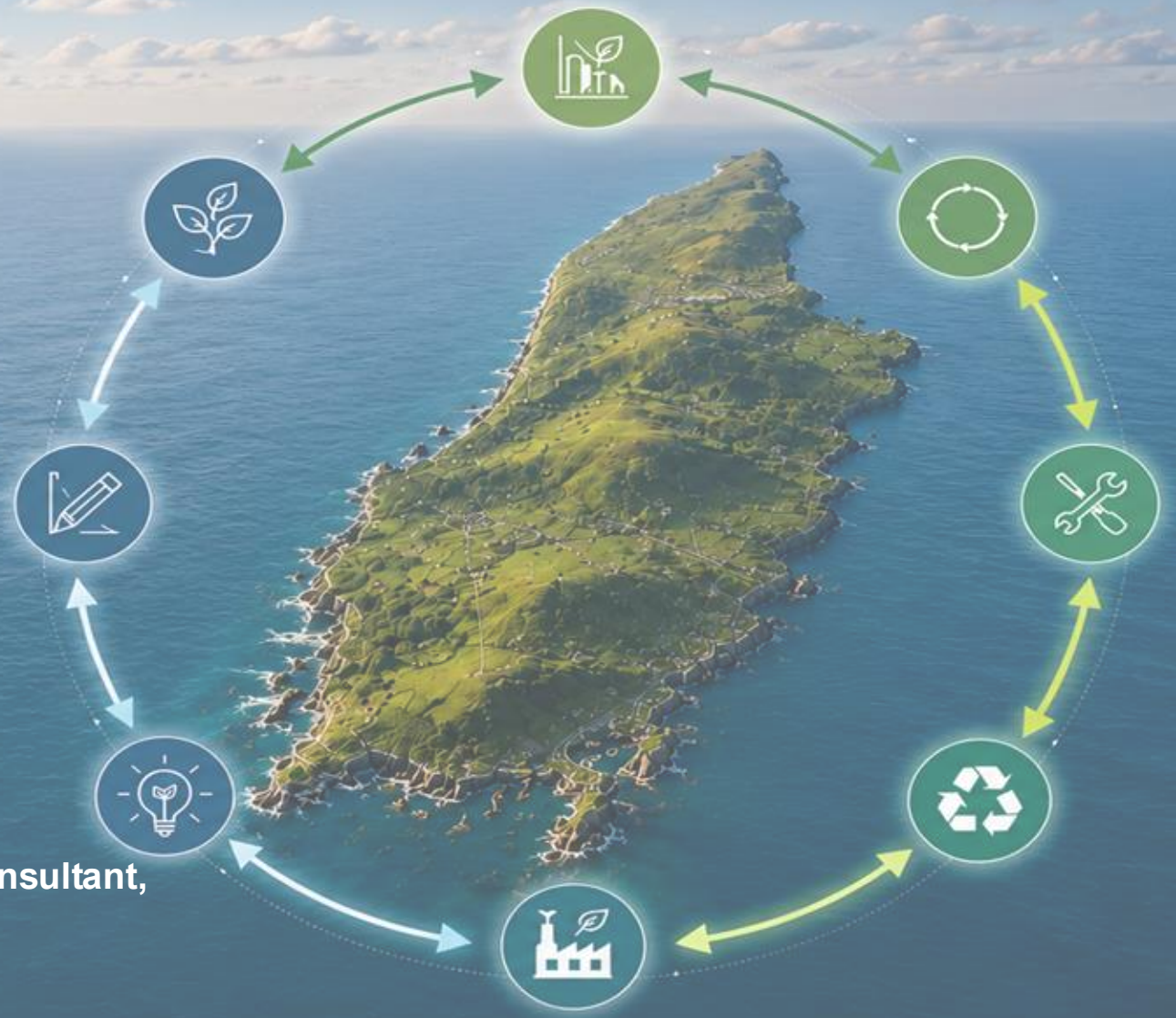
CLOSING THE LOOP

Exploring Circular Economy Opportunities for the Isle of Man



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Delivering a better world

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Preface | The language of the conversation

SUSTAINABILITY

The broader goal

Sustainable Development



"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Brundtland Commission, 1987

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

An approach



"A system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated".

