

Textiles Resource Hierarchy: Definitions

Term	Definition	Source
Apparel	Any costume or article of clothing or covering for any part of the body worn or intended to be worn by individuals.	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Reuse export/import brokers	Organisations that may export/import used textiles for their original, intended purpose, direct reuse, or facilitate the buying and selling of used textiles from within/outside the UK. This may not include the physical handling of used textiles, for example, arranging a shipment or transaction.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Circular Business Models (CBMs)	A type of business model that is designed to keep goods in circulation and to generate revenue from service provision and reuse, rather than from the volume of goods sold.	WRAP CBM Guide
Circular Design	The concept of designing products and services in line with the principles of a circular economy.	WRAP CBM Guide
Circular economy	An alternative to the traditional linear economy (make, use and dispose). Under a circular economy, products, components and materials are kept in use for as long as possible to extract the maximum value, after their first use-phase, they are reused, repaired or recycled.	Adapted from WRAP CBM Guide
Closed-loop	Referring to the recycling of materials from one industry to create outputs for use in the same industry. For example, a cotton t shirt being recycled into raw fibre to be spun and used to create another textile product. Note, closed-loop/fibre-to-fibre and textile-to-textile recycling can be used interchangeably.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Collection	Refers to the services offered to citizens and/or businesses to collect post-consumer textiles for onward sorting for reuse and recycling. This includes kerbside collections, facilitating textile banks, postal and door-to-door pick up services for citizens and direct pickups from businesses - see non-exhaustive list slide 13 .	WRAP Textiles Sorting and Recycling Database

Composting	Microbial breakdown of organic matter in the presence of oxygen. In a circular economy, composting can be used to convert food by-products and other biodegradable materials into compost, which can be used as a soil enhancer.	Textile Exchange: Glossary - Textile Exchange
Damage	Evident physical harm caused to an object which may impact its value, usefulness or normal function.	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Design for Recyclability	A strategy that ensures products never become "waste" but instead allows for closed-loop material recovery.	Design for Recyclability Guide — Redress Design Award
Discard	In the European Waste Framework Directive (WFD), 'discard' is broader than its ordinary meaning 'to get rid of'. It relates to the actions of the holder and the burden it places on the holder to deal with it responsibly. It can include recovery and disposal. <i>Please Note: WRAP is currently reviewing this definition</i>	Waste Framework Directive: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (16) & Check if your material is waste - GOV.UK
Displacement rate	The rate at which using a new circular business model directly displaces the purchase of a new garment in the existing system.	WRAP CBM Guide
Disposal (Legal definition)	Any operation which is not recovery even where the operation has as a secondary consequence, the reclamation of substances or energy.	Waste Framework Directive: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (16)
Disposal (Expanded definition)	The action or process of throwing away textile item/s into residual waste bins with no intention of reuse and recycling. Disposal is an end-of-life process and therefore items are destined for incineration or landfill – see Residual waste.	Textiles 2030
Disassembly	Enables a product to be taken apart in such a way that allows components and materials to be reused, remade, or recycled.	WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles

Disruptor	An element or hard point present on a textile product (e.g. fastener, button, zipper, fabric patch etc.) that may be a disruptor to the recycling process and will need to be removed before the product is suitable as feedstock for recycling.	WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles
Durability	The ability of a physical product to remain functional and relevant over time when faced with the challenges of normal operation. This can relate to physical properties or emotional characteristics to do with appearance. It applies to a product over multiple owners and acknowledges repair and other services as a means to increase overall durability.	WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles
End of Life (EOL)	Broad term, referring to waste streams such as incineration and landfill. In a circular textiles ecosystem, EOL flows should be composed of textile waste only, excluding RT and NRT.	Textiles 2030
Energy Recovery	Thermochemical processes which derives energy from waste textiles via combustion to produce electricity. Often referred to as 'energy-from-waste' or EfW.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Feedstock	Refers to resource input (e.g., fibre, material, pellet, filament), that is used to supply recycling processes to create recycled raw/material. In a circular textiles ecosystem, resource input includes processed NRT from post-industrial, pre-consumer and post-consumer textiles.	Textiles 2030
Label	An informational attachment to an item that is not intended to be removed prior to product use. Examples may include tags sewn into apparel items containing brand name, care instructions, and other product information.	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Landfill	Textile items that have been disposed of into residual waste bins follow end-of-life processes and may enter landfills. Landfills are waste disposal sites for the deposit of the waste onto or into land.	Adapted from The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002
Longevity	Longevity of a product is measured by how long a textiles product provides a useful service for wearers. Expectations will vary depending on factors such as, the wearer, the purpose, cost, perceived quality, physical durability, and the emotional attachment the customer has with the item.	Adapted from WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles

Marketplace	An online platform that facilitates sales between sellers and buyers of products. The item may be stored and distributed by the marketplace, or transported directly from seller to buyer.	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Open-loop	Referring to the recycling of materials where inputs from one industry are recycled into outputs for another industry. For example, plastic bottles being recycled into yarn for textile use. Within open loop, there is both chemical and mechanical recycling.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Overstock (excess inventory)	Products that have been sitting in warehouses or retail stores for an extended period but have never been owned or used by consumers.	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Post-consumer non-reusable textiles	Textiles that have been used by a citizen that are not reusable for their intended purpose.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Post-consumer reusable textiles	Textiles that have been used by a citizen and ready to be discarded but are still reusable in their current form or with minimal repair.	Adapted from WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Post-consumer textiles	Textiles that have been purchased, used and then discarded for reuse or disposal. It refers to textiles generated by households or by commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities in their role as end-users. This excludes returned items, see pre-consumer surplus products.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Post-industrial textiles	Fibres, yarns, fabrics and products from the textile manufacturing process. These can either be finished materials/products that are suitable for use/sale, or unusable materials and by-products.	WRAP Textiles Reuse and Recycling Definitions and Flow Routes
Pre-consumer by-products	Textile stock that has been manufactured and transferred to a retailer and cannot be used for their intended purpose e.g. products received from the manufacturer or returned by the customer that are damaged, faulty or soiled etc.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Pre-consumer surplus products	Textile stock that has been manufactured and transferred to a retailer and can still be used for their intended purpose. This may arise due to overordering or where unused products are returned and not resold.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review

Pre-consumer textiles	Textile stock that has been manufactured for and transferred to a retailer but is yet to be used by a citizen. This can include unsold products, returns, and damaged or faulty goods.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Preloved	A product that has been previously owned and used by an individual consumer.	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Preparation for recycling	Items that are not suitable for reuse but are suitable to be recycled must be prepared for recycling. This can include sorting material via manual/automated means into feedstock to meet recycler requirements, as well as processing to remove non-target materials (known as 'disruptors') such as zips and other attachments.	Adapted from WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Preparation for reuse (Legal definition)	Checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be reused without any other pre-processing.	Waste Framework Directive: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (16)
Prevention (of textile waste) (Legal definition)	Measures taken before a substance, material or product has become <i>textile</i> waste that reduce: a) the quantity of <i>textile</i> waste, including through the re-use of products or the extension of the life span of products; b) the adverse impacts of the generated waste on the environment and human health; or c) the content of harmful substances in materials and products.	Adapted from definition of "Prevention" in Waste Framework Directive: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (16)
Product destruction	Where textile items produced are destroyed before use and enter EOL waste streams. Product destruction can be conducted by retailers, brands and manufacturers, or by 3 rd party organisations such as waste management companies.	Textiles 2030

Recovery (Legal definition)	Any operation, the principal result of which, is waste /resources serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste /resources being prepared to fulfil that function, in the wider economy.	Adapted from definition of "recovery" in Waste Framework Directive: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (16)
Recovery (Expanded definition)	An operation to recover materials and components from post-consumer textile products so that they can be remade into new products through remanufacturing or new textiles through recycling and subsequently diverted from end-of-life e.g., incineration and landfill.	WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles
Recycling	The process of reducing a product back to its basic material level, reprocessing those materials, and using them in new products, components, or materials.	WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles
Reduce	Refers to processes and practices aimed at decreasing volumes of virgin resources that are produced, consumed and disposed of to minimise waste, optimise resource efficiency and lower environmental impacts.	Textiles 2030
Remanufacture	A process which takes existing used textile products that still have usable materials or components and creates something new (whether the same type of product or one with a different use or for a different industry) via disassembly and repurposing. Remanufacture describes the process, the product produced may still be called upcycled. E.g. a pair of used jeans were remanufactured to create an upcycled skirt. In some cases, this activity can be viewed as overlapping with some forms of "recycling" e.g. producing wiping rags from textile material.	WRAP Post Consumer Textiles Landscape Review
Rental	A business model where each garment or collection of garments can be hired/rented for a limited time. The ownership of the garment remains with the rental/subscription company (B2C) or the owner (P2P), not the consumer whose purchase provides access to the garment for a set period. This model can be pay-per-use rental or subscription rental.	WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles

Repair	Replacing or repairing components of a garment that are faulty or close to failure back to a useable state or altering a garment for a better fit/style.	WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles
Resale	Mechanism to generate revenue from additional sales of a garment after the first sale, with ownership changing hands at each sale. Recovering own-brand products through a takeback scheme to be resold through the brand or via a partner, alongside only their product or a multi-brand offering. Or selling secondhand garments of any brand/origin.	WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles
Residual waste	Waste that is collected outside of separated recycling streams. It is intended to be the waste left behind that is not suitable for recycling. Residual waste in the UK is destined for incineration or landfill.	Adapted from definition in WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Retailer	A person, shop or business that sells goods to the public, at either physical locations ("brick and mortar") and/or via online sales (e-commerce).	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Returns	A product that has been returned to the retailer by the citizen after point of sale. Citizens return products for a variety of reasons and in different conditions (reusable or non-reuseable in current state). In some cases, they are re-stocked and sold again.	WRAP Post Consumer Textiles Landscape Review
Reuse	Operation by which a used textiles product or component is transferred to new owner and used repeatedly for its original purpose, without being significantly modified, remade, or recycled. Products might need to be 'prepared for reuse', which often involves cleaning, repairs, or small modifications so that they can continue to be used throughout time and by multiple users.	Adapted from definition in WRAP CBM Guide
Reuse business model	A type of circular business model that makes profit through increased use/reuse involving a transaction in exchange for used garments while extending the active life of those garments. The transaction does not need to be between the owner of the garment and the receiver/purchaser of the garment. This allows P2P models where the transaction is with facilitator of the garment transaction.	WRAP CBM Guide

Scheme owner	Person or organization responsible for the development, maintenance and deployment of a conformity assessment system or certification scheme.	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Separate collection (Legal definition)	Collection where a waste <i>/resource</i> stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment.	Adapted from definition in Waste Framework Directive: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (16)
Separate collection (expanded definition)	In the UK, refers to local authority managed/contracted collections of textiles at kerbside that are collected/handled separately from other resource/waste streams.	Textiles 2030
Service life	Life span after which the apparel starts losing its quality and becomes worn, torn, faded or bleached out etc.	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Sharing	The use of a product by multiple users. It is a practice that retains the highest value of a product by extending its use period.	Ellen Macarthur Foundation: Finding a common language — the circular economy glossary
Tag	An informational attachment to an item intended to be removed prior to use, often containing pricing or product information.	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Textile waste (Legal definition)	Any <i>textile</i> substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard	Adapted from definition of "waste" in Waste Framework Directive: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (16)

Textile waste (Expanded definition)	Textile material that does not fit the necessary criteria for reusable (reuse) or non-reusable textiles (recycling) markets and added value cannot be obtained. As a result, textile waste must be disposed of in residual waste, collected and handled via EOL routes through waste management.	Textiles 2030
(Pre-consumer textiles) Unsold Stock	Unsold stock occurs when products are put up for sale for a certain period of time and not sold. Some businesses put unsold stock back on the market a few times with a discount.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review
Used	A product that has been previously utilized by an individual consumer for its intended purpose, potentially resulting in some amount of wear to the product.	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0
Versatility	A design strategy attempting to increase the in-use phase of items by designing products that can be worn across occasions, functions, wearers. Versatility includes adaptability of an item for body shape, trends, gender fluidity, multi-functionality.	WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles
Virgin raw materials	Virgin materials are natural resources that are extracted in their raw form that are traditionally used in industrial or manufacturing processes. Examples of raw materials include steel, oil, corn, grain, gasoline, lumber, forest resources, plastic, natural gas, coal, and minerals.	WRAP Circular Design Toolkit for Fashion and Textiles
Waste (Legal definition)	Waste means any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard.	Waste Framework Directive: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (16)

Waste (Expanded definition)	Waste cannot be summed up in a few sentences. There are several factors that need to be considered. From a legislative standpoint, core guidance from the Environment Agency (EA) defines waste as a material if the holder has discarded it. Assessment on whether a material has been discarded is based on the actions of the holder. The EA considers all the following factors when they assess if a material is discarded and therefore classed as waste: burden, certainty of use, fit for purpose, a specific purpose, management, environmental harm, common classification as waste, disposal or recovery, fuel or waste, an item returned for a refund, reuse. Further legislation sets out steps for waste to become non-waste.	WRAP Post Consumer Textile Landscape Review & Check if your material is waste - GOV.UK
Waste holder (Legal definition)	The holder is the person or legal entity who has the material at the time it's discarded. This may not be the owner – for example, if someone has leased the material, they become the holder.	Check if your material is waste - GOV.UK
Waste management (Legal definition)	Collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste, including the supervision of such operations and the after-care of disposal sites, and including actions taken as a dealer or broker;	Waste Framework Directive: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (16)
Waste producer (Legal definition)	Anyone whose activities produce waste (original waste producer) or anyone who carries out pre-processing, mixing or other operations resulting in a change in the nature or composition of this waste.	Waste Framework Directive: Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on waste, Article 3 (16)
Wear	Damage or deterioration to a product caused by its repeated use	WRAP CLS Preloved Certified Standard V1.0