



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Waste Prevention Programme for England

## Priority Areas

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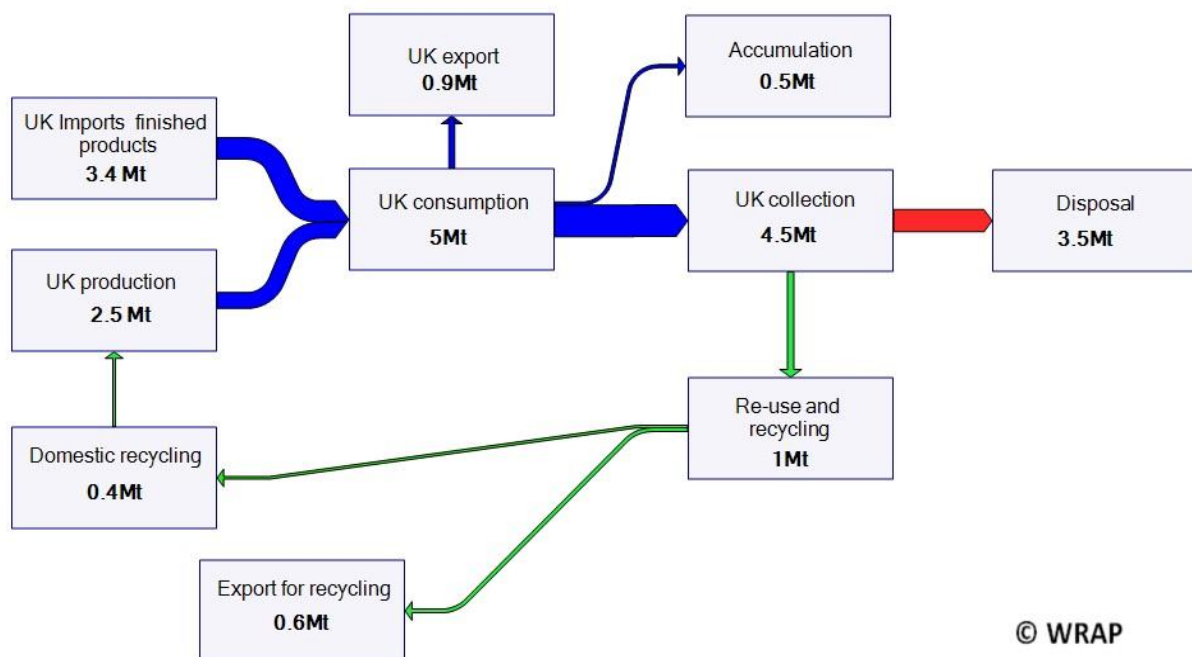
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# Plastic

## UK Plastics Sankey 2011



### References:

1. <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Plastics%20Update%20Market%20Situation%20Report%20Summer%202010.pdf>

2. [http://www.bpf.co.uk/Sustainability/Plastics\\_Recycling.aspx](http://www.bpf.co.uk/Sustainability/Plastics_Recycling.aspx)

3. [http://www.bpf.co.uk/About\\_the\\_BPF/BPF\\_Annual\\_Review.aspx](http://www.bpf.co.uk/About_the_BPF/BPF_Annual_Review.aspx)

4. This is the difference between what is collected for recycling and what is exported for recycling. Domestic packaging recycling appears to be around 0.16 million tonnes.

BPF suggest 0.35 tonnes all plastics are domestically recycled.