Ellen MacArthur Foundation

WASTE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Where it becomes practical



Prevent, reuse, repair, recycle and recover – with disposal as the last resort



MANAGING WASTE

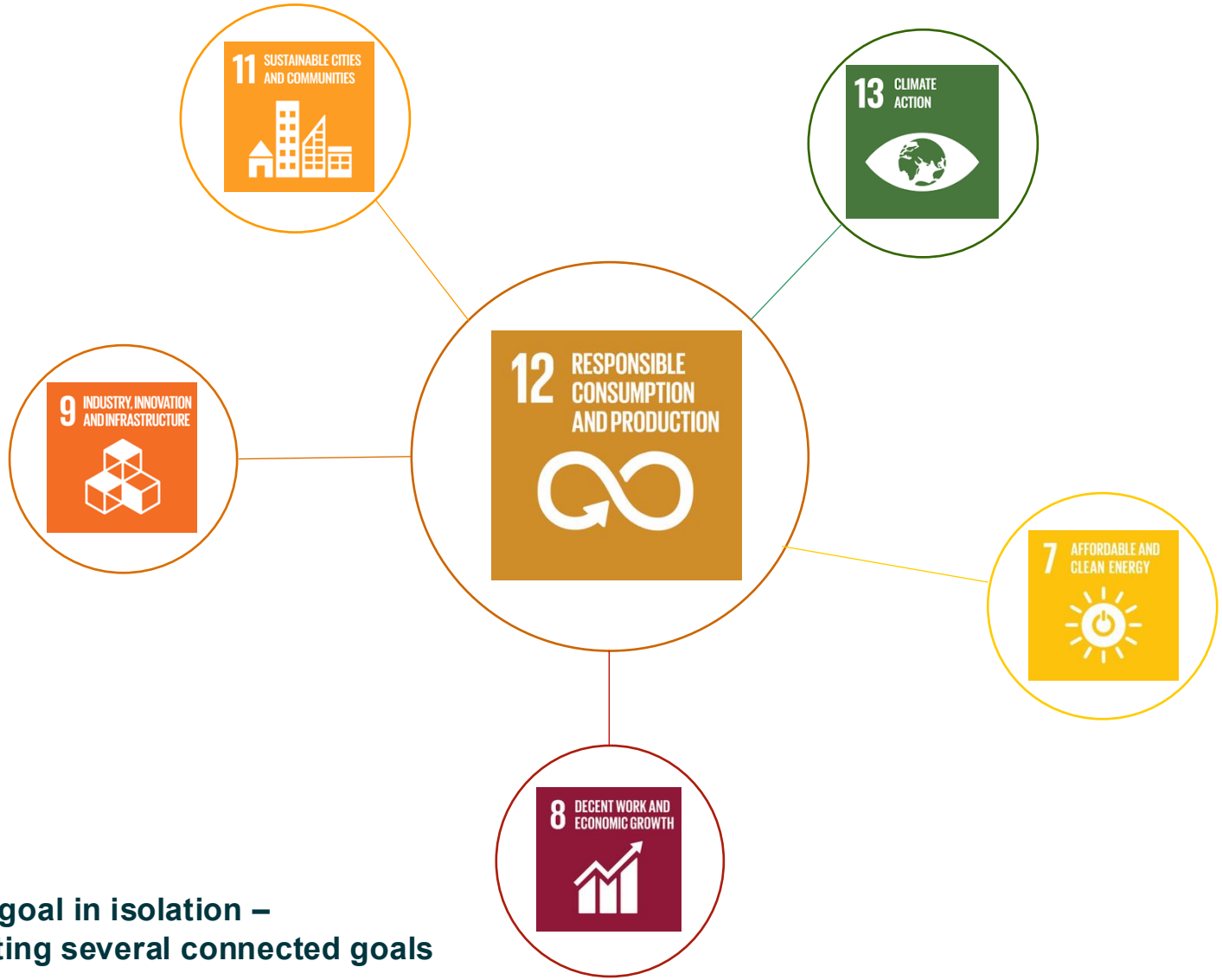
THE SHIFT

MANAGING RESOURCES



Preface | From global goals to circular action

Circular Economy contributes to several of the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs).



