

# Shaping the future together

## A look at the year 2022

### 2022 Annual Report

All of our activities are geared towards a common goal: the recovery of as much high-quality raw materials as possible and the proper disposal of hazardous substances. Last year, 89,960 tonnes of electrical or electronic appliances, lighting equipment and lamps, photovoltaic modules, and vehicle and industrial batteries were collected.

Our current Annual Report includes further impressive facts and figures from the financial year 2022.

# SENS eRecycling – Shaping the future together

**The prerequisite for a successful take-back system is a dense network of partners from a wide range of disciplines. Thank you, valued partners, for allowing us to count on you again last year. We have achieved a great deal together with you and have been able to actively shape the future. We would like to take this opportunity to look back on the successes we have achieved together.**

## **Preface by the Managing Director**

### Cycles and partnerships – better together!

**I was delighted to step into the role of Managing Director of SENS eRecycling in May 2022, and began my work full of enthusiasm. I was supported by a newly formed team, which included familiar faces, new faces and you, our valued partners. Together we have made an important impact, both in the public eye and in the circular economy.**

What a SENSation, when we welcomed the president of Switzerland Ignazio Cassis to our “Fascination eRecycling” exhibition on the very first day of Olma 2022! In the 10 days that followed, over 320,000 visitors to Olma dived into the world of recycling. Equipped with VR goggles or live, they learned about the importance of recycling electronic appliances for obtaining recyclable materials and returning them to the cycle in over 350 hours of in-person talks.

We’re also well ahead of the game when it comes to identifying electronic appliances: we have now developed our AI pilot project into a “Minimum Viable Product” (MVP), setting new standards throughout Europe with regard to transparency in the flow of commodities and sending out yet another clear signal for sustainability. This will make it much easier for us in future to channel products suitable for reuse from the flow of goods.

Through the new industry solution for “e-cigarettes” we have, together with the Swiss Vape Trade Association (SVTA), managed to arrange for the environmentally friendly disposal of these fashionable products, which are popular with young people in particular, in the most straightforward way possible for all involved. I can’t wait to see how this is reflected in the return rates. I was also delighted about the high acceptance of the new “heat pumps” industry solution, which around 80% of manufacturers and importers signed up to in next to no time. I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all our other partners involved in our industry solutions. They ensure that we can keep developing on and make an important difference to our environment.

As you know, the National Council’s Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy Committee (ESPEC-N) recently adopted the draft revision of the Environmental Protection Act to strengthen the Swiss circular economy. This makes private sector industry solutions universally binding, which is key to us continuing to close further raw material cycles together with you in future without political constraints and based on our principle of voluntary participation.

Buoyed by this momentum from Bern, I look forward to continuing our successful partnership with you, our valued partners, and to launching many new and exciting projects, be it the reuse of photovoltaic modules (second life modules), further development of the electro bag or our new circular platform to promote the circular economy. In case you aren’t already familiar with the latter, I invite you to take a short virtual tour here: [www.circularplattform.ch](http://www.circularplattform.ch).

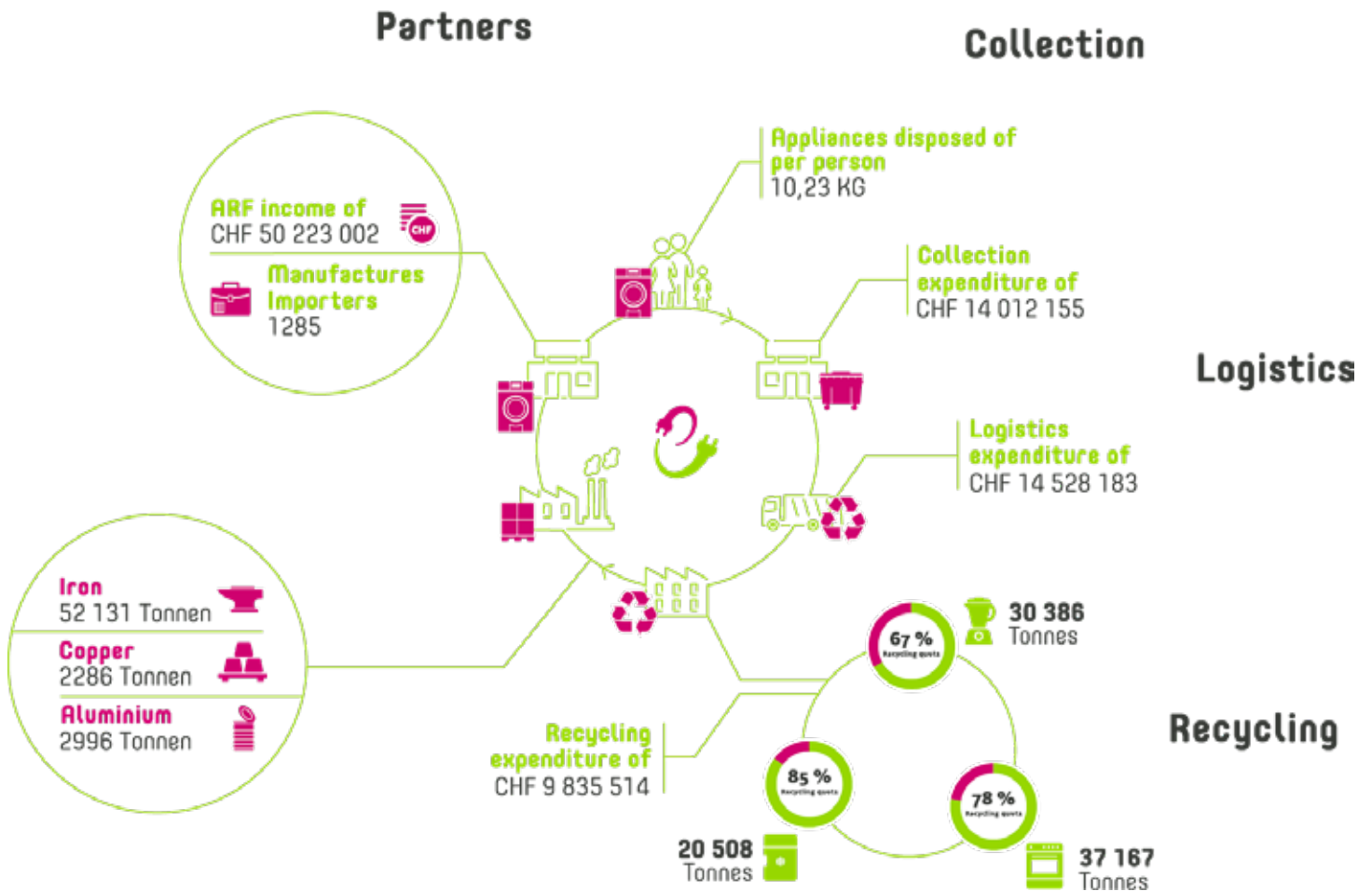
You can see that we will be able to embark on exciting projects next year too, and if there are any open cycles you’d like to see closed, we’d love to hear your ideas.

