



14.4 Million Tonnes Expose Europe's Recycling Gap

Europe's growing electronic waste stream could become an important domestic source of raw materials for clean energy, digital infrastructure and advanced manufacturing. In 2022, 14.4 million tonnes of electrical and electronic equipment entered the EU market, while only 5 million tonnes of electronic waste were collected.

Discarded devices contain copper, rare earth elements and precious metals needed for electricity grids, renewables and electric vehicles. Recovering these materials could reduce waste, dependence on imports and supply risks as demand grows.

However, fragmented collection systems, uneven recycling standards and limited processing capacity continue to constrain recovery. Europe needs stronger collection, consistent standards and advanced recycling facilities capable of returning recovered materials to industrial supply chains. Better product design and recycling investment could turn electronic waste from an environmental liability into a strategic resource.



11,000 Companies Face a New Net Zero Test

The Science Based Targets initiative has introduced the second version of its Corporate Net Zero Standard, prompting debate over whether the revised framework will accelerate emissions reductions or provide companies with flexibility.

More than 11,000 companies have established science-based targets through the initiative. The updated standard introduces different approaches based on company size, location and operational circumstances, while strengthening requirements around implementation, annual reporting, transition planning and disclosure of barriers to meeting targets.

Supporters believe the changes could encourage wider participation by making target setting more practical. Critics warn that flexibility around indirect emissions, market instruments and corporate dependencies could weaken comparability and pressure for direct reductions. The standard's effectiveness will depend on whether companies balance this flexibility with transparent reporting and credible emissions reduction plans.



Less Than 1% of Climate Finance Reaches Nature's Custodians

Sustainable investment funds face pressure to deliver measurable environmental results. Directing more finance towards Indigenous peoples and local communities could strengthen their impact.

Indigenous peoples protect around 80% of remaining global biodiversity but receive less than 1% of international climate finance directly. Increasing direct investment could support conservation and sustainable livelihoods while strengthening accountability and economic resilience.

14 million

The European Union market received 14.4 million tonnes of electrical and electronic equipment in 2022

11,000

More than 11,000 companies have established science-based targets through the initiative

1%

Less than 1% of international climate finance reaches Indigenous peoples and local communities directly