Circularity is not a goal in isolation –
it is a practical way of supporting several connected goals

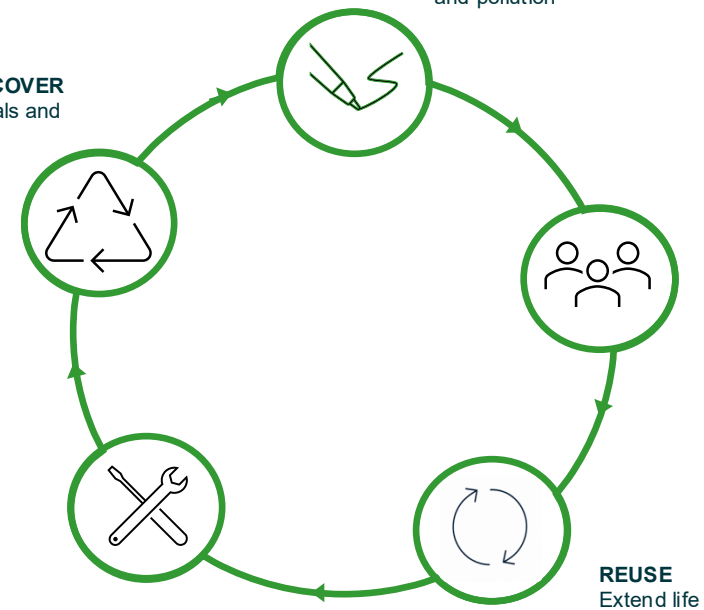
From a linear economy to a circular one

The question changes from “How do we manage the waste?” to “How do we avoid losing the resource?”

LINEAR



CIRCULAR



DESIGN
Design out waste and pollution

RECYCLE/RECOVER
Recycle materials and recover value

USE
Use products and services responsibly

REUSE
Extend life through reuse and sharing

REPAIR
Maintain and repair to extend product life



REDUCE
Use fewer resources.
Prevent waste.
Retain value



The target is not to manage more waste
It is to create less of it.

Re-thinking progress



ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION



But what happens when the system is an island?

An Island. A Nation. A Biosphere.



In 2016, the Isle of Man became the world's first whole-jurisdiction UNESCO Biosphere, encompassing all its land and territorial sea.

CONSERVATION

Protecting the natural and built environment, culture, heritage, communities and sense of place.

LEARNING

Understanding the effects of our actions and supporting better decisions through research, monitoring and education.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Living and developing in ways that sustain the economy, environment and society.

The direction is already changing

The Isle of Man Waste Strategy 2025 – 2035 provides the policy entry point for the circularity discussion.

A clearer direction

The strategy points towards a more circular approach to waste – with greater emphasis on:

The important shift is from end-of-pipe waste management towards keeping resources and value in use for longer.

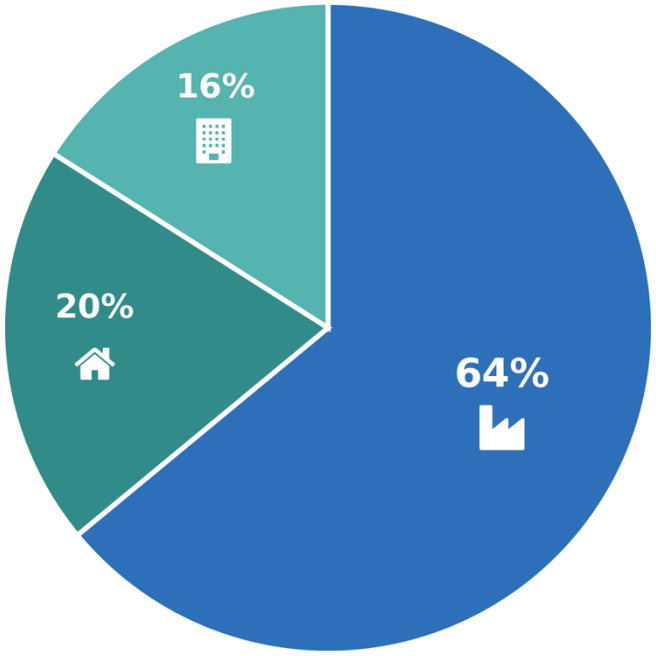


But an island adds a second question: not only what should be circular, but what can work in practice.

