

SCOTLAND'S CARBON METRIC – A BETTER WAY TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF WASTE

Our current economic model where we...

MAKE → CONSUME → DISPOSE

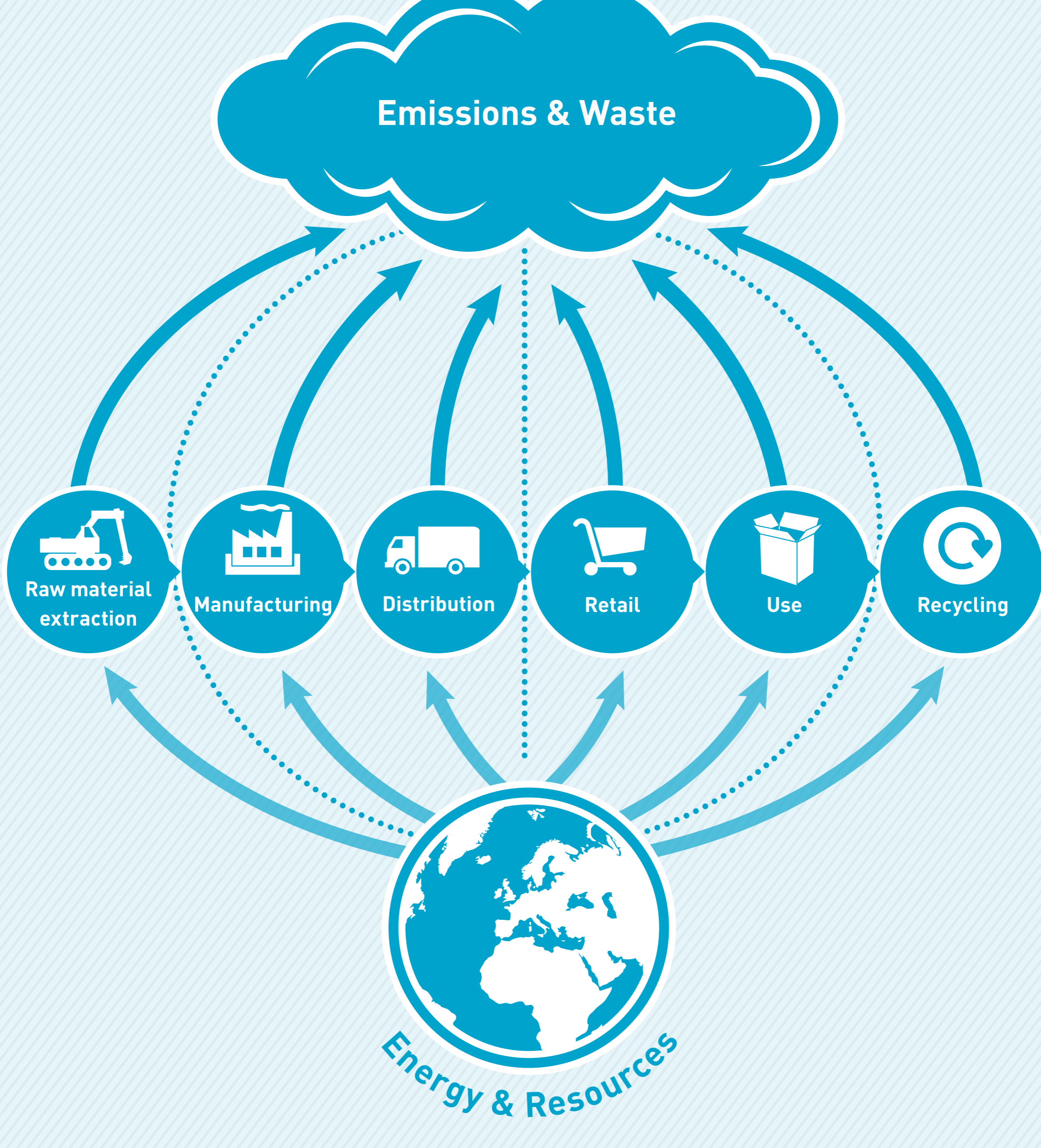
...is unsustainable



The use of materials plays a significant part in the production of greenhouse gases and climate change.

The Scottish Carbon Metric

The Scottish Carbon Metric is a ground-breaking tool in the fight against climate change. It measures the whole-life carbon impacts of Scotland's waste, from resource extraction and manufacturing emissions, right through to waste management emissions, regardless of where in the world these impacts occur. After all, climate change is a global problem.*



Scotland is making major progress to reduce the impacts of waste

In 2011, the impact of Scotland's waste was:

14.9 million CO₂eq

TONNES

This is the equivalent of nearly

2.3 million flights

around the world.

In 2016, the impact of Scotland's waste was:

10.96 million CO₂eq

TONNES

(That's a reduction of 26%)

This is the equivalent of

1.7 million flights

around the world.

Changing for a sustainable future

The Scottish Government has set targets not just to recycle more but to also **reduce the waste** produced by Scotland by **2025**.

Reducing our waste footprint

Carbon footprints measure a person's carbon impact on the environment. The average carbon footprint from waste in Scotland was...



**This figure is greater than the total amount of carbon saving between 2011-2016, because Scotland's population has increased.

This is the equivalent to taking **over 1.7 million cars**

off the road for one year.

The importance of waste prevention

Preventing waste has much greater carbon savings than recycling it

For instance, preventing food waste in the first place saves over

50 times

more carbon emissions than recycling

Carbon savings follow the waste hierarchy

- 1 Prevention
- 2 Prepare for re-use
- 3 Recycle
- 4 Recover other value
- 5 Disposal

SCOTLAND

Prevention

Landfill

*The Carbon Metric does not include Retail and Use impacts due to variability of materials impacts at these stages

Food waste figures include unavoidable food waste

Sources: Zero Waste Scotland (2016) Carbon Metric Technical Report
SEPA waste Data Digest (various years)

For more information visit www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/carbonmetric



Scottish Government gov.scot