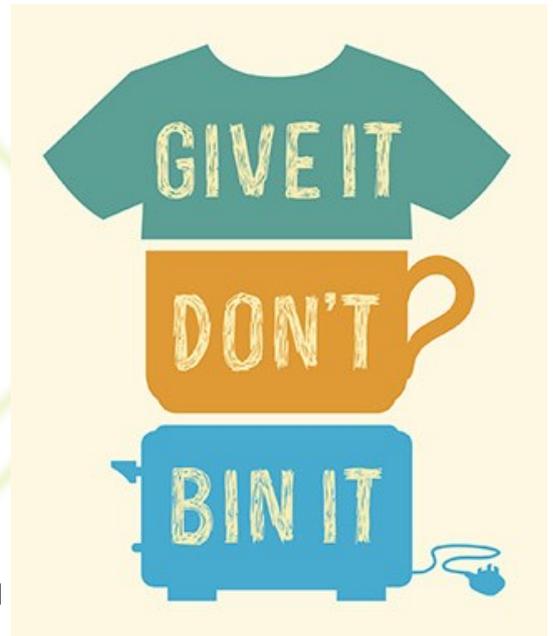


Student End of Term Waste

There are a number of issues associated with the fast-accumulated student end of term waste: the timeframe in which it must be removed, the cleanliness and quality of items, the range of items, disconnect with private accommodation providers and landlords, and the sheer volume of resources needing to be disposed of or rehomed. This document hopes to hint at some ways to overcome these issues and provide ways to extract the most value from this unique waste stream.

Initiatives

- As most universities are city-based, establishing a **city-wide network** of universities, private accommodation providers and councils offers a powerful platform to portray one message, and saves confusion within households who may be at different institutions
- Providing a reuse or recycle scheme **saves money** for internal accommodations services, estates teams and local councils in waste removal charges
- Partnering with **charities** can be an extremely efficient way of diverting waste from landfill. However smaller charities may struggle to cope with the volume, speed and number of items requiring to be removed
- As the waste in student areas can be a nuisance to **local communities**, is it very important that any initiatives partner with or benefit these communities in some way
- The **British Heart Foundation** is a commonly used organisation who have resources available such as vans and storage to help cope with the nature of the waste
- Local **foodbanks** may be willing to partner if there are quality food items available.
- Involving **support services and students' unions** will be key to spreading the messaging on how to donate and how to buy/get second hand items



Volunteers

- **Student volunteers** can be enlisted to help, whether this be helping with logistics for a charity donation or repurposing resources for reuse the following academic year. However this is difficult around June/July time when most of the waste is created, as students tend to leave the campus/city. Making the most of the volunteers before and after this time is vital to spreading awareness and physical redistributing resources

Student End of Term Waste

Items

- **Duvets/pillows** are a difficult to reuse easily due to perceptions around hygiene. These can be laundered and redistribute if clean, however charities such as British Heart Foundation do not accept them. Distributing these to an animal shelter will help in the short term ,however this is not a closed loop system as they will end up in landfill after this. There are charities such as Fresh Start who are willing to accept duvets/pillows, but as a more expensive item these could easily be distributed to new students once cleaned
- Collection of **knives** poses a health and safety risk. A separate, lockable bin for these is encouraged
- If repurposing **electrical goods** in-house, the institution's PAT testing facilities can be utilised
- The British Heart Foundation is a key collector for bulky **furniture**.
- Leftover **food** could be donated to food banks, as long as these are long-life products such as tins



Engaging students

- **International students** are a key contributor to the End of Term waste, as a lot of items they have bought will not be taken abroad, or be able to be stored over the summer if they are returning
- Partnering with **international student support centres** for orientation week and throughout the year will help to directly intercept that waste or ensure it is disposed of correctly
- **Sharing the story** of the goods in their next life, whether this be amount of meals from unwanted food, amount of equivalent value of goods provided to charities, or who their clothes/duvets will be keeping warm, will encourage a responsible recycling culture
- Partnering with relevant **student societies** can help build awareness and recruit volunteers, particularly if there are Food Sharing or Sustainability Societies
- Ensure donation bins are clearly visible and accessible **near landfill bins**, to intercept goods as they are about to be disposed of and make donating as easy as possible
- Ensuring **branding** is different to current bin systems will highlight that the collection is for reuse and help tackle contamination

Image overleaf from [Give it Don't Bin it](#), Manchester Student Partnership, 2018 and Photo from [Cosy Students](#), 2018