The Island as a material-flow system

The available published data describes waste flows – first proxy for understanding where resources are retained, moved or lost.

2024 waste producers



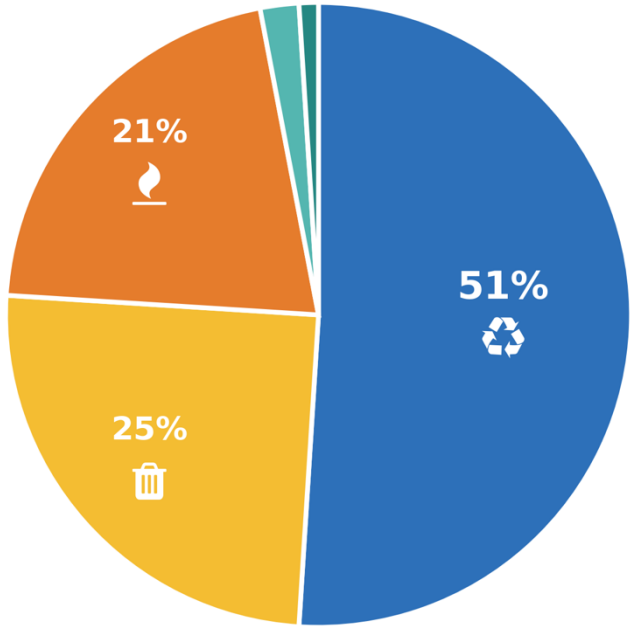
64% Construction & demolition
20% Households
16% Business / public sector

ISLE OF MAN

Bounded system

Materials are used, reused, recovered, exported or disposed

2024 destination routes



51% Recycling & recovery (IOM & UK)
25% Landfill
21% Energy from waste
2% Composting
1% Animal waste processing

This gives us the starting point: where materials are recovered on-Island, where they end up for treatment, and where they ultimately go for disposal.

Source: Isle of Man Government, Waste Strategy 2025-2035, waste-flow data for 2024

The largest material flow

Construction & demolition waste dominates the Island's reported waste generation

64%

of reported waste generation comes from construction & demolition

62% C&D waste was recycled on-Island in 2024





The circular economy question is not simply how much we recycle – but how long we can keep materials at their highest value

35%

is still disposed of on-Island

The next opportunity is to retain more value before materials reach disposal.



Source: Isle of Man Waste Strategy 2025–2035, GD 2025/0123, Section 4.2.

Beyond construction: a system of different material flows

The Island already separates and manages multiple streams – but the best circular route is not the same for every material.



recycle



recycle where viable



recycle/export



route depends

Isle of Man

MATERIAL SYSTEM



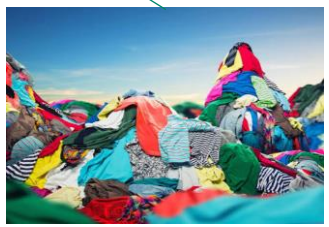
compost/recover



keep in use



separate stream



high reuse value

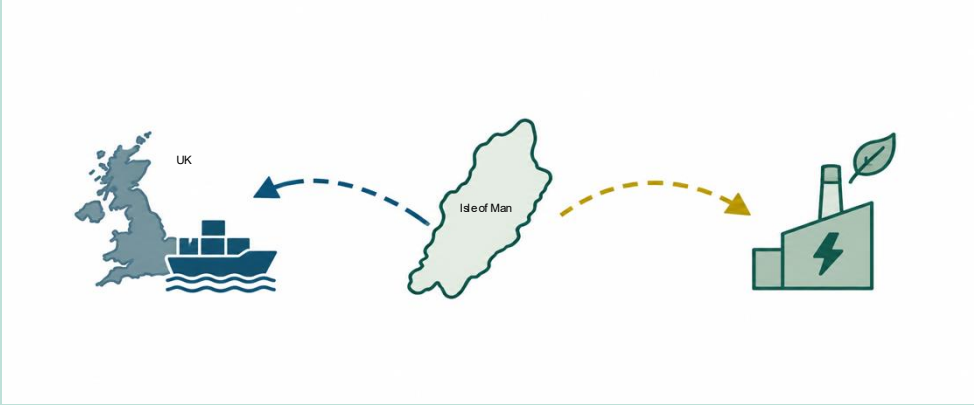
Local loop or export?

