

**“How is retirement  
going?**

**It’s rubbish!”**

Reflections of a  
Waste Savvy Staffs  
Volunteer.



# My Volunteering in Retirement

- **Globe Foundation Eco Centre , Uttoxeter**

*<https://www.globefoundation.org.uk/>*

- **Waste Savvy Staffs**

*<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Waste-and-recycling/Waste-Savvy-Staffs.aspx>*

- **Plastic Free Burton**

*<https://www.globefoundation.org.uk/projects/plastic-free-burton/>*

- **Council Climate Action Plan Scorecard project**

- <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/>

# 'Waste' as a Public Health Issue

- **Public Health through time.**
- People didn't know the link between dirt and disease until quite recently
- 1348 Black Death
- 1666 The Great Plague
- Victorian Era/State of Industrial Towns

# 'Waste' in 21st Century

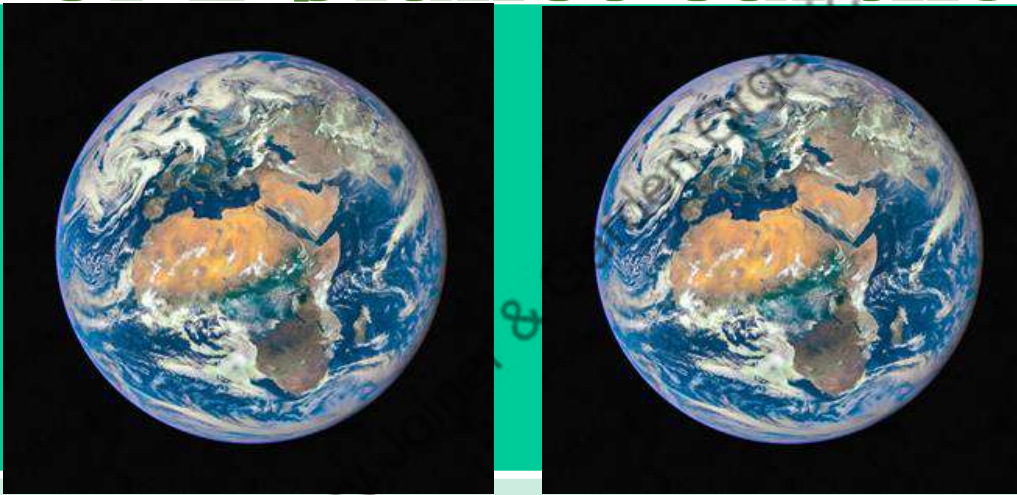
- Global problem
- UK attitude to 'Waste' is changing, but far too slowly
- ~~Linear Economy~~ Circular Economy
- Waste Hierarchy
- "If in doubt leave it out"
- Precious Plastic
- What can we/they do?

# The language of 'Waste' is changing.

- **Throw it away!**
- **That's just trash!**
- **Put it in the bin!**
- **Take it to the dump/ tip!**
- **Burn it on a bonfire!**

- **Where is 'away'?**
- **It's not rubbish**
- **It's waste material**
- **It's a resource**
- **It can be used again for something else.**

# We are using up the resources of 2 planet earths!



- We need to use the earth's resources responsibly so we don't run out or drown in our own mess.
- To make a healthy future for everyone we need to embrace change today.