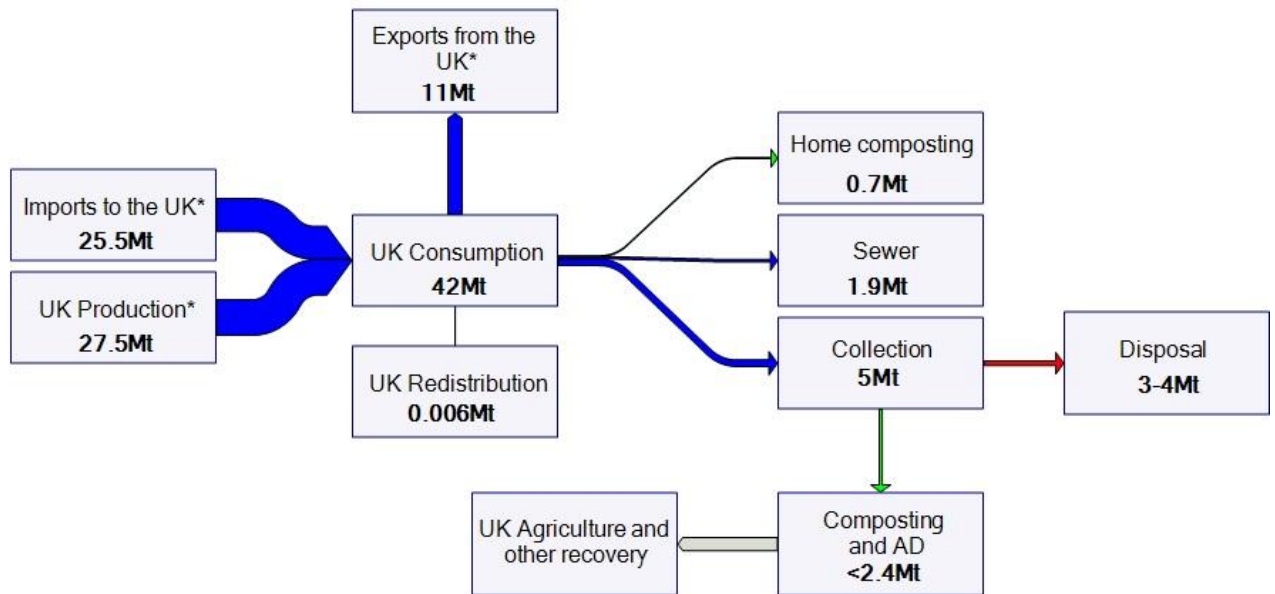
5. Estimate based on the difference between UK consumption and exports and UK production.

The UK uses over 5 million tonnes of plastic each year.

In 2012, supermarkets gave out over 8 billion single-use carrier bags across the UK. That is over 120 bags per person. This equates to about 60,000 tonnes of single-use carrier bags in total over the year.

# Food

## UK Food Sankey 2011



References:

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/newxtweb/getquery.do?queryID=100618429&datasetID=DS-018995&keepsessionkey=true>

\* Some weights describe crops (e.g. wheat) and others describe final products (e.g. bread). There will therefore be some inconsistencies

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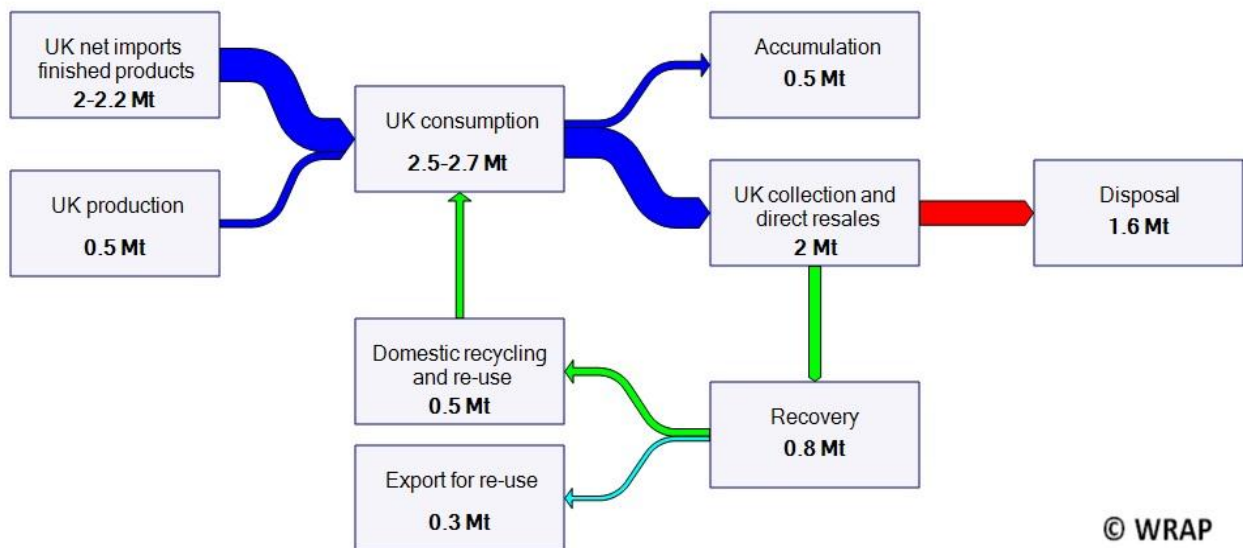
We throw away more than **7 million tonnes** of food and drink every year from our homes - most of which could have been safely consumed