On an island, the waste hierarchy still matters – but geography, scale and infrastructure can change the best route.

A real Isle of Man example: PAPER

RECYCLE OFF-ISLAND

Paper collected on-island must be shipped to the UK for recycling



RECOVER LOCALLY

Government concluded that, for this paper stream, local EfW had a better carbon outcome.

This conclusion was specific to paper – Government explicitly said metals, glass, plastics and textiles should continue to be recycled.

So, what should determine the route?

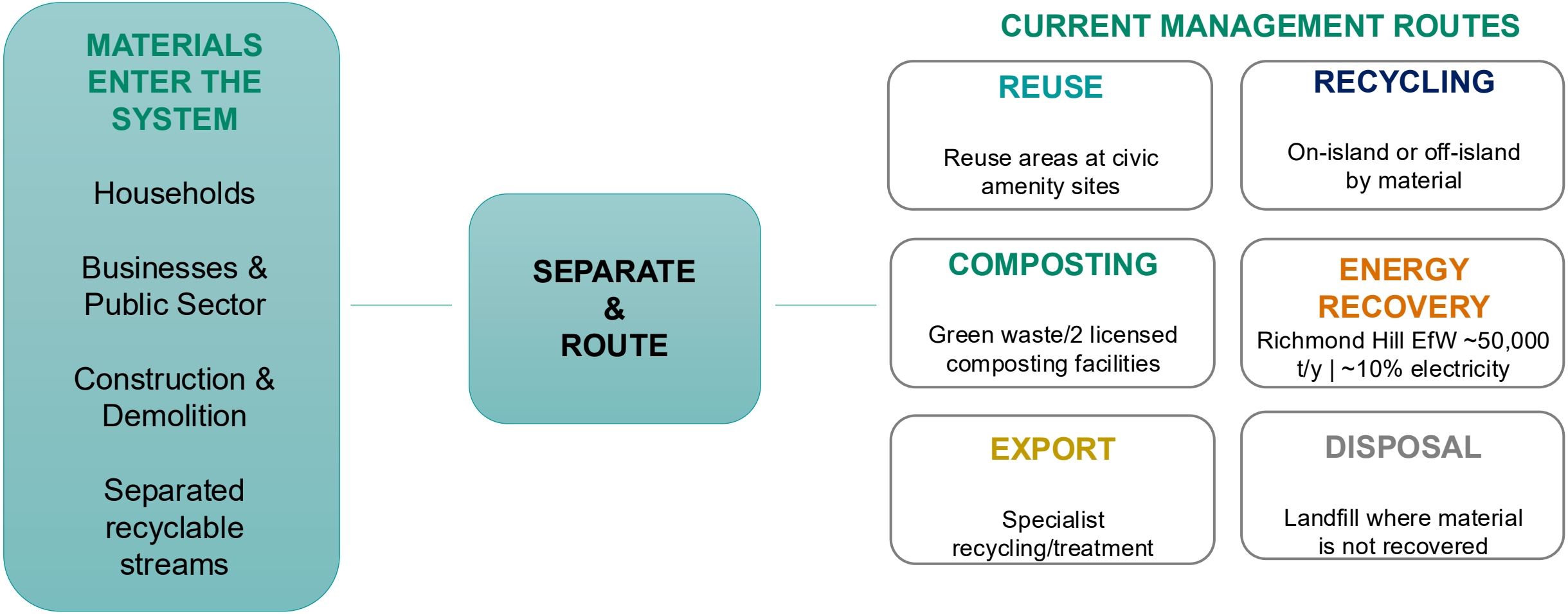
SCALE | INFRASTRUCTURE | TRANSPORT | CARBON | COST | MATERIAL VALUE

The circular option is the one that performs best across the whole system – not simply the one that keeps treatment on-island.