Kind regards,  
Pasqual Zopp

# FACTS & FIGURES –

## The main facts and figures relating to SENS eRecycling at a glance

In Switzerland last year, the average person disposed of 10.23 kilograms of electrical or electronic appliances in the SENS system. The total amount of collected appliances amounts to a total weight of 89,960 tonnes (incl. lighting equipment, photovoltaics as well as industrial and vehicle batteries). You can find impressive values, useful figures and information on important changes here.



# SENS eRecycling

Success through a dense network of reliable partners

Our partners represent the basis for the success of our take-back system. It is only through credible partnerships that the ambitious goals of SENS eRecycling can be achieved and the circular economy in Switzerland can be enabled and strengthened.

## Key Figures for the Take-back System

| Key figures                                 | 2021   | 2022   | Change |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Manufacturers/importers subject to ARFs     | 1 202  | 1 285  | 7%     |
| Official SENS recycling companies           | 20     | 20     | 0%     |
| Official SENS collection points             | 506    | 509    | 1%     |
| Customers in the SENS OnlineSystem          | 2 494  | 2 743  | 10%    |
| Collection orders via the SENS OnlineSystem | 31 751 | 31 752 | 0%     |
| Credit notes for recycling services         | 8 178  | 7 945  | -3%    |

## Disposal partners

Top performance for a sustainable Switzerland

As an expert in the sustainable recycling of discarded electrical and electronic appliances in and around the home, lighting equipment and lamps, photovoltaic systems, and vehicle and industrial batteries, SENS eRecycling plays a crucial role in setting pioneering standards in eRecycling. We owe this success in part to our disposal partners.

## Key Figures for Recycling

| Small household appliances including toys, games and lamps | 2021   | 2022   | Change |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Volume in tonnes   | 31 207 | 30 386 | -3%    |
| Via official SENS collection points                        | 84%    | 86%    | 2%     |
| Through retail   | 11%    | 11%    | 0%     |
| Direktanlieferungen bei SENS Recycler                      | 5%     | 4%     | -1%    |
| Collection rate *  | 45%    | 47%    | 2%     |

## Large household appliances

|  |        |        |     |
|--|--------|--------|-----|
| Volume in tonnes   | 38 448 | 37 167 | -3% |
| Via official SENS collection points                        | 78%    | 78%    | 0%  |
| Through retail   | 16%    | 17%    | 1%  |
| Returned directly to the official SENS recycling companies | 6%     | 5%     | -1% |
| Collection rate *  | 83%    | 83%    | 0%  |

## Refrigerators and freezers

|  |        |        |     |
|--|--------|--------|-----|
| Volume in tonnes   | 20 419 | 20 508 | 0%  |
| Via official SENS collection points                        | 58%    | 62%    | 4%  |
| Through retail   | 12%    | 13%    | 1%  |
| Returned directly to the official SENS recycling companies | 30%    | 26%    | -4% |
| Collection rate *  | 73%    | 79%    | 6%  |

## Lighting equipment

|  |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Volume in tonnes   | 990 | 955 | -4% |
| Via official SENS collection points                        | 48% | 42% | -6% |
| Through retail   | 2%  | 2%  | 0%  |
| Returned directly to the official SENS recycling companies | 50% | 55% | 5%  |

## Lamps

|                  |       |       |    |
|------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Volume in tonnes | 3 285 | 3 278 | 0% |
|------------------|-------|-------|----|

## Medical devices

|                  | 2021 | 2022 |      |
|------------------|------|------|------|
| Volume in tonnes | 8    | 6    | -28% |

## Photovoltaics

|                  |     |     |     |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Volume in tonnes | 587 | 936 | 60% |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|

## Welding equipment

|                  |   |   |      |
|------------------|---|---|------|
| Volume in tonnes | 4 | 2 | -43% |
|------------------|---|---|------|

## Total volume recycled within the SENS system

|  |        |        |     |
|--|--------|--------|-----|
|  | 91 663 | 89 960 | -2% |
|--|--------|--------|-----|

## Total volume recycled per head in kilograms

|  |       |       |     |
|--|-------|-------|-----|
|  | 10.99 | 10.23 | -7% |
|--|-------|-------|-----|

<sup>1</sup> 8 667 100 inhabitants in 2020, 8 736 500 inhabitants in 2021 according to the FSO.

