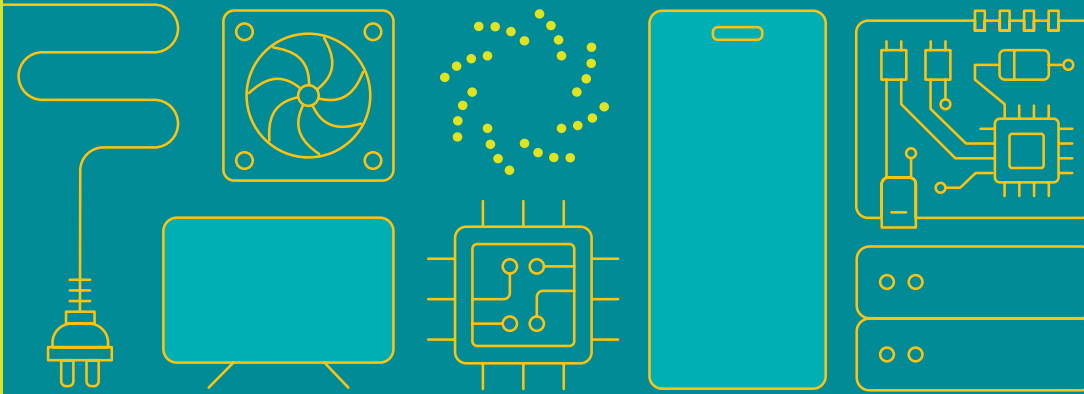


Case Study:

Driving the circular economy with e-waste recycling solutions



Developing a streamlined, nation-wide e-waste recycling supply chain to support Optus' sustainability goals and to make a positive impact on our communities.

OPTUS

sircel

THE CHALLENGE:

Create an efficient end-to-end e-waste recycling system in line with Optus' goal to reuse and recycle over 90% of their e-waste.



As Australia's second-largest telecommunications services provider, employing over 6,700 people, Optus is committed to making a positive contribution to and impact on communities and the environment for current and future generations. Developing and participating in a circular economy where turning rubbish into resource, is critical to achieving this goal.

A tangled e-waste recycling supply chain made up of multiple stakeholders and complex logistics over scattered locations, was making it difficult for Optus to meet its circular economy imperative. One company would handle extraction, another deal with shipping and yet another would take care of recycling. This fragmented approach was inefficient from both a cost and sustainability perspective with best intentions being undermined by poor coordination and a lack of adequate specialist knowledge on sites.

THE APPROACH:

A single supplier solution to streamline processes and boost sustainability impact.

Optus needed Sircel to provide an end-to-end solution that would streamline and consolidate the process, cut costs and deliver measurable improvements to Optus' ESG commitments, including maintaining their goal of at least 90% waste diversion from landfill and to reuse and recycle over 90% of e-waste.

Since working with Optus*, Sircel has:

- 1 Centralised the supply chain to decommission, extract, transport and recycle all materials under one partner
- 2 Coordinated logistics and pick ups across remote Optus sites
- 3 Worked with trained, local technicians local, trained technicians across four states to properly decommission equipment
- 4 Delivered transparent reporting to align with internal reporting metrics, showing how much of the telco's recycled product re-enters the circular economy and how much waste has been diverted from landfill.

* Date range: April 2021 - September 2024

THE RESULTS:

Since 2021, together Optus and Sircel have achieved:

755 tonnes
of material processed
(printed circuit boards, servers
and data rooms, cables, computer
hardware and mixed electronics)

50 tonnes
of equipment
from two exchange sites (Mitchell
and Riverwood) recycled and returned
to the circular economy

100%
of hard plastic
recycled and returned to the circular
economy to become a wide range
of RES8 plastic products

95%
of all materials
diverted from landfill

Recovery
of valuable commodities
including copper, aluminum and steel

Reuse
of materials in new products
incl. plastic construction rock
alternatives, steel infrastructure
and reinforcements, and various
aluminium parts in manufacturing

Looking forward



Optus remains committed to the circular economy as a pillar of its sustainability strategy. Together, Sircel and Optus are actively expanding the program. We are looking to apply the approach to other technical and infrastructure upgrades, beyond the exchanges, and expect to see similar diversion from landfill results. This will help drive a change in process from a 'take, make, dispose' way of operating, to one that is restorative and regenerative. With a holistic waste management strategy and program in place, we can extend product lifecycles, improve e-waste recycling rates, and reduce harmful impacts to communities and the environment.

Read more about Optus' sustainability goals in its latest Sustainability Report at optus.com.au/about/sustainability/reporting

Email hello@sircel.com to arrange a site visit.

Together, we
are making finite
resources infinite.

Let's work together to solve
your e-waste challenges.

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