

Mission Strategy & Aims

- Established in 2014 to provide a focus for Health, Safety, Education, Training & Competence in the resource and waste management sector
- To create a common vision and provide leadership and information to the sector by working collaboratively to raise standards in H&S, ET&C through the 2 distinct working groups
- Membership is open to anyone working in the resource management sector - access to free and easily accessible information and resources from the memberships range of expertise and wide knowledge.
- Translation of legislation into practical advice and guidance via the WISH Forum – tailoring it for the waste management industry.
- Specifically tailoring the advice to the industry with practical easy to access examples of best practice and promoting this via our website and social media channels
- Ambassadors are expected to highlight the work of SWITCH, and repost media content to expand the reach and coverage across their networks and stakeholder groups

Group Discussed and Focused Primarily on:

- Violence & Aggression towards RI staff – Established sub-group and worked with MBP Productions Ltd to create video - Widely shared – Social Media, YouTube etc.
- Fatalities in the sector 2023 – links in with our key priorities
- 6 fatalities in 2022- 2023 Apr 22 – Mar 23
- A freedom of information request earlier this year revealed that 43% of waste site inspections by the HSE resulted in operators being told to take action on serious safety concerns

Group Focused on Key Priorities of:

- Promotion of Good Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Focus on Violence and Aggression towards Resource Industry staff – another ongoing and current topic.
- Focus on Traffic Management & Pedestrian/Vehicle Segregation – ensuring regular discussion and sharing of good practice/learnings
- Machinery Safety

**Waste Industry (1):
Legislation & Licensing**

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in partnership with: **switch**
forum

cpd.uws.ac.uk

**Waste Industry (2):
Compliance & Planning**

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New CPD courses:

- Developed and delivered in collaboration with University of the West Of Scotland (UWS)
- Targeted at the team leader/ supervisor level of employee
- Two SCQF Level 8, 20-credit modules for the waste industry
- Great foundation to invest and build on
- Each module will be delivered over 12 weeks, 3 hours per week

SWITCH Forum

APSE Aviemore 23rd May

‘How do we tackle the problem of single use vapes?’

The problem

- 26 million disposable vapes were consumed and thrown away in Scotland in the last year (ZWS)
- 1.3 million thrown away each week in the UK
- 10% percent being littered
- More than half disposed of incorrectly
- They contain lithium-ion batteries
- They can cause fires if not managed correctly
- 60% illicit sales



Lithium Ion batteries

- **High Energy Density**
- **Fast Charging**
- **Unit size has massively reduced and we now seeing LiBs in AAA form within remote controls and button cells etc**
- **Long Lifespan**
- **Low Self-Discharge**
- **No Memory Effect**
- **Versatility**
- **They do have environmental advantages**



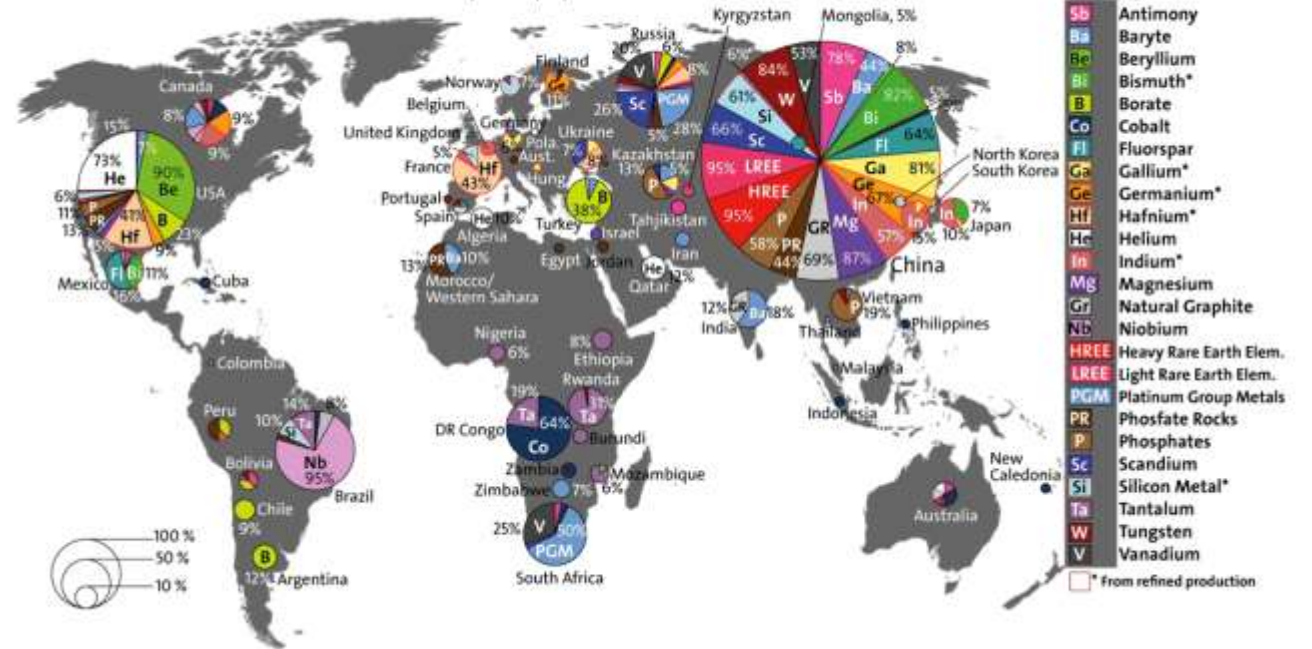


Wider issue



Global Supply of EU Critical Minerals and Metals

The pie charts show the percent distribution of the production of critical metals and minerals. In total, it is 100% for each raw material. The area of the pies are proportional. SGU 2017.



