



## A Regional Perspective:

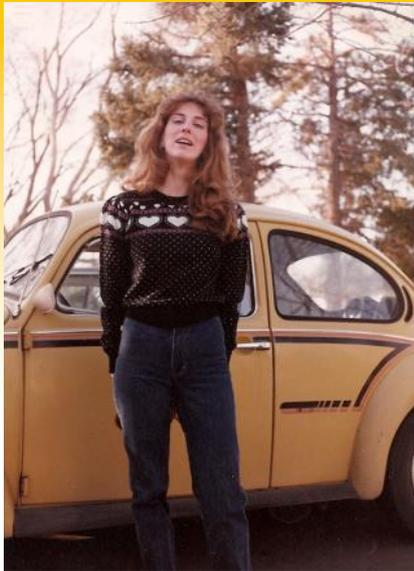
Opportunities for Textile  
Reuse, Rewear, and Recycling



Serving  
Community

Protecting  
Environment

Operating  
Excellence

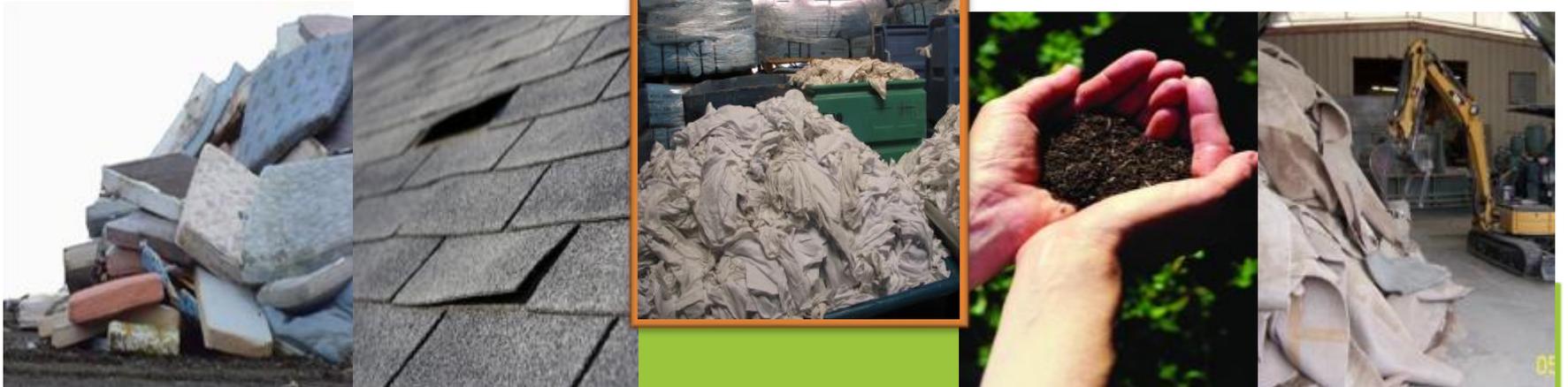




The logo for King County Linkup features a stylized black and white profile of a person's face on the left. To its right, the word "King County" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Further right, the word "Linkup" is displayed in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font, with the letter "k" highlighted in orange.

# King County Linkup

- Support development of
  - collection/processing infrastructure for recycling
  - end markets for recyclable & reusable materials/products
- 2014 focus materials
  - Mattresses, asphalt shingles, compost, carpet, & textiles



# Why Textiles and Why Now?

- **GROWING INTEREST**
  - national scale
  - focusing on increasing recovery
- **TIMELY**
  - strong markets
  - growing interest and visibility
- **IMPACT**
  - relatively large quantities currently being disposed
  - lower lifecycle impact
  - positive societal impact
  - Mixed economic impacts



# Post-Consumer Textiles Value Chain



# Consumer Survey



- Between **50** and **65%** of respondents reported **discarding** items that are **generally accepted** in current diversion markets.
- More than **80%** of respondents said they would **increase** the amount of **textiles donated**, even when in poor condition, if they **knew condition** was not an issue.
- When discarding unwanted **textiles** in good condition:
  - **50-75%** took items to a **thrift store**
  - **12-43%** took items to a **donation bin/drop box**