Consumers spend **£12.5 billion** on food that is not eaten (14% of their spend on food)

Avoiding this waste would save the equivalent of 17 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, the same as taking 1 in every 5 cars off our roads

# Textiles

## UK Textiles Sankey 2011



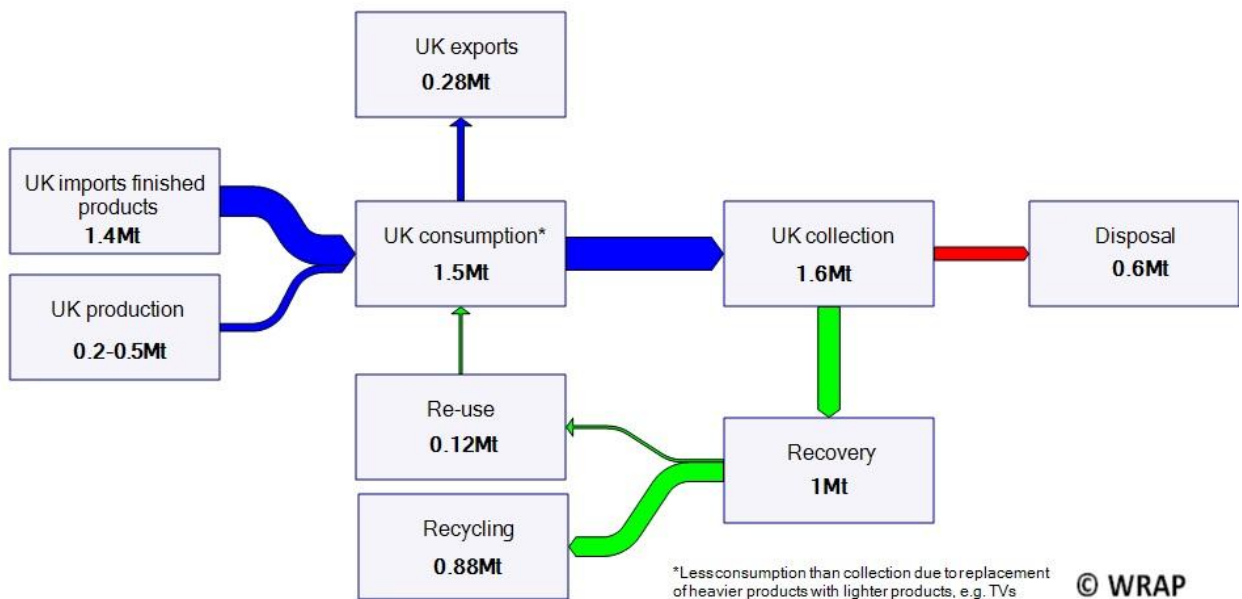
It is estimated that we consume between 2.5-2.7 Mt of textiles e.g. clothing, linen, carpets annually. 64% of these items are disposed of each year.

Approximately 370,000 tonnes of domestic and commercial carpet and 144,000 tonnes of mattresses enter landfill.

It is estimated that £140 million worth of used clothing goes to landfill each year and extending the average life of clothes by just three months of active use would lead to a 5-10% reduction in each of the carbon, water and waste footprints.