# UN Sustainable Development Goal 12 (17 goals in total)

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



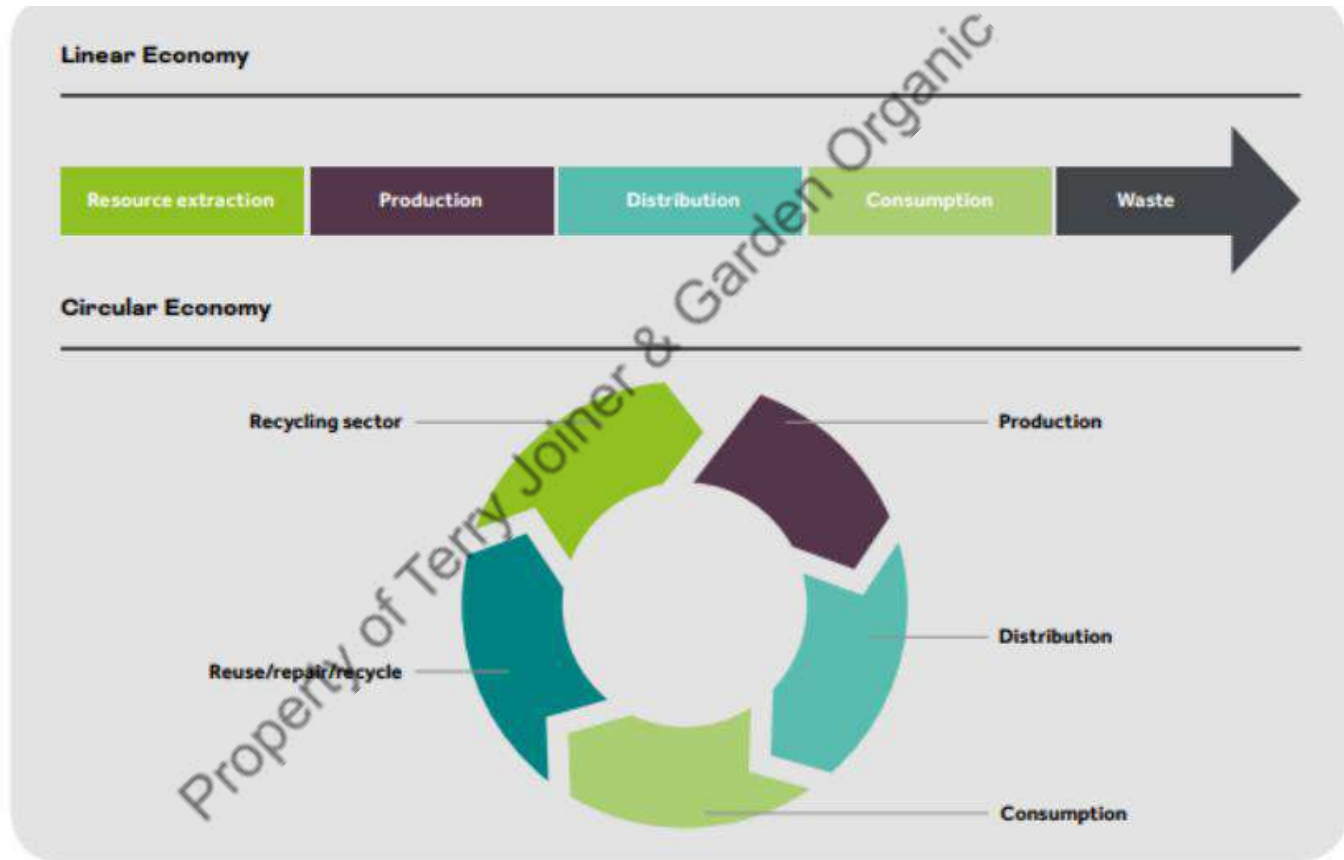
- 12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste
- 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

# UK Waste Legislation

- EU Legislation set Waste targets.
- Various UK Environmental Acts of Parliament over the years.
- UK Government 25 Year Environment Plan 2018
- The Environment Act 2021- sets legal framework
- 2022 Consultations to help set specific targets; report published December 2022
- **OEP Progress Report January 2023**



# A Circular Economy



Source: Dundee Climate Action Plan<sup>82</sup>.

# We all create waste

No matter how hard we try, we all create some waste.

How much do you think you waste in a year (in weight)?

That's all the things like garden waste, packaging, clothes, leftover food and broken/old stuff that end up in all your curbside bins/bags.



