



The Group

Umicore is a global circular materials technology group working for a more sustainable tomorrow. The group's history began 200 years ago with the union of several mining and smelting companies, which progressively evolved into the materials technology and recycling company that Umicore is today. The core businesses are focused on the three global megatrends of Catalysis, Energy and Surface Technologies, and Recycling. With experts combining cutting-edge innovation, applied know-how and ambition, the group is dedicated to the research and development of clean technologies. The recycling of precious and valuable metals, the production of automotive catalysts or the development of materials for electric vehicle batteries are some of the activities, which manifest the group's commitment to sustainable value creation and the realisation of its mission to provide materials for a better life through development, production, and recycling.

Umicore 2030 - RISE

Through Umicore 2030 - RISE, the ambition is to transform businesses, driving them even more towards sustainability and circularity. The focus of the activities follows three megatrends: improving the circularity of critical metals, accelerating the transformation of global mobility, and meeting the growing need for advanced materials. How? RISE proposes itself as a **Reliable** partner in transformation, a leader in **Innovation and Technology**, a champion in **Sustainability** and, finally, **Excelling** in execution. Umicore is undertaking this new phase to become a leader in circular materials technology.

The challenge

Electronic waste, the e-waste, keeps piling up in consumers' homes, becoming a relevant problem but also a possible opportunity to recover rare and valuable materials. There are many reasons behind it, from the lack of knowledge of the disposal rules, to the possibility that the equipment might be useful again in the future, to its sentimental value or the intention to resell it. In terms of e-waste collection, several issues arise as well, in the logistic chain, in the sorting facilities, or the way to collect them.

Based on these initial considerations, please present possible projects that can improve the re-using, recycling, or upcycling of the e-waste by focusing in one or more of these areas:

- a. A more efficient and environmentally friendly collection of e-waste
- b. Improvement of logistics chains and removal of current obstacles in the sorting the materials
- c. Creating tools to increase consumer awareness and openness on the issue.