# Electrical

## UK Electricals Sankey 2010



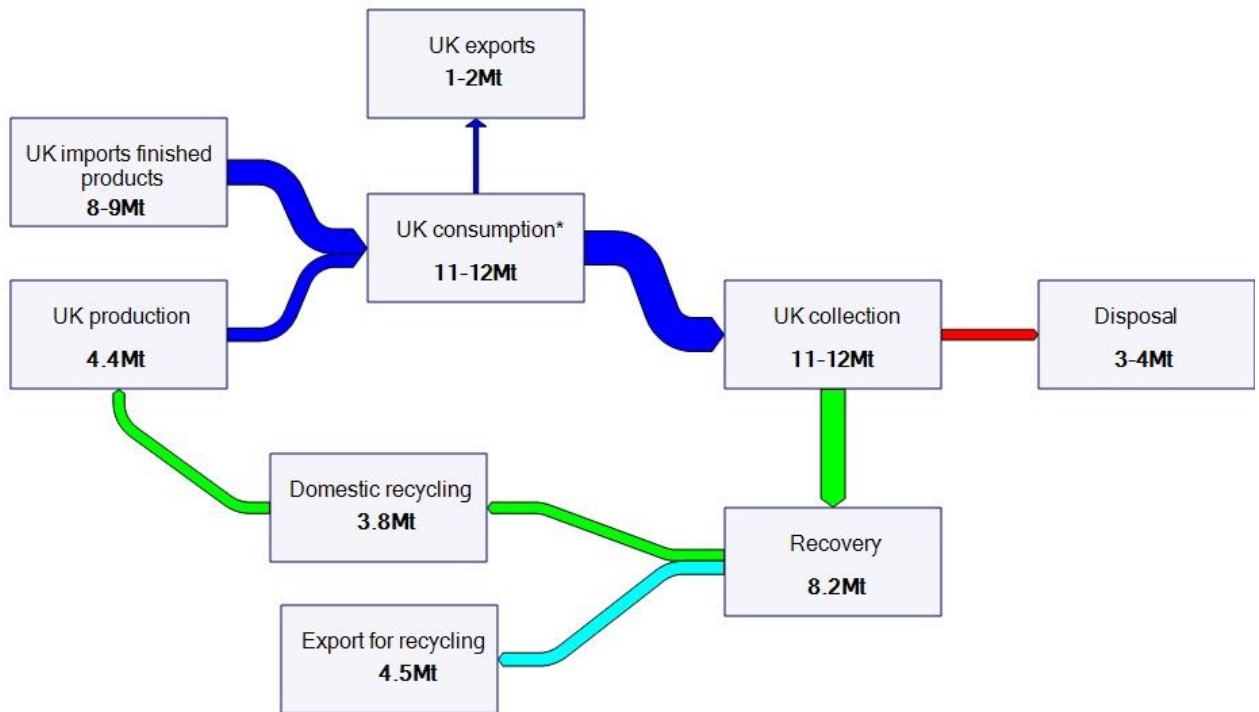
Between now and the end of 2020, the 10 million tonnes of electronic products will be purchased in the UK. A quarter of this will comprise of IT equipment, consumer electronics and display screens.

This 10 million tonnes will include precious metals, such as 20 tonnes of gold, 400 tonnes of silver and 7 tonnes of Platinum Group Metals. At the time of writing, these have a total estimated market value of £1.5 billion.

Almost 25% of the WEEE taken to household waste recycling centres each year has a reuse value, which could deliver £200 million gross revenue each year.

# Paper & Board

## UK Paper Sankey 2011



\* (10 million unconverted products and 1-2 million imported products (e.g. books, nappies) and packaging associated with imported products)