# How much do YOU waste a year?

10kg



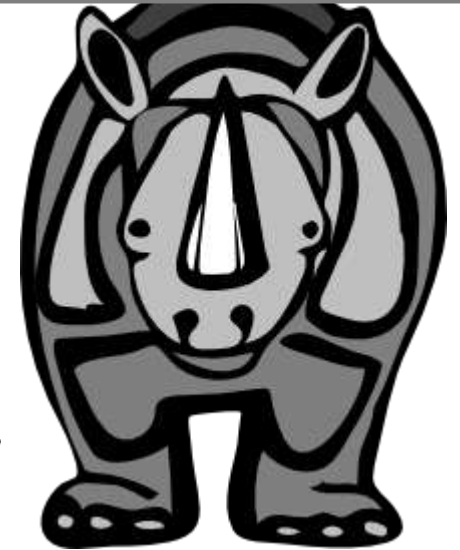
100kg



500kg

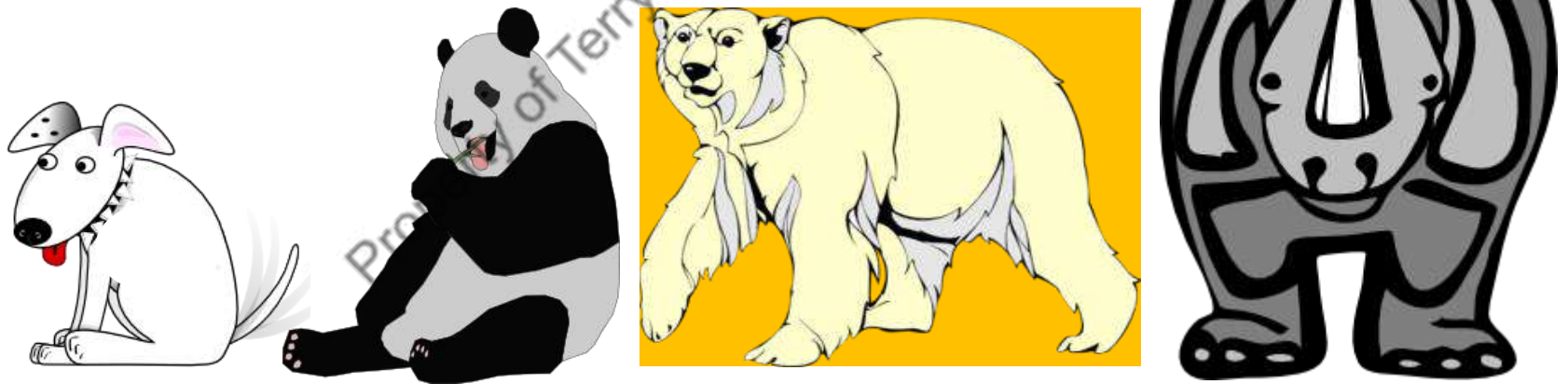


1000kg/1 tonne



# How much do YOU waste a year?

On average, we each throw away about 400kg (nearly a whole polar bear!)



# 26.4 million tonnes?

That's nearly 116 times the weight of the world's largest cruise ship!



A large 3 bed house!

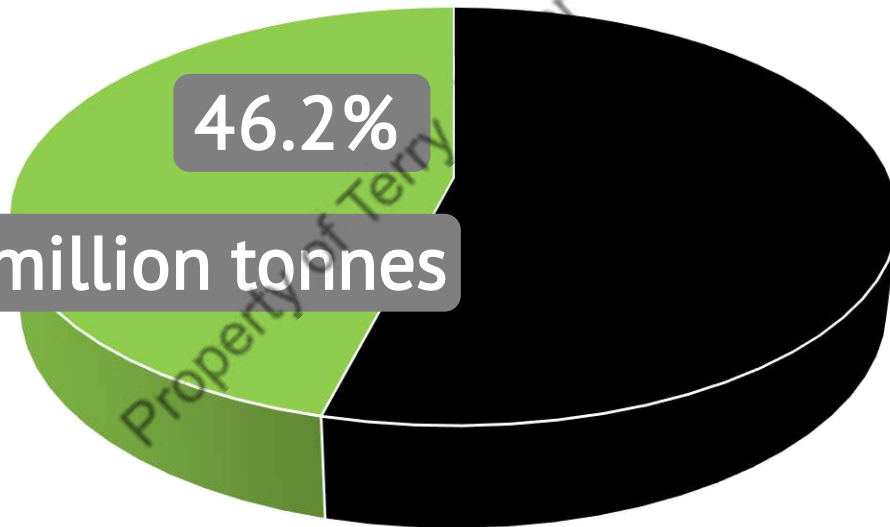
*Symphony of the Seas* only weighs 228,000 tonnes!

