Merseyside's residents can get their hands on free recycling bags this January in exchange for unwanted or broken electrical items.

The giveaway involves all 13 Merseyside Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and aims to stop precious metals used in electronics and electrical equipment ending up as landfill.

Visitors to the region's HWRCs will get a free heavy duty recycling bag in exchange for broken or unused small electrical and electronic waste items – anything from hairdryers, hair straighteners and children's electronic toys to radios, DVD players, mobile phones, kettles, toasters, power tools and more.

Household Waste Recycling Centres are one of the few places that householders can recycle small electrical items. The scheme has been organised by Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) and Veolia Environmental Services.

Councillor Graham Morgan, Chairperson of MRWA, said: "If you've got an electrical item that is broken or no longer used then drop it off at your local Recycling Centre. Instead of gathering dust and cluttering up your house it'll be stripped down and the parts recycled.

"The bag offer is always very popular and works because it is a way of rewarding good recycling

habits.”

Many electrical items such as mobile phones, consoles and tablets/computers contain valuable materials. Precious finite metals (those that have a more limited supply) include gold, silver, copper and indium (used in liquid crystal displays). These are valuable in the recycling process and can be reused in new products.

Alex Paterson, Director of Veolia Environmental Services Merseyside and Halton, said: “At present small electrical items are commonly seen in the residual waste and in the kerbside dry recyclable containers. This means they do not get recycled and may end up in landfill. The blue bag will provide an easy way to collect and recycle these items and therefore improve recycling rates on Merseyside.”

Bag supplies are limited so will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis. Only one bag is available per person per visit.