\* **The collection rate** indicates the relation between the collected quantity of disused waste electrical and electronic appliances and the quantity of new appliances put into circulation. The rate is determined annually and used as an indicator of a take-back system's performance. Switzerland has one of the highest collection rates in Europe. As a permit from the Federal Office for the Environment is required to export defective electrical and electronic appliances, this only occurs on rare occasions. Furthermore, only small quantities are improperly discarded, e.g. with general waste. Thanks to the dense network of collection points, the broad coverage of processing facilities and the financing of the recycling process by the advance recycling fee (ARF), almost all waste electrical and electronic appliances are properly processed using the take-back system (SENS, Swico). Inaccuracies currently still exist with regard to the mix of goods and the factors used when converting from items to kilograms in the case of new appliances. Furthermore, the storage of unused appliances by their owners or their passing on for further use are not considered in the collection rate.

# ARC partners

## Voluntary participation leads to success

**The SENS eRecycling system is based on the principle of voluntary participation. It relies on sovereign entrepreneurial decisions – and not on state regulations. The principle of voluntary participation, the preservation of entrepreneurial autonomy and the absence of political constraints make it possible to implement appropriate solutions with great efficiency, and without losing sight of sector-specific goals.**

eRecycling is sustainably secured thanks to our ARC partners. Everyone benefits – the affiliated companies as well as the population.

## Advance recycling contribution (ARC)

### Advance financing provides security in the recycling system

**The SENS take-back system is financed through the advance recycling contribution (ARC). The contribution is levied by the manufacturer/importer and covers the entire collection, logistics and recycling costs in the eRecycling cycle.**

Through the privately organised financing of a Switzerland-wide take-back network via the ARC, manufacturers, importers and retailers can fulfil the legal obligation to take back appliances defined by the ORDEE in a simple and customer-friendly manner.

The advance contribution also offers consumers the greatest possible convenience. As disposal costs are included in the purchase price from the outset, no further costs are incurred when the appliances are returned to collection points and retail stores – an essential basic requirement for a successful recycling system!

# Highlights – Ambitious projects, new sectors and insights into our everyday business life

**The past year was packed with highlights. We developed new industry solutions, launched a platform to help consumers let go, participated in a consumer exhibition for the first time (and had the President of the Confederation visit us), made impressive progress in the recognition of electrical or electronic appliances using artificial intelligence, and actively collected electrical or electronic appliances right at people's doorsteps.**

## Circular Plattform

Just 3 clicks away from a more circular economy

**Is it still worth having the old refrigerator repaired? Where can I easily dispose of my defective blender? And what shall I actually do with my second waffle maker?**

Recycling an electrical or electronic appliance is often the last good deed you can do with it. Is it always the best option, though? The Circular Platform offers users of electrical or electronic appliances independent information and simple services relating to products before, during and after use. We show you the best possible use for your discarded electrical or electronic appliances and give you the best possible support in closing product cycles and returning recyclable materials to the cycle wherever possible. The Circular Platform is intended to support consumers to use resources efficiently and thus contribute to strengthening the circular economy.

The platform works quite simply: consumers enter their appliance category, age and condition and receive a direct recommendation for the best possible use of their appliance. This can be a repair recommendation with the nearest and authorised repair centres, a recommendation for further use with the indication of an average sales price and the corresponding sales platform, or the most convenient disposal option for broken appliances in a consumer's own post box.

### Conclusion

Reusing recyclable materials instead of wasting them – we consistently pursue this goal and the Circular Platform is the perfect tool for finding the best possible use for them.

# Artificial intelligence

## Important steps towards fully automated market basket analysis

**Artificial intelligence will be used to analyse the flow of goods at SENS eRecycling in more detail. The aim is to automate the existing market basket analysis and to apply it on a larger scale, which will make it possible to better assess the flow of goods. What started as a pilot project in 2020, has since been developed into a minimum viable product (MVP).**

The artificial intelligence model now reliably recognises around 80 object classes. By the middle of the year, the algorithm will include 35 additional object classes – from electric toothbrushes to toasters – and an industrial setup at Immark AG in Regensdorf. The focus of this project extension is on model performance, i.e. the accuracy with which objects are reliably recognised and classified. High-resolution camera models and lighting suitable for the industrial environment are being used for this purpose. This ensures high image quality and, as a result, optimal conditions to further train the artificial intelligence.

In contrast to the pilot operation, the recorded images are now transmitted to the SENS cloud where the data is classified. This solution also allows the system to be scaled to additional locations with minimal effort.

