Waste tracking project update
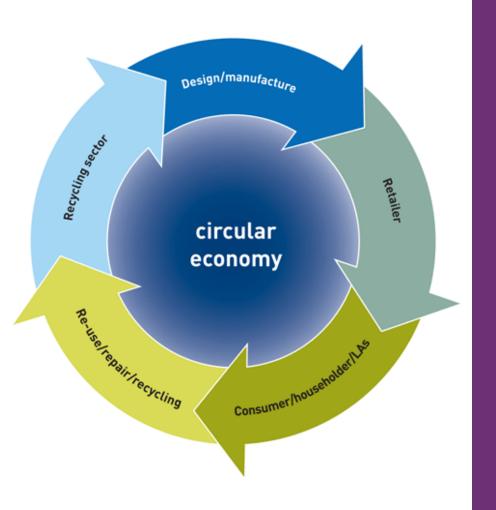
Alistair Paul
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What happens to waste when we throw it away?

Waste can cause harm…

…but we can also create value from waste

"We need to put in place the fundamental building blocks of data gathering and analysis to ensure we know the types, amounts and quality of waste, and where it is generated and ends up"

From waste to resource productivity

The building blocks of waste data

- What is it?

- Where does it comes from?

- How much is there?

- Where does it go?

- What happens to it?

The data can help inform policy

- Are we meeting recycling targets?

- Do we have enough waste processing infrastructure capacity?

- What markets are emerging for waste materials?

- Are we collecting the right amount of landfill tax?

It can help us tackle waste crime

- Waste disappears from the chain

- Waste descriptions change when they shouldn't

- Timings and patterns of transfers that don't make sense

- The wrong waste ends up in the wrong place

"the lack of digital record-keeping in the waste industry is frequently exploited by organised criminals…it provides ample opportunity to hide evidence of the systematic mis-handling of waste. "

Review into Serious & Organised Crime in the Waste sector

And it can support business

- Visibility of waste destination

- Scope for efficiencies

- New markets (open data?)

- Less paperwork

But tracking waste isn't easy

- We produce a lot of waste and lots of different types of waste – that's a lot of data

- Waste chains are complex - waste is difficult to trace

- Businesses have their own systems for recording waste – this has to work for everyone

GovTech Catalyst

- Fund to incentivise tech firms to come up with innovative solutions to fix public sector challenges

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- Phase 1: five companies awarded £80,000 each to develop ideas and provide proofs of concept

- Phase 2: Two companies providing the best potential solutions could be awarded research and development contracts of up to £500,000 to build prototypes.

To use innovative technology to record and track individual movements of waste through the economy

Blockchain?

Low cost tags and readers?

Mapping/ analytics?

Four nations project partners

- Surveys

- Questionnaires

- External Interviews

- Telephone Interviews

- Internal Interviews

- Workshops

- Site Visits

- Contextual Interviews

- "AS IS" process

User Research

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