Source: Isle of Man Government, 30 Oct. 2024, "Removing paper bring banks will save money and help the environment"

How does the Island manage its waste today?

The current system already uses several routes – from reuse and recycling to energy recovery and disposal.



The island already has substantial waste-management infrastructure. The circular opportunity is not simply more treatment – but retaining value earlier in the system.

Source: Isle of Man Government, Waste Strategy 2025-2035; Recycling Locations; Waste Site Inspections. Suez Isle of Man, Energy Recovery.

From waste data to material intelligence

Waste data tells us what happened. Circular decisions also need to understand what is available before it becomes waste.

01

WHAT?



What material or product is becoming available?

02

WHERE & WHEN?



Where is it – and when will it arise?

03

CONDITION?



Can it still be reused, repaired or refurbished?

04

QUANTITY?



Is there enough, consistently enough, to make a solution viable?

05

DEMAND?



Who could use it?



ISLE OF MAN EXAMPLE – ECAS REPAIR SHOP PILOT

Launched in December 2025, the initiative explores repair and reuse opportunities by identifying potentially reusable items and sharing photographs for assessment.

The next opportunity: identify materials even earlier and connecting them with potential users.

From material intelligence to better decisions

Once materials are visible, the next step is to evaluate the practical options available.

LOCAL DEMAND
Is there a realistic user-demand on-Island?

SCALE
Is quantity sufficient/appropriate?

INFRASTRUCTURE
Can it be reused, repaired or processed on-island?

TRANSPORT
What movement or export is required?

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
Which route performs better overall (e.g., carbon, resources)?

ECONOMIC VIABILITY
Does the route make practical and economic sense?

Apply the decision lens

DIRECT REUSE
Remain in use through redistribution or second-hand markets

REPAIR/REFURBISH
Extend the life of the product or component

LOCAL RECYCLING /RECOVERY
Process on-Island where feasible

EXPORT FOR TREATMENT
Where necessary or more appropriate

DISPOSAL
Last option where no other route is viable

Circularity does not mean keeping everything on-Island. The best route depends on the material, the context and the evidence.

What could this look like in practice?

The same approach could be explored across different materials and different points in the island's economy.

01
BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Before refurbishment or demolition

Make potentially reusable materials and components visible before they enter the waste stream.

Possible next use:
Other projects • reuse • recovery

02
PRODUCTS & EQUIPMENT

When an item is no longer needed

Identify usable or repairable furniture, appliances and equipment before disposal.

Existing foundation:
Reuse routes + ECAS Repair Shop pilot

03
ORGANISATIONAL SURPLUS

When an organization has excess materials

Make surplus materials, equipment or stock visible so potential demand elsewhere can be tested.