The object analysis of the flow of goods forms the basis of a fully automated and scalable market basket analysis driven by artificial intelligence. This gives SENS eRecycling and its partners greater transparency in the flow of recycled goods. Furthermore, the data generated from the AI model can be combined with external factors as necessary, for example, to make statements about the reusability of products or to measure the effects of energy policy decisions on the recycling habits of the population.

### Conclusion

SENS eRecycling is setting standards in Europe with its AI-powered MVP development and making an important contribution towards sustainability by bringing transparency to the life cycle of electrical products.



# Electro Bag pilot project

## Get the most out of your electrical or electronic appliances!

**Over a period of about four months, the people of Geneva, Bern and Zurich had the opportunity to easily return their discarded electrical or electronic appliances to the cycle – right in front of their doorsteps. They could be collected in Electro Bags, deposited at parcel boxes and the rest was done by SENS eRecycling as part of a project partnership with the Swiss Post. People made good use of this offering, with over 4,500 orders received. A SENSational 6 tonnes of electrical or electronic appliances were collected, tested and disposed of or reused. A new offering in collaboration with Service Industrielle de Genève (SIG) has made it possible for the first time to provide a reuse offering in addition to recycling.**

The canton of Geneva and the cities of Zurich and Bern experienced a veritable outbreak of collection fever. Cellars were cleared out, boxes emptied and drawers turned upside down. This resulted in over 6.5 tonnes of defective or no longer used electrical or electronic appliances being returned with the Electro Bags – a sensational achievement and a great success for the SENS eRecycling offering as part of the project partnership with the Swiss Post. The success of this campaign was not corroborated by just the excellent figures, but also by the great deal of positive feedback received from the population.

The filled recycling bags were analysed in order to gain deeper insights into the recycling behaviour of the Swiss population. A lot of interesting things came to light in these analyses. For example, the average filled Electro Bag weighed just over 4.5 kilograms and typically contained electric toothbrushes, razors, irons and mixers. Other items collected with the Electro Bag included remote controls, mobile phones and headphones. A fact that proved particularly pleasing was that the amount of incorrectly disposed of waste was very low, standing at less than 0.5%.

During the pilot test, a new collection container called Kickbag was also tested. The goal was to move away from single-use plastic packaging and towards a reusable container made from recycled PET. In this way, waste could be reduced, thus taking another step towards a true circular economy.

A large number of people also made use of the new reuse offering. About a third of the material was handed over for reuse, of which only a small part – just over 500 kilograms – could ultimately be effectively reused. Nevertheless, this shows that there is a need for such offerings in Switzerland. Therefore, we will continue to develop the offering on an ongoing basis.

### Conclusion

Domestic collection is very popular with the Swiss population. It is particularly pleasing to note that around one third of the Electro Bags that were handed in were marked for reuse. This shows that the Swiss population is open to low-threshold offerings that promote a circular economy.

# “E-cigarettes” Industry Solution

## New industry solution for a rapidly growing market

**Blue Razz Lemonade, Strawberry Ice or Vanilla Cola – electronic cigarettes with exotic flavours are taking Switzerland by storm. Along with e-cigarettes, or vapes with rechargeable batteries, disposable vapes are also experiencing a real boom in Switzerland. From a disposal point of view, a problem arises when the product has reached the end of its useful life after around 600 puffs, and often ends up in the rubbish bin – which is not where electrical or electronic appliances belong! Together with the Swiss Vape Trade Association (SVTA) and major importers and manufacturers, SENS eRecycling is working on an industry solution for e-cigarettes to ensure the sustainable disposal of electronic cigarettes in the future. This will come into effect on 1 July 2023.**

According to the Ordinance on the Return, Taking Back and Disposal of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (ORDEE), the distributors of electrical appliances are obliged to take them back for disposal. The return and recycling of e-cigarettes – especially disposable e-cigarettes – is not yet uniformly implemented and financed in a consistent manner across the sector. This has led to very low return rates of the discarded products and a bad image in the sector, which is frequently reported in the media.

The “E-cigarettes” Industry Solution enables its members to easily fulfil all these requirements and offers a standardised process for the collection, transport and recycling of e-cigarettes. The “E-cigarettes” Industry Solution is financed through a market-based, advance recycling contribution (ARC), which is passed on from the importer to the retailer and from the retailer to the consumer. The consumer thus bears the cost of recycling.

With the “E-cigarettes” Industry Solution, the sector is making a clear commitment to the environmentally sound disposal of e-cigarettes and benefits from numerous, widely visible advantages of the take-back system. The industry solution includes the largest manufacturers and importers in Switzerland. However, it is open to all manufacturers and importers of e-cigarettes.

### Conclusion

Our “E-cigarettes” Industry Solution addresses a product that is relatively new to the market, but that is showing enormous growth. A dedicated industry solution provides a targeted response to the ecological and economic requirements of the products included in the industry solution. Particularly in the case of products with a short service life, the recovery of raw materials at the end of their use is of elementary importance.

