

The Rare Earth Elements wheel

A. Main topics

- The Rare Earth Elements (REEs) within the Electric Electronic Equipment (EEE) and related waste (WEEE)
- Main physical characteristics of the most spread REEs in EEE/WEEE
- Importance of recycling WEEE due to their REEs and other precious metals content

B. targeted audience

- 13-19 years old students

C. Key concepts

- Rare Earth Elements: their importance in the global economy
- Rare Earth Elements: geology and supply in the global context
- Critical Raw Material (CRM) for EU
- Technological electrical appliances and their value in terms of metal contents/REEs
- The importance of a correct WEEE management for a circular economy

D. Experimental activity

- Students can build by their own the wheel, following the instructions in the toolkit, printing and cutting the wheel and the linked cards from the toolkit booklet. Then, they can play with the wheel in small groups, reading what comes out rotating the knife on the wheel and guessing which is the electrical appliance containing the specific Rare Earth Element amongst the cards.
- Additionally, this toolkit can be strengthened by using the teacher fact sheets from the RawMatCards toolkit, available on the same Virtual Center of RM@Schools website.

E. Toolkit material

- Toolkit and linked cards can be downloaded throughout the Virtual Center of RM@Schools website

F. RM Tutors

Antonella Castellano castellano@ecodom.it

Nazarena Vincenti vincenti@ecodom.it

