

START
HERE

Consumers determine which clothing, shoes, purses, etc. are no longer needed. Consumer donates clean and dry items to charity or recycles them with a municipality or collection bin operator.

Charity sells 10-20% of donated items at storefront locations. The remainder of the material (80%) is sold to rag graders or brokers to help generate additional revenue to support charity's programs.

Nearly 100% of donated clothing and textiles can be reused and recycled. The materials are separated into 3 grades: usable clothing, wiping cloth grades and fiber conversion grades.



45%
USABLE
CLOTHING



20%
FIBER
CONVERSION



30%
WIPING
CLOTH



It is estimated that only 15% of used clothing and textiles are being diverted from the waste stream for recycling purposes. More can and must be done to recapture these vital resources.

3.8
BILLION LBS.

SMART member companies help prevent more than 3.8 billion lbs. of post-consumer textile waste from ending up in landfills each year.

The reuse and recycling processes of SMART member companies rely largely on human labor and are far less energy/water/resource-intensive or polluting than other recycling industries.

Reused and recycled textiles return to the consumer as used clothing, home insulation, carpet padding and wiping rags.



the lifecycle of rags