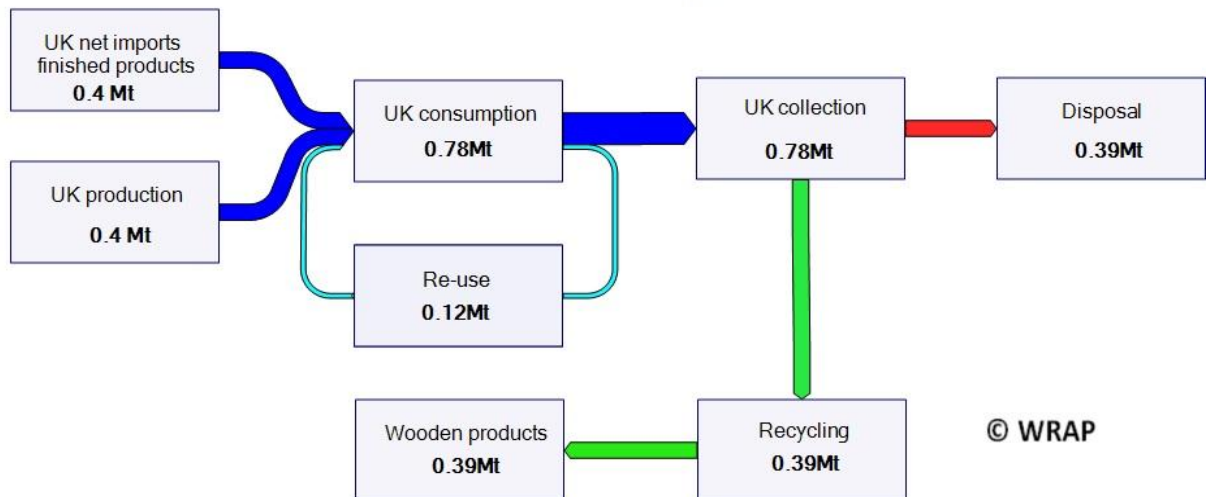
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Approximately 25% of C&I and 17% of household waste is composed of paper and card. Around 19% of paper is not available for recycling. For each tonne of paper waste avoided, 1.5tCO<sub>2</sub>e is avoided

Tackling use of paper in the office offers some of the greatest savings. The number of pages printed unnecessarily, is rising from an average of six pages per employee per day in 2007 to seven pages today.

# Furniture & Bulky Waste

UK Furniture Sankey 2011



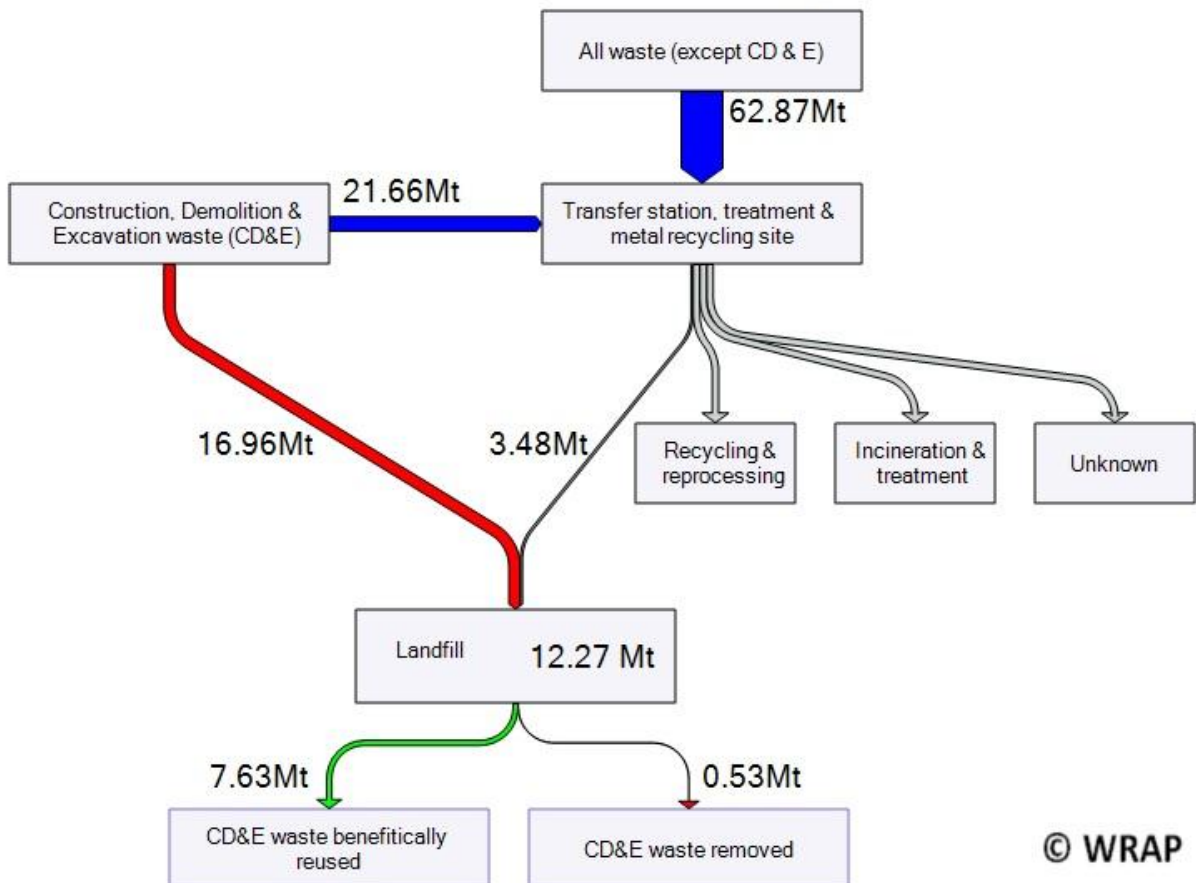
10 million items of furniture are thrown out each year  
On average only 17% of the sofas discarded annually are reused.