Opportunity to explore:
Organisation-to-organisation matching

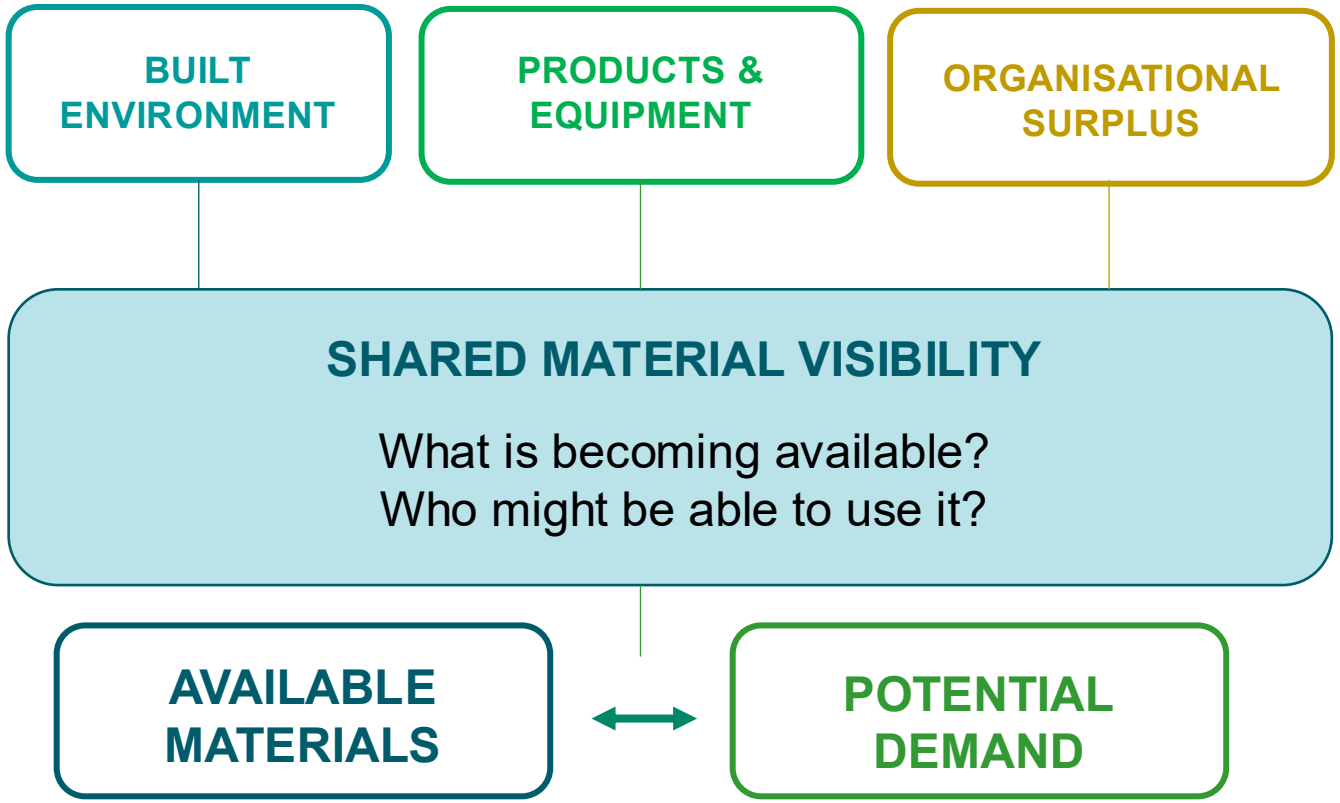
One approach, different applications: identify earlier → test potential demand → choose the most appropriate route.

Source: Isle of Man Strategy 2025-2035; Isle of Man Government recycling/reuse information; ECAS Repair Shop Pilot. Organisational matching

Could digital tools help connect the island's material flows?

Digital material-exchange platforms already show how surplus materials can be made visible and connected with potential users.

A POSSIBLE ISLE OF MAN APPLICATION



REAL-WORLD PRECEDENTS

9 CIRCULAR ISLANDS — AZORES, PORTUGAL

Archipelago example: a digital platform connecting surplus materials, second-hand items and circular services across an island region.

LOOPFRONT

Organizational reuse of furniture, equipment and building materials.

SALVOWEB

Reclaimed and pre-demolition building materials.

Earlier visibility can help connect materials with potential demand.

THE ISLE OF MAN OPPORTUNITY

Identify more opportunities to keep resources in use before they become waste.

Source: European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform – 9 Ilhas Circulares; Loopfront; SalvoWEB


Loopfront
Loopfront makes it easy
to save both costs and the environment.

What could happen next?

Start small.
Test whether earlier material visibility creates real value.

ONE MATERIAL FLOW
Start with a specific material, sector or use case.

TEST THE CONNECTION
Can materials becoming available be matched with a realistic use?

LEARN BEFORE SCALING
Use the evidence to decide whether a wider approach is worthwhile.

The opportunity can be tested before the solution is designed.



Closing the loop:
what does this mean for the Isle of Man?

01 BUILD ON WHAT ALREADY EXISTS
The island already has reuse, recycling, recovery and waste management infrastructure.

02 LOOK EARLIER
The opportunity is to identify materials and potential uses before they become waste.

03 CONNECT THE SYSTEM
Better material intelligence and visibility could help connect availability, demand and existing routes.

04 CHOOSE WHAT WORKS FOR THE ISLAND
Circular does not always mean local. Decisions should reflect scale, infrastructure, transport, environmental impact and viability.



Circular Economy is not just about managing waste better.
It is about recognizing the value of our resources before they become waste.

Thank you.

Delivering a better world

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