# “Heat Pumps” Industry Solution

## Sustainable disposal solution for heat pumps in Switzerland

**Together with the organisations GebäudeKlima Schweiz (GKS) and Fachvereinigung Wärmepumpen Schweiz (FWS), an environmentally sound, monitored and cost-efficient industry solution for the collection, transport and recycling of heat pumps has been developed in recent years. The “Heat Pumps” Industry Solution is financed through a market-based, advance recycling contribution (ARC). The industry solution will be operational on 1 July 2023.**

SENS eRecycling was commissioned by GebäudeKlima Schweiz (GKS) and Fachvereinigung Wärmepumpen Schweiz (FWS) to implement the industry solution for heat pumps. The aim is to fulfil the industry’s obligations under the Ordinance on the Return, Taking Back and Disposal of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (ORDEE).

The SENS eRecycling contractual partners, who are responsible for the industry solution, take their product responsibility seriously and ensure that the take-back obligation can be fulfilled throughout the country in an uncomplicated manner and free of charge when the product is returned.

SENS eRecycling sets high standards for collection points, transport companies and recyclers in order to guarantee an environmentally friendly and cost-efficient solution for all parties involved. The new industry solution covers heat pumps with an output of up to 350 kilowatts and heat pump water heaters with an output of up to 20 kilowatts.

The solution, which is devised for the industry, is based on cost price and is not profit-oriented. It is financed through an advance recycling contribution (ARC), which is dependent on the output and the number of heat pumps. Based on the pay-as-you-go system, the ARC revenues finance the direct costs for the collection, transport and recycling of the “old heat pumps” accumulating today, as well as the corresponding checks. This provides secure, long-term, cost-efficient financing for the industry solution.

The industry solution is open not only to members of GKS and FWS, but also to other manufacturers and importers of heat pumps.

### **Conclusion**

The new “Heat Pumps” Industry Solution ensures the environmentally sound and cost-efficient disposal of discarded heat pumps throughout Switzerland.

# “VFAS” Industry Solution

## A summary after one year

**Since 1 January 2022, SENS eRecycling has been implementing an industry solution for the collection, transport and recycling of industrial and electric vehicle batteries together with the Swiss association of independent car dealers (VFAS). An initial summary after one year of operational activity.**

Manufacturers and importers of batteries are subject to the obligation to report and pay fees according to the Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance (ORRChem). Manufacturers and importers can apply to be exempted from paying the fee if they ensure environmentally friendly disposal of the batteries as part of an industry solution or due to special market conditions. Last year, SENS eRecycling submitted such an application together with the VFAS. The VFAS industry solution meets the required criteria and also offers its members the opportunity to work towards strengthening the Swiss circular economy by closing cycles, for example through recycling or second-life applications. The processes are financed through a market-based advance recycling contribution (ARC).

The reporting processes outlined in the “VFAS” industry solution were established and further developed in the past year. Experience has shown that it is difficult for contractual partners to determine the battery weight in particular. SENS eRecycling has therefore developed a database in which the capacity, battery weight and the corresponding ARC tariff category can be looked up. This should simplify the declaration process and make it even more efficient. The database now contains over 2,200 different electric vehicles and is constantly being expanded.

According to the Touring Club Switzerland, batteries have a service life of up to 450,000 kilometres. This corresponds to 1,500 charging cycles with a range of 300 kilometres per charge. Since the market for electric vehicles is still very young, no electric vehicles or batteries have been taken back as part of the industry solution yet.

The extension of the industry solution and approval by the Federal Office for the Environment is due at the end of the year. SENS eRecycling is very confident that the extension of the industry solution will proceed smoothly.

### **Conclusion**

In its first year of implementation, the “VFAS” industry solution has proven its worth. A digital database has also made it possible to further simplify the declaration process.

# 2022 campaign

## Let go – reuse recyclable materials instead of wasting them

**A look into full drawers, kitchen cupboards, cellars and attics leaves no doubt: even though we obviously no longer have any use for many electrical and electronic appliances, we do not always discard them immediately. Why is that? Why is letting go so hard sometimes? Our campaign this year has explored precisely this phenomenon and clearly demonstrated to the Swiss population that it pays to let go!**

Many Swiss underestimate the environmental benefits of recycling small appliances, have trouble even identifying electrical or electronic appliances as such, or do not know what happens to their old blender, vacuum cleaner or fitness tracker after they drop it off at a collection point. As a result, they unintentionally dispose of them incorrectly due to a lack of knowledge or a lack of motivation to dispose of them correctly. These findings were brought to light in our representative study conducted in 2021 on the Swiss population's attitude to recycling electrical or electronic appliances. Furthermore, the study also shows that in addition to incorrect disposal, there is also the issue of failure to dispose of these appliances. The Swiss evidently have difficulty letting go. This means that valuable items do not return to the cycle, but instead gather dust in cellars, attics and drawers. The campaign "Let go – reuse recyclable materials instead of wasting them" addresses precisely these issues.

The campaign highlighted the environmental and mental benefits of "letting go" and provided plenty of tips and good reasons to finally declutter that cellar, attic or all those drawers. This is the only way to close the cycle and give electrical or electronic appliances a long life.

### Conclusion

Letting go does you and your environment good. The 2022 campaign demonstrates in an amusing, accessible way why this is the case and at the same time gives the impetus to look through one's cupboards and drawers for forgotten treasures.

