

Sustainable Clothing Roadmap

Re-use and Recycling Group
Overview.

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Some impressive facts

- We buy over 2 million tonnes of new clothing and textiles annually - DEFRA
- We throw away over 1 million tonnes - DEFRA
- Major carbon benefits of diverting from landfill – 2nd only to aluminium – Waste Strategy for England 2007
- We only re-use and recycle about ½ million tonnes - DEFRA
- In 2008, the total value of the industry in the EU was in excess of €3000,000,000 - TRA
- 10 million jobs in Kenya are supported by the used clothing industry – Kenyan Institute of Public Policy, Research and Analysis.



Re-use and Recycling Group

Background

The SCAP steering group set up two task groups on specific action areas:

- Clothes Cleaning;
- Re-use and Recycling.
 - **Set up to develop and deliver collaborative actions**
 - **Administered by WRAP**



Key areas for consideration

1. Introduction of collection systems and initiatives to improve collections– (including communications strategy, relevant codes of practice and good guidance);
2. Promotion of clothing /textile collections for re-use and recycling of clothing and textiles (with preference for re-use);
3. Market development for recycling grades (inc. pre-consumer waste):
 - Establishing new markets for existing applications;
 - Evaluating new commercial applications for recycling grades (including R&D);
 - Development of Specifications for recycling grades.
4. Liaison with other groups.



Issues identified

- Barriers to developing collection schemes must be overcome.
 - Develop consistent approach to licensing of charitable door to door collections;
 - Reduce theft of clothing:
 - Multiple Leaflet/Bag drops:
 - Engagement by Local Authorities and Waste Management Companies.
- Publicity
 - Needs to be simple and account for wide range of stakeholder interests.
 - Innovative – in store promotions, M&S Oxfam promotion, Clarks Shoebiz Appeal in aid of UNICEF.
- New Markets for Recycling Grades
 - Focus on UK markets, but where appropriate markets in continental Europe should be identified followed by Global markets.



Issues identified (Continued)

- Need to engage corporate clients:
 - encourage them to work with manufacturers on specifications for re-use:
 - facilitate re-use through removal of logos and brand names from corporate wear:
 - promote collection of corporate wear;
 - corporate partners may also be clients for recycling grades.
- Collection of other textile based products should be undertaken separately:
 - Group recognises that requirements of other textile based products are quite different from clothes, curtains, bed linen etc;
 - Carpets are explicitly excluded from the remit of this group



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