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)**

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/circular-economy/new\\_circular\\_economy\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/circular-economy/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf)

# www.Recolight.co.uk

## Reuse | Recycle.

### ABOUT RECOLIGHT

Recolight is a WEEE Producer Compliance Scheme, set up by and working for the lighting industry. We were established in 2005 with an operating model based on one developed by the forerunner of LightingEurope, the European Trade Association for lighting manufacturers.

In addition to statutory financial and Environment Agency audits, Recolight is also audited by Ernst and Young for a wide range of operational, commercial, and performance criteria. That gives our Members the best possible confidence that Recolight is operating at the highest level of integrity and efficiency.

The WEEE Regulations require producers of EEE and their compliance schemes to finance the treatment of WEEE. A large proportion of the UK lighting industry meet their producer obligations by being a Member of Recolight.

Recolight's comprehensive offering makes it the preferred WEEE scheme for the lighting industry, setting the standard for the sector. It is the only WEEE compliance scheme in the UK to provide integrated Lamp and Luminaire collection and recycling. It has the biggest UK-wide network of collection points for all WEEE lighting. As a result, since its founding in 2007, Recolight has funded the recycling of over 360 million lamps, LEDs and luminaires, more than all other UK WEEE schemes put together.

### OUR PARTNERS

Recolight are actively involved and affiliated with a range of organisations who share our sustainability goals:



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Company number 5496729 | Environment Agency scheme approved number: WEE/MP3838PR/SC

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