

Danke – Merci – Grazie – Thank you

For 25 years, SENS eRecycling has provided sustainable recycling of electrical and electronic waste in Switzerland. From the start, our Foundation was able to rely on broad support from our partners. As founders and members of the Board of Trustees; as representatives of communal, cantonal and federal authorities; as manufacturers and importers; as retailers; as recycling companies and disassembly facilities or as collection points; as monitoring experts and consultants; and, last but not least, as employees, these partners have contributed to SENS's success for 25 years. Today, we would like to thank all of you for your help and hard work.

Thanks to you, we have been able to establish the first take-back system for electrical and electronic devices in Europe (and in the world) based on the principle of "manufacturer responsibility" – and without the need for legal provisions. And our achievements over these past 25 years are truly impressive: the material groups that we have recycled in our raw materials facilities alone could be used to build 7 Golden Gate Bridges and 100 Airbus A380s.

That being said, we are not ready to sit back and leave it at that after 25 years. Together with all of you, we have a lot of plans for the future. Despite the fact that conditions are becoming increasingly difficult, we will continue to strive to achieve optimal recycling quotas, and we will continue to develop our take-back system, making it simpler, more efficient and more customer friendly. We are committed to raising awareness among consumers regarding environmental protection, the value of our available resources and our natural world. On a political level, we advocate the revision of the ORDEE which was proposed by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and includes an obligatory advance recycling fee (ARF). And, with the Resource Dialogue, the latest idea which we have helped to introduce at SENS, we want to work together with our partner Swiss Recycling and all concerned parties in Switzerland to create a new level of understanding of the use of valuable raw materials. We currently find ourselves on an exciting path and we look forward to travelling along this path together with you, with undiminished energy and motivation.

Heidi Luck

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25 Years of SENS
More than 7 Golden Gate Bridges!

Recycled since 1990:

SENS appliances recycling	Tonnes
Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners	236'177
Large electrical appliances	351'547
Small electrical devices	185'133
Lighting equipment (SLRS)	10'281
Non-ORDEE material groups	52'457
Total	835'594

17'000 tonnes of aluminium

= 100 Airbus A380s

7.1 million tonne reduction in CO₂e emissions

= 1 round-the-world plane journey by the entire population of the canton of Bern (Zurich-San Francisco-Honolulu-Sydney-Hong Kong-Zurich)

530,000 tonnes of iron and steel

= 7 Golden Gate Bridges

28,000 tonnes of copper

= 1 power cable which stretches around the world 1.4 times.

103 kilograms of Gold

= 5,000 wedding rings

Raw materials recycling

CO₂e emission reduction

Reduction in PCB emissions

Saved in 25 years:
154,000 billion UBP

= environmental impact of the entire Swiss population of 8 million inhabitants over 11 months

Prevention of 9 tonnes of PCB emissions

= 15,412 tonnes of arsenic
= 673 tonnes of mercury
= 195 grams of dioxin

UBP = eco-points
PCB = polychlorinated biphenyls
CO₂e = CO₂-equivalent

1990

2015

1,5% 6,5%

92%

1990



ESTABLISHMENT OF S.E.N.S. FOUNDATION
The S.E.N.S. Foundation is established with the objective of developing a disposal system for refrigerators and freezers, discharge lamps, batteries and electrical and electronic devices and thus closing the material cycle from production to disposal.

1991



INTRODUCTION OF DISPOSAL STICKER FOR REFRIGERATORS AND FREEZERS
Working on behalf of the FEA, S.E.N.S. develops the concept for the comprehensive disposal of refrigerators and freezers in Switzerland. The concept is implemented in November 1991 with the introduction of the corresponding disposal sticker.

1998

ORDEE (FEDERAL ORDINANCE) AND INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPLETE SYSTEM

The Swiss Federal Ordinance on the Return, Taking Back and Disposal of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (ORDEE) is introduced in January. In order to meet the needs of the market, S.E.N.S. develops its complete system for the disposal of all electrical and electronic appliances in cooperation with members of the FEA and representatives from wholesalers.

2002



FOUNDATION OF THE WEEE FORUM
S.E.N.S. contributes significantly to setting high standards in the area of electronic waste recycling across Europe as a founding member and expertise provider of the WEEE Forum.

2003

START OF THE S.E.N.S. COMPLETE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

Based on the S.E.N.S. online system and coinciding with the introduction of the advance recycling fee (ARF), the S.E.N.S. complete disposal system starts with 65 FEA members as well as the wholesalers Carrefour, Conforama, Coop, Fust, Interdiscount, Jumbo and Migros.

2005



JOINING OF THE TOY INDUSTRY AS WELL AS THE CONSTRUCTION, GARDENING AND HOBBY APPLIANCE SECTORS
ASSUMPTION OF THE OPERATIVE AREA FOR THE DISPOSAL OF LAMPS AND LIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR THE SWISS LIGHTING RECYCLING FOUNDATION (SLRS)

2008



SENS DISPOSAL SYSTEM ACHIEVES RECORD
More than 600 manufacturers and importers have now joined the disposal system, and the collection volume is increasing continuously: in 2008, 454,000 large household appliances, 325,000 refrigerators and freezers and 13,300 tonnes of small appliances had been collected.



ESTABLISHMENT OF SENS INTERNATIONAL
SENS establishes SENS International, today known as Fair Recycling, in order to show its commitment to the environmentally sound disposal of refrigerators and freezers worldwide. An initial project is realised in Brazil. To date, 500,000 refrigerators and freezers have been recycled.

2010



INTRODUCTION OF THE E-RECYCLING.CH LABEL
The e-Recycling quality label is developed and introduced. Partners who meet the highest quality standards are recognised. At the same time, a campaign aimed at increasing the awareness of consumers is launched.

2013



REBRANDING OF SENS
SENS becomes SENS eRecycling.
FOUNDATION OF WEEE EUROPE
SENS once again demonstrates its commitment at a European level and establishes the disposal service provider WEEE Europe together with its partners.

2014



PHOTOVOLTAICS ADDED AS NEW APPLIANCE AREA
In order to realise a return solution for the area of photovoltaics, a cooperation agreement is signed with the Swissolar industry association.

2015



SENS CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY
INTRODUCTION OF THE REPORTING COMPENSATION FOR THE WHOLESALERS.