# Olma 2022

320,000 visitors, 15,000 chocolate coins, 350 hours of talks and 1 Federal Councillor

**We were guests at Olma for 11 days as part of our campaign “Let go – reuse recyclable materials instead of wasting them”. It was a great opportunity for SENS eRecycling to present itself to the public and to raise awareness about eRecycling.**

It began with a decommissioned SENS container. Used normally to transport discarded refrigerators, ovens and washing machines, this time it took on a completely different look for our attendance at Olma and became the focus of our exhibition “The fascination of eRecycling”. From a mere transport container, it was quickly transformed into an impressive exhibition space. Consumers had the opportunity to learn about recyclable materials and their environmental benefits, as well as to get valuable tips for daily recycling and to declare themselves eRecyclers. The exhibition caused such a stir among the visitors at Olma that we were even able to welcome President of the Confederation Ignazio Cassis and his wife Paola. A SENSational experience!

The exhibition was accompanied by an information stand on our circular platform and a virtual-reality space. Three different videos gave visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the fascinating world of eRecycling.

## **Conclusion**

Our time at Olma was a great success for young and old alike. Our sophisticated exhibition succeeded in giving the topic of eRecycling a strong presence in an accessible, yet stylish way.

# Get double the value with solar panels

## SENS eRecycling with Swissolar at the Olma forum day

**As part of our presence at Olma in St. Gallen, we organised the forum “Simply solar – energy from photovoltaics” together with Swissolar, the Swiss Solar Energy Professionals Association. Various experts provided the participants with exciting insights into the world of solar energy. Particular emphasis was placed on the question of how farms can generate additional value through the use of photovoltaic modules.**

Agriphotovoltaics (Agri-PV) is still a relatively young discipline in Swiss agriculture. The term refers to the combined use of agricultural land for the production of food and the generation of renewable energy. Agricultural production and solar power generation are not seen as competing goals, but are cleverly combined to create valuable synergies.

The extent to which Agri-PV represents an opportunity for agriculture, sustainability and energy supply was demonstrated by experts at “Simply solar” using practical case studies and current research findings. For example, there are promising applications in farms with fruit and berry crops and for heating air for hay drying.

In addition to the focus on agriphotovoltaics, visitors to “Simply solar” were given an overview of the industry and learned a lot of interesting facts about the life cycle of a photovoltaic module – from production and installation to utilisation. And, of course, questions about the correct disposal of solar systems were also addressed. Other exciting examples of best practice in recycling and photovoltaic expansion in the canton of St. Gallen rounded off the whole event.

### **Conclusion**

The event, which was organised in cooperation with Swissolar, showed exciting perspectives of photovoltaic systems in agriculture. The media’s interest in the topics presented was particularly encouraging.

# Swiss policy

## Parliamentary initiative 20.433 “Schweizer Kreislaufwirtschaft stärken” (Strengthening the Swiss circular economy)

**The National Council Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy Committee (ESPEC-N) has adopted a draft revision of the Environmental Protection Act to strengthen the Swiss circular economy. With 17 votes in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions, the ESPEC-N passed the bill on parliamentary initiative 20.433. The bill aims for a close and strong cooperation with business and industry. The intention is to reduce regulatory hurdles and administrative obstacles, and to strengthen sectoral agreements and voluntary measures by companies.**

In order to ensure the efficient use of resources, the Federal Council may now set requirements for the service life or reparability of products, for example with regard to the number of charging cycles for batteries or the availability of spare parts.

The bill was met with a largely positive response from the participants in the consultation process. The Commission's efforts to legally strengthen the circular economy in Switzerland and to promote it with various measures were welcomed. While some of the opinions sought to impose stricter regulations on resource conservation, others called for relaxing the requirements for business and industry. The Commission resolved to leave the preliminary draft essentially unchanged and made only a few targeted amendments. It is convinced that the largely supported proposal offers an effective basis for a future-oriented and competitive circular economy in Switzerland.

On 15 February 2023, the Federal Council adopted its stance on the ESPEC-N draft on parliamentary initiative 20.433 “Strengthening the Swiss circular economy”. The proposal is expected to be debated in the National Council in May 2023. SENS eRecycling is pleased about this development and would like to see the proposed legislation handled swiftly, because targeted liberalisation is important for further closing the cycle.

### Conclusion

SENS eRecycling is in favour of parliamentary initiative 20.433 and is pleased that the Federal Council has adopted it.



# Financial year 2022 – Figures, figures, figures

# Balance Sheet Assets

| <b>Assets</b>               | <b>Annex</b> | <b>2021 in CHF</b> | <b>2022 in CHF</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents   | 3.1          | 19 449 813         | 24 908 659         |
| Receivables from services   | 3.2          | 2 408 110          | 2 781 348          |
| Other current receivables   | 3.3          | 423 993            | 842 289            |
| Accrued and deferred income | 3.4          | 10 837 420         | 11 092 468         |
| <b>Operating assets</b>     |              | <b>33 119 337</b>  | <b>39 624 764</b>  |
| Securities                  | 3.5          | 38 689 536         | 34 582 408         |
| Assets from participations  | 3.6          | 80 588             | 80 588             |
| Loans                       | 3.7          | 400 000            | 300 000            |
| Investments                 | 3.8          | 39 000             | 39 000             |
| Tangible assets             | 3.9          | 337 201            | 324 689            |
| Intangible assets           | 3.10         | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>         |              | <b>39 546 325</b>  | <b>35 326 684</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                |              |                    |                    |
| <b>Total assets</b>         |              | <b>72 665 662</b>  | <b>74 951 448</b>  |

