

HSAN Waste Session Highlights 11 March 2026 | Chilworth Manor

1. Overview

The session focused on understanding waste from material, financial, operational, environmental and digital perspectives. Discussions emphasised practical actions, circular approaches and identifying meaningful opportunities for organisations to reduce waste.

2. Insights from Presentations

FuturePlus:

- Waste relates to resource loss, increased costs, emissions, pollution and wider social impacts.
- Organisations have different waste footprints, and improvement begins with understanding key waste streams.
- A practical approach includes identifying three immediate improvements and one longer term action.
- Policy, behaviour change and staff engagement are essential for sustained progress.

Agilico:

- Most emissions from office technology arise during manufacturing rather than use.
- Remanufactured devices can reduce embodied carbon significantly while providing full performance.
- Circular procurement and fleet management support reductions in waste, carbon and cost.
- Agilico's Carbon Avoidance Calculator provides measurable evidence of environmental improvement.

University of Southampton:

- SMEs can access postgraduate MBA support for sustainability projects at no cost.
- Projects can address waste, circularity, strategy, environmental improvements and measurement.

3. Summary of Activities

Waste Mapping Carousel

- Participants explored waste in the areas of energy, materials, water, process waste and packaging.
- Energy waste examples included standby equipment, continuous running of IT devices, heating or cooling with windows open, non-efficient lighting, diesel vehicle use, poor route planning and unnecessary travel.

- Materials waste examples included single use cups, plastics, cardboard, electronics, stationery, printed materials, display items, ink cartridges and construction materials.
- Water waste included taps left running, leaking plumbing, automatic flush systems, overfilled kettles, half-full dishwashers, water-intensive cleaning processes and high water use in food preparation.
- Process waste examples included e-waste, unused stock, toner cartridges, duplicated tasks, inefficient workflows, unnecessary travel and operational waste across sectors.
- Packaging waste involved food containers, IT packaging, stationery packaging, non-biodegradable materials and limited reuse or recycling options.
- Suggested solutions included LED lighting, movement sensors, energy-saving modes, improved procurement, reuse of materials, take-back schemes and enhanced recycling provision.
- Longer term opportunities included integrating waste reduction into strategy, securing leadership commitment, cultural change and reviewing procurement practices.

Rent, Return, Repair – Circular Innovation

- Ideas included renting IT equipment or space, returning pallets, uniforms or electronics, and repairing devices, office furniture and workwear.
- Themes included cost considerations, incentives for return schemes, design for repair and small scale trials of circular approaches.

Hidden Digital Waste Discussion

- Digital waste was identified as an overlooked environmental issue.
- Data centres have significant water and energy demands.
- Cloud storage, duplicated files and unmanaged digital systems contribute to hidden waste.
- Improving digital practices was recognised as an opportunity alongside physical waste reduction.

4. Key Takeaways

- Understanding waste streams is the basis for targeted action.
- Simple actions can produce immediate benefits.
- Circular approaches are practical and commercially feasible.
- Digital systems also contribute to environmental impact and should be reviewed.
- Leadership involvement and staff behaviour change are essential for long term progress.

5. Next HSAN Events

- 28 May – Testwood Lakes Education Centre
- 16 July – Gambledown Farm