Covered by WEEE regulations

Both collection and processing

Retailers should be providing take back

Producers must record placing them onto the market, but many sales are illicit or hard to trace producer

AATFs are treating vapes but they are expensive to manage and must be hand dismantled

Many vapes too high in terms of nicotine and number of puffs





Falls between agencies & trading standards – health and waste

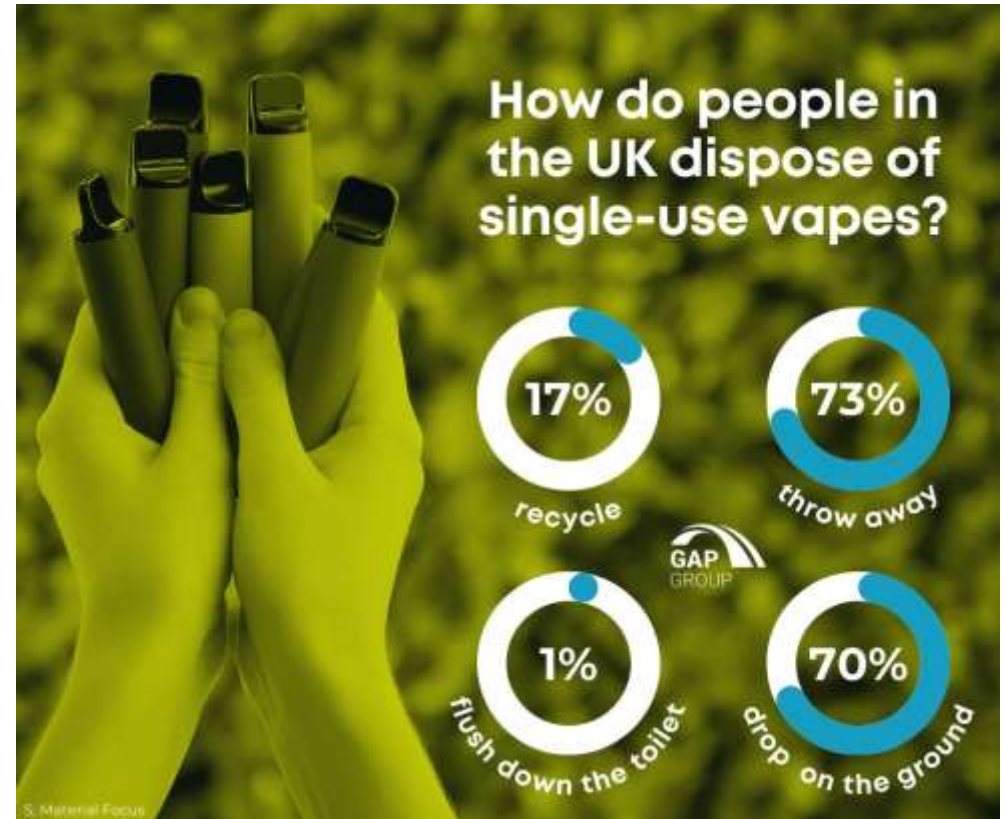


Worrying observations

- 1) The speed and scale at which they hit the UK market**
 - 2) The existing legislation – lack of awareness and non-compliance**
 - 3) The issues of new products, new trends and how to deal with the results at end of life**
 - 4) The concept of tech as a disposable fashion or trend**
- Need to ensure full compliance with existing regulations – many do but many don't**
 - Need to manage illegal sales and illicit sales routes**
 - Need to address problems – health, litter, compliance with law, safety issues and capture of valuable materials**
 - Making the right people pay the bill for change**

How UK vapers dispose of single-use vapes ...

-  17% recycle in a shop or local recycling centre
-  73% throw away
-  1% flush down the toilet
-  3% drop on the ground



- **A ban on the sale and supply of single-use vapes in Scotland is due to come into effect on 1 April 2025**
 - (a) not refillable, (b) not rechargeable, or (c) not refillable and not rechargeable
- **Scotland using powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990**
- **New legislation to ban the sale and supply of single-use vapes**
 - A person who supplies, offers to supply, or has in their possession for supply, a single use vape, commits an offence.
 - On conviction on indictment, to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or a fine, or both.
- **Subject to UK Internal Market Act but rules uniform and agreed across the UK**
- **Plans to restrict vape flavours, introduce plain packaging and change how products are displayed in shops, governments also revealed that they would make it illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone born after 1 January 2009.**

- **Covered by WEEE regulations**
 - Tackle noncompliance
 - Vapes are classified with toys and other battery-operated items (specifically category 7 toys, leisure and sports equipment) and the producer fee does not reflect the true cost of recycling and disposal.
- **Need to increase collection and consumer awareness**
- **Ban on single use vapes is good**
- **Classifying vapes into their own category would help more**
- **Stamp out illicit trade and sale**
- **Make producers and retailers pay**
- **Be aware the Lithium-Ion batteries and in many small WEEE items**