Reuse of essential items such as furniture and electricals, saves households £340 million per year.



# Construction & Demolition

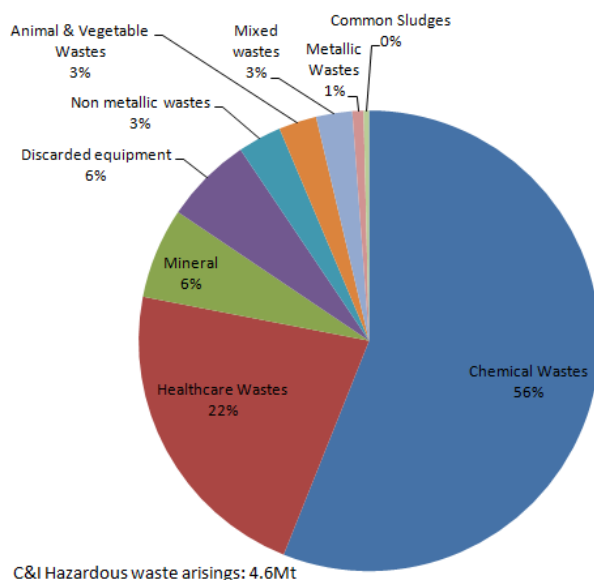
## UK Construction Sankey 2010



Construction and Demolition waste accounts for 44% of the waste produced in England (by weight).

Up to £45 million pa. in disposal costs could be saved across the supply chain (including local authorities) simply by addressing flooring waste.

# Healthcare & Chemical



C&I Hazardous waste arisings: 4.6Mt

Composition of commercial & industrial hazardous waste by weight (Defra, 2009)

The NHS produces approximately 600,000 tonnes of clinical, pharmaceutical, infectious and domestic waste at a cost of £42 million of per year.

The chemicals and non-metallic minerals manufacturing sector accounted for 8% of the total C&I waste arisings in 2009, generating 3.8Mt of waste.

The chemicals sector alone generated 1.8Mt of waste, of which 703,000 tonnes (kt) were estimated to be hazardous waste.

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## Page 3 – Plastic

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- Notes
  - For the purpose of the National Survey, waste statistics for the chemicals sector are incorporated within the following category 'Manufacturing of chemicals and non-metallic minerals'. This wider sector includes: manufacture of chemicals and chemical products, manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products, manufacture of rubber and plastic products and manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations.
  - Approximately 60% of the waste generated by the chemicals sector is chemical waste. This comprises solvents, acids/alkalis, used oil, catalysts, wastes from chemical preparation, residues and sludges.
  - Figures exclude the North West region.