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The CSR-unit, sustainable public procurement

# Circular textiles

**The City of Copenhagen**



# 2 billion euro

- Reduce negative impact from our own procurement
- Support the development of new sustainable products, services and solutions
- Ambitious requirements - in accordance with what the market can offer (if we push them a little bit...)



**Approx. 90 tons of textiles (leased and bought)  
per year - this equals 2400 tons CO2.**

### **Procurement Policy of the City of Copenhagen 2019-2022**

Focus area: Explore the potential for circular procurement and in this way developing the consumption and procurement towards **circular practice, extending the lifetime** of the products, **reusing** and **recycling** valuable resources.

# How do we realize circular textile procurement?

- Advise the procurers throughout the tendering process – setting the right criteria
- Market involvement and dialogue – developing the criteria *with* the market
- Innovation projects – developing new solutions



# Criteria development

(PARCK-project 2019-2020)

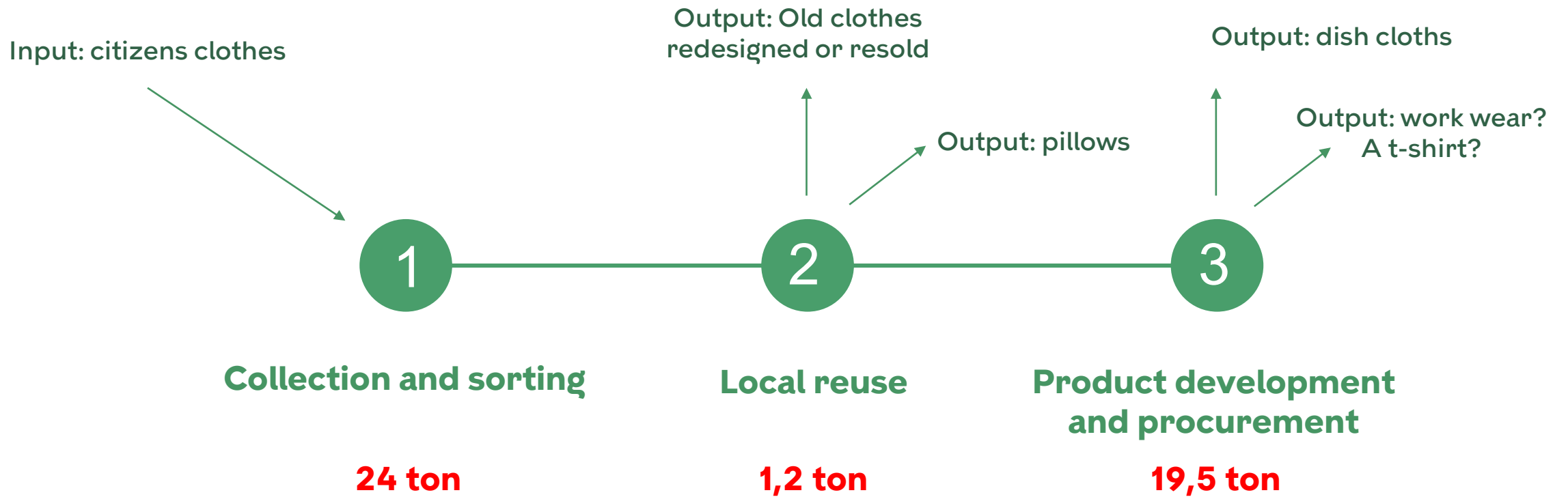
- Development of criteria in public-private innovation project to be tested and revised in coming tendering processes – together with the market
- Material criteria:
  - % reused fibers in the product (e.g. waste from other fiber production, waste textiles pre/post-consumer, non-textile waste – PET bottles for example)
- Criteria for extension of life time:
  - Product design that enables replacement of out-worn parts (e.g. elbows)
- Criteria for reuse
  - Design that enables reuse, e.g. removable logos
- Criteria for recycling
  - Fiber composition

# ReYarn project (2020-2021)

**Testing a circular model, where key stakeholders in the value chain participate in developing a circular model for textiles.**

- Public-private-innovation project.
- Partners: Revaluate, City of Copenhagen, Tråsborg, Salvation Army, WolCat (recycling) and Bacher (work wear).
- Preparation for EU obligation to collect textile waste from 2025
- The citizens' used textiles are collected at recycling centers, reused or recycled and procured back by the municipality.

# Work packages



# Obstacles and learnings

- The market is not mature enough to deliver the solutions - *in the scale of a municipality*
- High quality criteria in current procurement makes it difficult to develop equivalent products
- Logos (branding and special needs of workers) makes reuse difficult
- Coatings and fiber-combinations make recycling difficult
- We need to look inward on the policies of use within the organization (including efforts for longer life time and energy-efficient washing). This has a significant effect in comparison to developing new closed-loop products
- The price...



## .. And possibilities

- Public procurement can create change on the market. Especially if we work together to set consistent criteria and place bigger orders.
- Innovation partnerships and public-private cooperation is fruitful.
- Political attention and will to create a change





A photograph of a modern glass skyscraper with a curved walkway and people cycling over water. The building has a grid-like facade of windows. In the foreground, a curved walkway with a metal railing runs along a body of water. Several people are cycling on the walkway, including a child in a yellow shirt and a man in a white shirt. The sky is blue with some clouds. The word 'MALL' is visible on the building's facade.

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