

Appendix: Development of 2026 Tariffs for EEE and Lamps

Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and lamps must always be collected and recycled separately once discarded. In doing so, we ensure a safe waste chain, preserve valuable raw materials, reduce CO₂ emissions, and contribute to a circular economy (circular consumption). This is organised through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). With over 30,000 Wecycle collection points for consumers and businesses, and through various incentive schemes, Stichting OPEN fulfils this producer responsibility.

Establishing Tariffs

Each year, the Board of Stichting OPEN determines the new tariffs for all product categories. A budget is drawn up annually in which the expected collection volume and corresponding costs for collection, sorting and processing are estimated for each product category. The level of the tariff is based on this budget. Before the tariffs are adopted by the Board, close consultation takes place with stakeholders via producer councils and/or industry associations. Every producer can join and make their voice heard. This ensures that the interests of producers affiliated with Stichting OPEN are represented. The financial system for producer responsibility for EEE and lamps operates on a cost-sharing basis: the collection and processing costs incurred in a given year are covered by the products placed on the market in that same year. Therefore, the tariff depends not only on costs but also on the number of products placed on the market. A tariff will be higher when more products are collected and fewer are placed on the market.

Development of 2026 Tariffs

For 2026, tariffs for the collection, sorting and processing of equipment and lamps will generally increase. This rise is entirely due to higher operational costs and additional costs required to further increase collection volumes. Indirect costs remain virtually unchanged.

Main reasons for rising costs:

- **Increase in collection volume for devices and lamps.**
Despite the increase in collection in 2025, the statutory collection target has not yet been achieved, and Stichting OPEN remains under the supervision of the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT). In 2026, additional efforts will therefore be required to further raise the collection volume. The incentive scheme will be expanded, granting financial rewards to parties delivering WEEE directly to certified processors. Targeted actions will also be undertaken to stimulate collection within specific groups. Naturally, higher collection volumes lead to higher overall costs. Stichting OPEN is doing everything possible to control expenses and keep the increase in €/ton costs as limited as possible. Volumes are consolidated to strengthen purchasing positions with transporters, sorters and processors, and incentive schemes focus more on collection channels with lower €/ton costs.
- **Higher processing costs** due to stricter environmental and safety requirements and increasing complexity in processing, particularly for devices with built-in batteries.
- **Lower revenues from raw materials.**
Falling material prices on global markets are increasing processing costs.
- **Higher tariffs from partners.**
Transporters, sorters and processors are passing on higher costs, partly due to rising minimum wages and capacity constraints.

Developments by Sector

White Goods

In 2025, the White Goods sector switched — for all products except cooling and freezing appliances — from a tariff per kilogram to a tariff per unit. At the time of this transition, it was agreed that the tariffs per 1 July 2025 would be evaluated and adjusted where necessary. For several products, such adjustments were indeed required, with tariffs revised both upwards and downwards in 2025.

For 2026, the White Goods sector, in close consultation with the ANStEC producers' council, decided to maintain the per-unit tariffs. The 2026 tariff per product category was determined individually, based on expected costs and the number of products anticipated to be placed on the market.

Certain products had accumulated deficits over recent years, as the charged tariff had not been sufficient to cover costs. For these products, the deficit will be eliminated over five years, resulting in higher tariffs for some categories. The increase in collection, sorting and processing costs for White Goods is largely attributable to the additional costs of implementing action plans to realise extra collection volume.

Some product categories show significant tariff increases. The main causes are:

- Increased collection volumes leading to higher operational costs (notably for categories E1/03, E4/04, E4/11 and E5/02). To make tariffs cost-covering, adjustments were made upward for 2026.
- Eliminating deficits accumulated in previous years (especially E1/03, E4/04, E4/05, E4/06, E4/07, E4/11 and E5/04). These will be phased out over five years, resulting in tariff increases.
- Bringing tariffs in line with cost-covering levels for categories where the per-unit tariff in 2025 was significantly below actual costs (notably E5/01 and E5/02).
- Increased costs for the action plan, particularly for products under 50 cm. Actual collection for these categories still falls well short of the statutory **85% WEEE Generated** target.

Audio/Video

In 2026, a distinction will be introduced between tariffs for TVs (categories E2/01 and E2/0A) and A/V equipment (categories E4/23 and E5/16). Both tariffs incorporate price and cost increases.

The Audio/Video sector has accumulated a deficit within Stichting OPEN in recent years. This deficit must be eliminated over the next five years. Accordingly, a surcharge of €0.024 has been included in the tariffs for TVs and A/V.

Stichting OPEN currently applies the cost-sharing model (current sales fund current collection and processing). If in the future collection and processing costs rise while sales decline — or even cease — the tariff per kilogram would increase sharply, disproportionately affecting the last products sold. This effect can be mitigated through a capital-funding model (current sales “save” for the future collection and processing of products when they reach end of life). The risk of this situation arising within TV and A/V is estimated at 5%. Therefore, a capital funding provision of €0.013 has been included in the 2026 tariff for these categories.

Other Categories

Tariffs for products within the “Other Categories” sector will generally increase in 2026. This is mainly due to higher collection volumes, the financing of additional activities from the action plan, and the processing of results from previous years.

For product groups still far from achieving their collection targets, additional funding is required to cover the extra efforts outlined in the Action Plan. These costs are calculated per product group.

For example:

- Costs for the incentive scheme for central heating boilers and heating equipment (E4/10 and E5/09) are directly allocated to these product groups, resulting in significant tariff increases — though capped at a maximum of 200%.
- Higher costs are also attributed to gaming consoles (E5/12) due to specific activities under the Action Plan.

The complete **Stichting OPEN Action Plan 2025–2030** is available on the Stichting OPEN website.

ICT

For ICT, costs are expected to rise due to increasing collected volumes and higher operational expenses for collection and processing.

The incentive scheme for the delivery and registration of discarded devices is proving effective and contributes significantly to reported (professional) ICT volumes. These reimbursements form part of the Action Plan 2025–2030 aimed at increasing collection and achieving the statutory collection targets.

Tools

In 2026, tariffs for tools will decrease slightly compared to 2025. This decline results from a correction to the number of new products placed on the market. Consequently, total costs are spread over a larger volume, leading to a lower tariff.

Lamps / Luminaires

Tariffs for LED lamps and luminaires under 750 grams will increase in 2026 compared to 2025. This increase is necessary to finance the declining **Put on Market** volume and rising collection and recycling costs, particularly for conventional lamps in the long term. Part of this cost increase can be offset by surpluses accumulated in previous years.

The tariff for luminaires over 750 grams will also rise in 2026 due to the higher costs associated with specific actions to increase the collection of these products.

Through this tariff increase, the aim is to maintain tariff stability for the coming years.

Solar Panels

From 1 January 2026, the current tariff for solar panels will be replaced by a new tariff. The tariff will increase from €0.04/kg to €0.065/kg due to higher processing costs, the growing number of panels reaching end of life, and the decline in new sales, which raises the cost per product. The objective is to maintain this tariff level for the next five years.

The €0.065/kg tariff is based on projections of the quantity of solar panels expected to be discarded over the coming five years. This approach ensures that the **waste management fee** does not need to be revised annually, providing stability and clarity for the market.

Moreover, this tariff allows for investment in improving recycling processes and includes additional budget to tackle “free riders” and ensure a level playing field.