# How much is recycled?

The UK recycled, reused or composted over **12.2 million tonnes** of that waste last year. This gives an overall recycling/composting/reuse rate of **46.2%**.

12.2 million tonnes

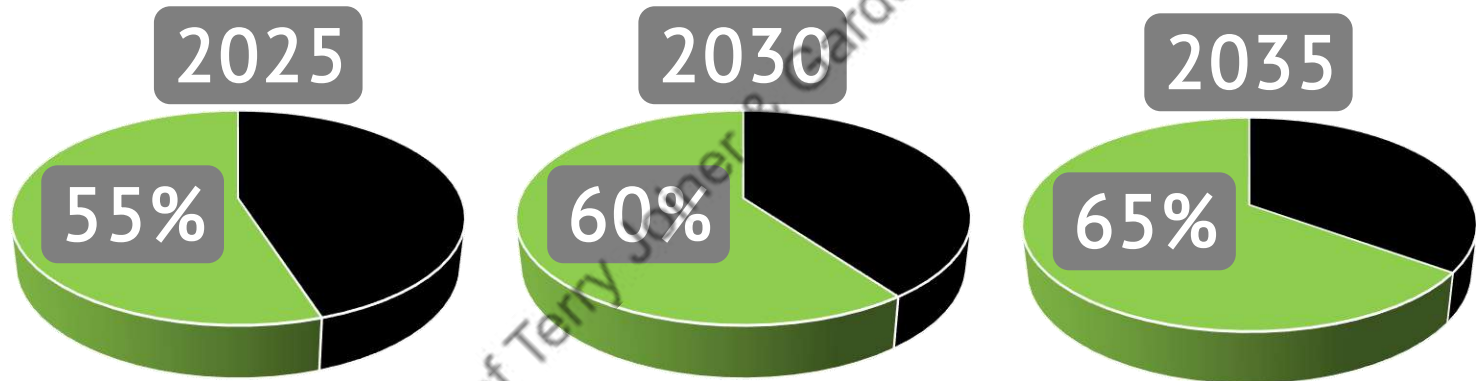
46.2%



England	45.5%
N. Ireland	50.6%
Scotland	44.9%
Wales	56.4%

# The future?

The **2020 target was 50%**, so we're lagging behind. Future EU Circular Economy targets will require even more work!



Less waste means **less emissions** and **less cost** to the public too, so it makes sense for all of us to **reduce, reuse and recycle** more.

# What's in YOUR general waste bin?

Studies are regularly done in local authorities to see exactly what gets put into people's general waste bins.





# Inside the average residual waste bin (England, 2017 WRAP data)

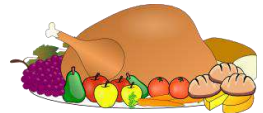


34% 'other'

35% Food waste

26% Could have been recycled at kerbside

5% Textiles (e.g. Clothes)



# Which method is best?

Reuse

Energy  
Recovery

**R**  
**e**  
**c**  
**y**  
**c**  
**i**  
**e**

Landfill

**Reduce**



Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Recovery

Landfill

**Best  
option**



Remember to  
move up the  
hierarchy!



**Worst  
option**



# Recycling at home



# If in doubt, keep it out!

Some people throw all kinds of waste into the recycling because it will 'get sorted' the other end.

## **This is contamination.**

It reduces the quality of the end recycled product, costs money & can result in whole recycling loads going to energy recovery instead! If it's not on the list of what you can recycle, put it in the rubbish bin!