# Balance Sheet Liabilities

| <b>Liabilities</b>               | <b>Annex</b> | <b>2021 in CHF</b> | <b>2022 in CHF</b> |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Liabilities from services        | 3.11         | 3 409 455          | 3 906 946          |
| Other liabilities                |              | 588 300            | 17 667             |
| Accrued and deferred liabilities | 3.12         | 1 596 316          | 1 668 362          |
| Current provisions               | 3.13         | 0                  | 8 000              |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>       |              | <b>5 594 071</b>   | <b>5 600 975</b>   |
| Recycling funds                  |              | 65 701 236         | 67 975 279         |
| <b>Fund capital</b>              |              | <b>65 701 236</b>  | <b>67 975 279</b>  |
| Foundation capital               |              | 370 000            | 370 000            |
| Reserves                         | 3.14         | 1 000 355          | 1 005 194          |
| <b>Organisational capital</b>    |              | <b>1 370 355</b>   | <b>1 375 194</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                     |              |                    |                    |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>         |              | <b>72 665 662</b>  | <b>74 951 448</b>  |

# Operating Account

| <b>Take-back system revenue</b>              | <b>Annex</b> | <b>2021 in CHF</b> | <b>2022 in CHF</b> |
|--|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue from recycling fees                  | 4.1          | 51 033 733         | 50 223 002         |
| Compensation for partner systems             | 4.2          | 2 263 506          | 2 165 691          |
| <b>Total take-back system revenue</b>        |              | <b>48 770 227</b>  | <b>48 057 311</b>  |
| <b>Take-back system expenditure</b>          |              |                    |                    |
| Collection expenditure                       |              | 14 555 111         | 14 012 155         |
| Transport expenditure                        |              | 14 649 753         | 14 528 183         |
| Recycling expenditure                        |              | 9 809 701          | 9 835 514          |
| Standards (WEEELABEX, CENELEC, ISO)          |              | 9 700              | 14 904             |
| Collection, dismantling and recycling checks | 4.3          | 438 692            | 468 614            |
| Manufacturer/importer checks                 |              | 118 550            | 134 966            |
| Market basket analysis                       |              | 80 112             | 210 482            |
| Publicity campaign                           | 4.4          | 757 460            | 843 239            |
| <b>Total take-back system expenditure</b>    |              | <b>40 419 080</b>  | <b>40 048 057</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                                 |              |                    |                    |
| <b>Take-back system result</b>               |              | <b>8 351 147</b>   | <b>8 009 254</b>   |
| <b>Head Office revenue</b>                   |              |                    |                    |
| Contribution to administrative costs         | 4.5          | 61 824             | 67 952             |
| Revenue from services/consulting             |              | 0                  | 16 976             |
| Other revenue                                |              | -24 375            | -45 769            |
| Extraordinary and prior-period revenue       |              | 19 860             | 85 624             |
| <b>Total Head Office revenue</b>             |              | <b>57 309</b>      | <b>124 783</b>     |
| <b>Head Office expenditure</b>               |              |                    |                    |
| Personnel expenditure                        | 4.6          | 1 439 586          | 1 540 507          |
| Board of Trustees and ARF Committee          | 4.7          | 188 902            | 109 915            |
| Office and administrative expenditure        | 4.8          | 363 841            | 365 902            |
| IT expenditure                               |              | 254 219            | 221 369            |
| Accounting, business and legal consulting    | 4.9          | 257 075            | 67 723             |

|  |      |                   |                   |
|--|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Studies and projects                             |      | 234 113           | 578 802           |
| Auditing   |      | 8 450             | 6 500             |
| Public relations                                 | 4.10 | 97 240            | 176 479           |
| International                                    |      | 64 648            | 23 595            |
| Other expenditure                                |      | 10 987            | 12 908            |
| Depreciation, amortisation and value adjustments |      | 51 531            | 72 084            |
| Extraordinary and prior-period expenditure       |      | 2 000             | 48 946            |
| <b>Total Head Office expenditure</b>             |      | <b>2 972 593</b>  | <b>3 224 731</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                                     |      |                   |                   |
| <b>Head Office result</b>                        |      | <b>-2 915 284</b> | <b>-3 099 948</b> |
| <b>Operation</b>                                 |      |                   |                   |
| <b>Operating result</b>                          |      | <b>5 435 863</b>  | <b>4 909 306</b>  |
| Financial income                                 | 4.11 | 516 763           | -2 630 425        |
| <b>Annual result</b>                             |      |                   |                   |
| <b>Annual result before allocation</b>           |      | <b>5 952 626</b>  | <b>2 278 882</b>  |
| Change in recycling funds                        |      | 5 947 242         | 2 274 043         |
| Change in organisational capital                 |      | 5 384             | 4 839             |
| <b>Annual result after allocation</b>            |      | <b>0</b>          | <b>0</b>          |

