



# Wear to Care

News from Salvation Army Trading Company



## TEXTILE RECYCLING MAKES MATERIAL GAINS

**There is good news to report from Salvation Army Trading Company's (SATCoL) Clothing Collection Scheme: the latest statistics from Defra research show that textile recycling across the industry has increased by around 4% in the UK since the last comparable study (relative to the amount of clothing bought), helping in part to divert 16% more textiles away from landfill.**

Figures from a 2004/5 Defra study (ref: WRT152) published in 2006 showed that the UK bought 1,865,000 tonnes of clothes each year but just 16% or 324,000 tonnes was recycled. However, results from the latest 'Maximising Reuse and Recycling of UK Clothing and Textiles' study from 2007, results of which were published by Defra in December 2009, show that although we buy more clothes (2,266,000 tonnes) we now recycle 498,000 tonnes; that's about 22%, an increase of 4% between the two studies, relative to the amount of clothing bought.

As you may expect, the amount of textiles entering landfill has also been reduced, with the number of tonnes having decreased from 1,165,000 to 1,081,000, a reduction of 16% relative to the amount of clothes bought in each study.

Although this is definitely several steps in the right direction, SATCoL remains committed to encouraging many more members of the public and organisations to divert their unwanted textiles from landfill. With our network of more than 3,800 clothing banks and over 70 charity shops, as well as our door-to-door and schools collection schemes, we offer a variety of simple methods for people to donate their garments.



If you would like further information about ways to encourage more people to make the switch from throwing their clothes away as rubbish to recycling them for the benefit of good causes in communities across the UK, then contact us on the e-mail below and we will get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

**Paul Ozanne**

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*Recycling and reusing society's old threads to help the fabric of humanity*