



AGM / April 5th 2014, Cologne, Germany

Adoption of Industry Opinion on Lifecycle and Recycling

In line with the procedures of a GOGLA industry opinion, the AGM adopts the following industry opinion on lifecycle and recycling:

GOGLA Industry Opinion on Lifecycle and Recycling

“Management of end of life electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) is recognized as a huge challenge not just for business, but also for governments, environmental and human rights groups throughout the world.”
(*Compliance and Risk Newsletter*)

Solar-based off-grid lighting technologies already substitute the use of non-rechargeable batteries for lighting, thereby considerably reducing the problem of electronic waste. The benefits of off-grid technology will be maximized if all aspects are considered over the full product lifecycle. While bringing light and energy to non-electrified areas of the world, the members of GOGLA are committed to the following values all driven by the intention to preserve the environment and avoid or minimize any hazardous waste contamination:

1. The principle of the Extended Producer Responsibility (the producer is the entity putting the product on the local market)* should accompany all activities of GOGLA members.
2. Therefore the members are committed to:
 - a. Develop products that can be easily maintained and repaired. Spare parts need to be made available.
 - b. Strategies to implement proper take-back and recycling should be envisaged in countries of operation
 - c. Identify synergies in the use of standard resources and materials to facilitate separation during recycling and reuse.
 - d. Avoid the use of hazardous substances and find alternatives for them, if technically possible. If this is not possible, incentives for collection of the parts containing these hazardous substances should be developed.
3. The members will align their efforts to approach ministries, NGOs and all other relevant stakeholders to create the awareness, that the use of modern off-grid technology, like all new electronic products, should be accompanied by the creation of an environmental sound management of the products at the end of their useful lifetime.
4. The members will join forces within GOGLA and with other industries in the area of awareness creation towards end consumers that proper treatment of electronic waste is of value for human health and the environment.
5. The members will look for synergies with other industries in identifying possibilities for common collection and recycling activities.

* based on the definition of the WEEE directive