## Consumer Survey (cont.)



- Residents responded that the following would **motivate them to donate more**:
  - Items acceptable whether in good or poor **condition** (50.5%)
  - Donation bin/drop box **closer** to home (27.5%)
  - Receive **information** about how to schedule donation pickup (24.8%)
  - Ability to place clothing/shoes/linens in **standard** recycling container (24.6%)

# Inputs:



clothing, rags, curtains, linens, shoes, bags, hats, belts, stuffed animals, pillows, fabric scraps, upholstery, and other similar products/materials



# Inputs: Disposal and Diversion



- Disposal in King County and Seattle

<i>Material Category</i>	Commercially Collected		Self-Haul		<b>Total</b>
	<i>Residential</i>	<i>Non-Residential</i>	<i>Residential</i>	<i>Non-Residential</i>	
Clothing and other recyclable textiles	11,703	7,194	3,300	31	<b>22,228</b>
Other mixed textiles	9,091	5,221	2,804	120	<b>17,236</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,794</b>	<b>12,415</b>	<b>6,104</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>39,464</b>

- Disposal in Washington State – 2.8%, 136,000 tons ('09)

- Diversion in King County and Seattle

	Total tons diverted
King County and Seattle	14,831

- Diversion in Washington

	Total tons diverted
Washington State	47,143

# Collection



- Drop-off
  - Drop boxes
  - Thrift stores
  - Special events
  - Recycling facilities
  - Retail take-back
  - Mail-in options



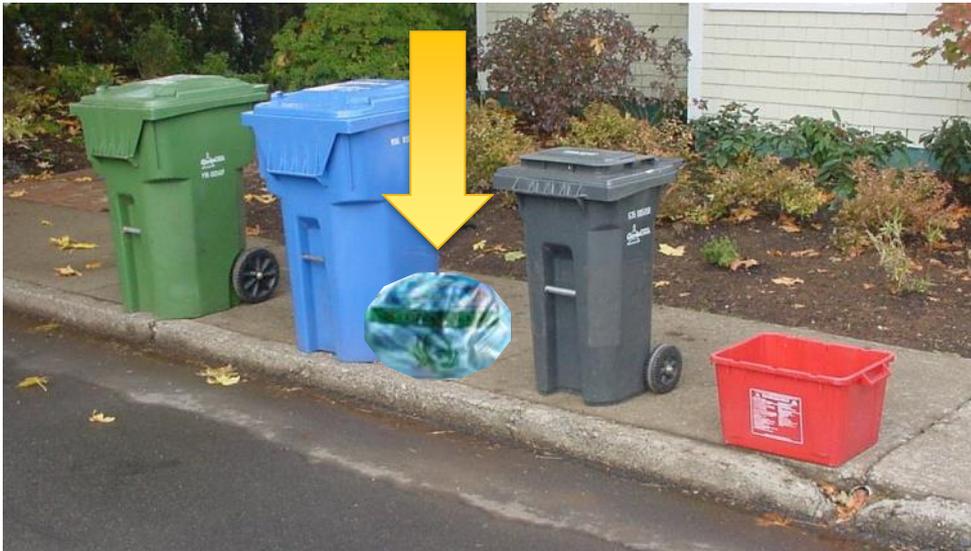
- Pick-up
  - On-call services
  - Contracted city collection services



# Collection: Focus on Curbside



- Residential curbside
  - On normally scheduled routes
  - Value-added service
  - Textiles collected in bags beside recycling bins



# San Francisco Zero Textile Waste Initiative



A public, private and non-profit infrastructure to make it easier, convenient and rewarding for residents and businesses to recycle textile related items and help create a new consciousness around sustainable consumption.



# Processing



- Sorting



- Grading



- Fiber Conversion



# End Markets



According to SMART, volumes of reused and recycled textiles are directed to the following end markets:

- 45% second-hand (resale)
- 30% wiping rags
- 20% reprocessed into fibers
- 5% unusable (odor or hazardous material)

# Resale



Local/regional

Domestic

International



# Reuse/ Repurpose



# Recycle (Downcycling)



# Recycle (Upcycling)



20% Post-Consumer Recycled Denim



# Global Markets: Issues and Trends



- Robust export market (currently)
- Grading has been increasingly outside the U.S.
- Concerns about economic impacts to receiving countries
- Trade restrictions

# Partnership Opportunities

- Educate the public about textiles suitable for reuse and recycling.
- Ensure collection options are convenient and readily accessible to the public, and that the public knows about them.
- Support local market development.



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