Reusables

Pass it on

Repair

Reuse

Charity  
Shops

Upcycling

Re-use  
organisations

Property of Terry Joiner & Garden Organic

# Reduce

Reducing what we use is the best thing we can do.



Reduce

Reduce

Reduce

Reduce

The thing we buy too much of and regularly waste is food.



# WASTING FOOD FEEDS CLIMATE CHANGE.

If food waste were a country,  
it would have the third biggest carbon  
footprint after the USA and China.

**Find out more.**

**#FoodWasteActionWeek**  
**lovefoodhatewaste.com**

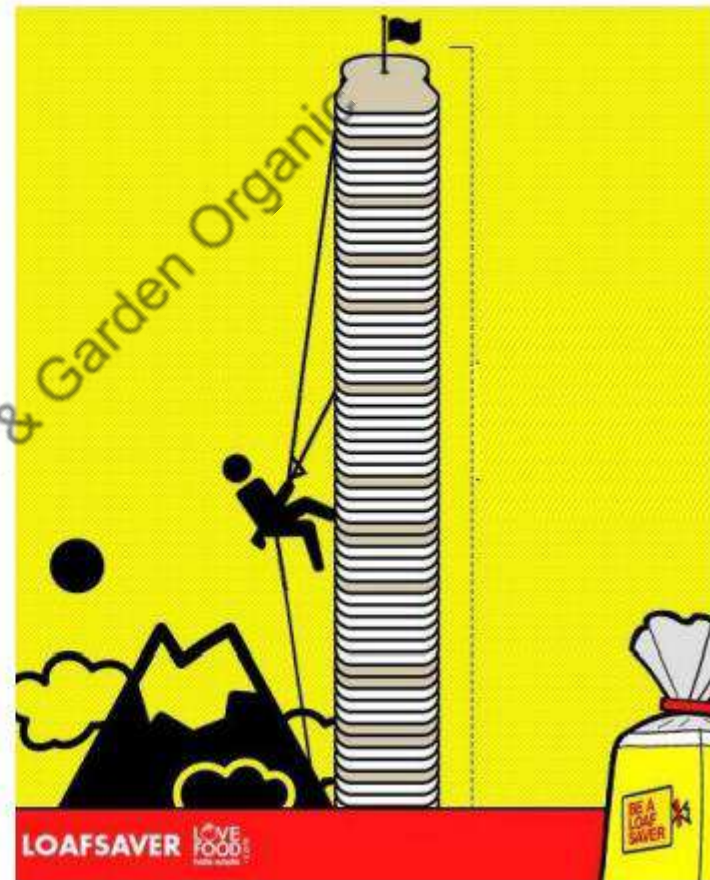




# Food Waste: Bread

**20 million** slices of bread go to waste every day from UK homes.

If we piled this up it would go up the world's highest mountain **MOUNT EVEREST** about 20 times!

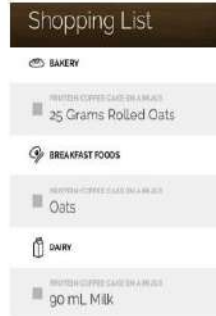


# Fighting Food Waste



## Yummly (all-in-one food app)

Use the free Yummly app/website to find 1000s of recipes from across the internet by your preferences, allergies and diets.



When you've saved your recipes, it creates an automatic shopping list for you.

# WRAP: Delivering Net Zero Faster



Reduce, reuse and recycle (UK):

<https://www.recyclenow.com>

Fighting food waste:

<https://lovefoodhatewaste.com>




Reducing textile waste:

<https://www.loveyourclothes.org.uk>

<https://clearonplastics.com/>





If you would like to know more about composting, organic growing or what Garden Organic is all about, check out the links below:

**More on composting, soil, organic growing and the 5 principles:**

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/growing-advice>

**Garden Organic resources for schools and home educators:**

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/schools>

**Garden Organic/HSL membership:**

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/join-us>

**Garden Organic's projects:**

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/our-work>



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