# Cash Flow Statement

| <b>Operating activities</b>                                | <b>2021 in CHF</b> | <b>2022 in CHF</b> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Annual result</b>                                       | <b>5 952 626</b>   | <b>2 278 882</b>   |
| Depreciation on furniture and fixtures                     | 49 560             | 58 088             |
| Depreciation on IT hardware                                | 1 971              | 13 996             |
| Appreciation on securities                                 | 625                | 51 832             |
| Increase/decrease in receivables from services             | 662 147            | -373 237           |
| Increase/decrease in other current receivables             | 276 562            | -418 296           |
| Decrease/increase in accrued and deferred income           | 1 668 650          | -255 048           |
| Decrease in liabilities from services                      | -212 357           | 497 491            |
| Increase in other liabilities                              | 419 096            | -570 632           |
| Increase/decrease in accrued and deferred liabilities      | -2 359 478         | 80 046             |
| <b>Cash inflow/cash outflow from operating activities</b>  | <b>506 776</b>     | <b>-915'760</b>    |
| <b>Investment activities</b>                               |                    |                    |
| Divestment/investment in securities                        | -479 555           | 4 055 296          |
| Divestment of loans  | 50 000             | 100 000            |
| Investment in furniture and fixtures                       | -62 584            | -39 162            |
| Investment in IT hardware                                  | -26 485            | -20 410            |
| <b>Cash inflow/cash outflow from investment activities</b> | <b>-518 623</b>    | <b>4'095'724</b>   |
| <b>Financing activities</b>                                |                    |                    |
| Increase/decrease in organisational capital                | 0                  | 0                  |
| Increase/decrease from financing                           | 0                  | 0                  |
| <b>Cash inflow/cash outflow from financing activities</b>  | <b>0</b>           | <b>0</b>           |
| <b>Business activities</b>                                 |                    |                    |
| Cash inflow/cash outflow from business activities          | 5 940 778          | 5 458 846          |
| Cash and cash equivalents as at 1.1.                       | 13 186 316         | 19 449 813         |
| Cash and cash equivalents from merger with SLRS            | 322 719            | 0                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents as at 31.12.                     | 19 449 813         | 24 908 659         |
| <b>Change in cash inflow/cash outflow</b>                  | <b>5 940 778</b>   | <b>5 458 846</b>   |

# Statement of Changes in Capital

|                                 | Foundation capital | Reserves         | Annual result | Total            |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Balance as at 1.1.2022          | 370 000            | 1 000 355        | 0             | 1 370 355        |
| Annual result                   |                    |                  | 2 278 882     | 2 278 882        |
| Allocation to reserves          |                    | 4 839            | -4 839        | 0                |
| Withdrawals from reserves       |                    |                  | 0             | 0                |
| Allocation to recycling funds   |                    |                  | -2 274 043    | -2 274 043       |
| <b>Balance as at 31.12.2022</b> | <b>370 000</b>     | <b>1 005 194</b> | <b>0</b>      | <b>1 375 194</b> |

|                                      | Small appliances | Large appliances  | Toys and games   | Photo-voltaics   | Welding equipment | Light             | E-Mobility     | Annual result |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Balance as at 1.1.2022               | 6 440 215        | 35 255 250        | 2 830 745        | 2 763 038        | 176 296           | 18 235 693        | 0              |               |
| Annual result                        |                  |                   |                  |                  |                   |                   |                | 2 274 043     |
| Contribution to administrative costs | 175 556          | 320 944           | -70 000          | -70 000          | -1 500            | -250 000          | -105 000       | 0             |
| Withdrawal/allocation                | 746 273          | -750 28           | -95 109          | 1 261 941        | -5 861            | -427 043          | 868 869        | -2 274 043    |
| <b>Balance as at 31.12.2022</b>      | <b>7 362 044</b> | <b>35 501 166</b> | <b>2 665 636</b> | <b>3 954 979</b> | <b>168 935</b>    | <b>17 558 650</b> | <b>763 869</b> | <b>0</b>      |

|                                 | Foundation capital | Reserves         | Annual result | Total            |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Balance as at 1.1.2021          | 320 000            | 994 971          | 0             | 1 314 971        |
| Balance after merger SLRS       | 50 000             | 88 383           | 0             | 138 383          |
| Annual result                   |                    |                  | 5 952 626     | 5 952 626        |
| Allocation to reserves          |                    | 5 384            | -5 384        | 0                |
| Withdrawals from reserves       |                    | -88 383          | 88 383        | 0                |
| Allocation to recycling funds   |                    |                  | -6 035 626    | -6 035 626       |
| <b>Balance as at 31.12.2021</b> | <b>370 000</b>     | <b>1 000 355</b> | <b>0</b>      | <b>1 370 355</b> |

|                                      | Small appliances | Large appliances  | Toys and games   | Photo-voltaics   | Welding equipment | Light             | Annual result |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Balance as at 1.1.2021               | 5 147 484        | 32 294 015        | 2 732 141        | 2 169 004        | 168 966           | 17 154 000        |               |
| Annual result                        |                  |                   |                  |                  |                   |                   | 6 035 626     |
| Contribution to administrative costs | -136 666         | -254 834          | 70 000           | 70 000           | 1 500             | 250 000           | 0             |
| Withdrawal/allocation                | 1 429 396        | 3 216 069         | 28 603           | 524 034          | 5 831             | 831 693           | -6 035 626    |
| <b>Balance as at 31.12.2021</b>      | <b>6 440 215</b> | <b>35 255 250</b> | <b>2 830 745</b> | <b>2 763 038</b> | <b>176 296</b>    | <b>18 235 693</b> | <b>0</b>      |