



Key challenges of textile waste and city-level solutions: Case of Oslo

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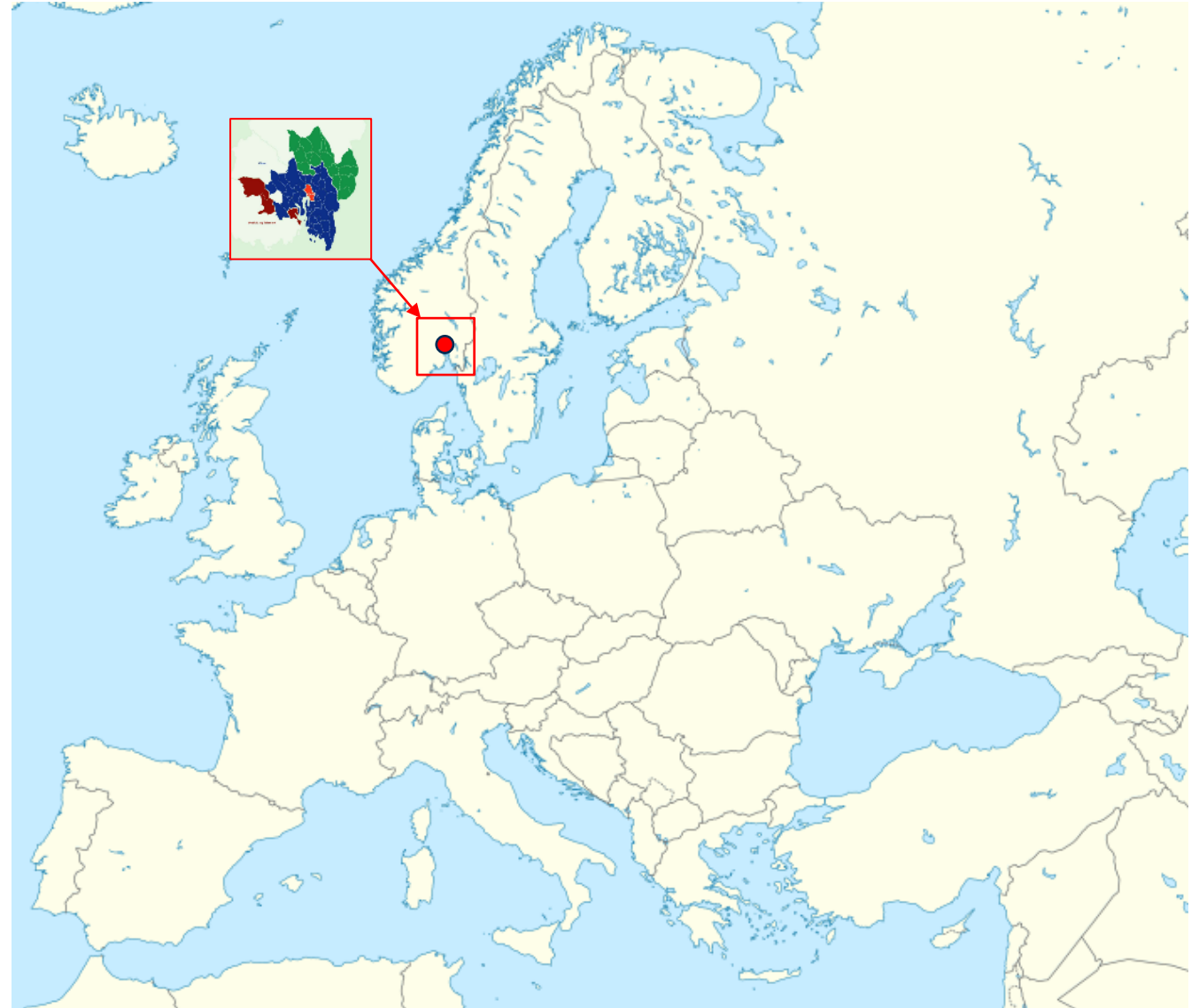
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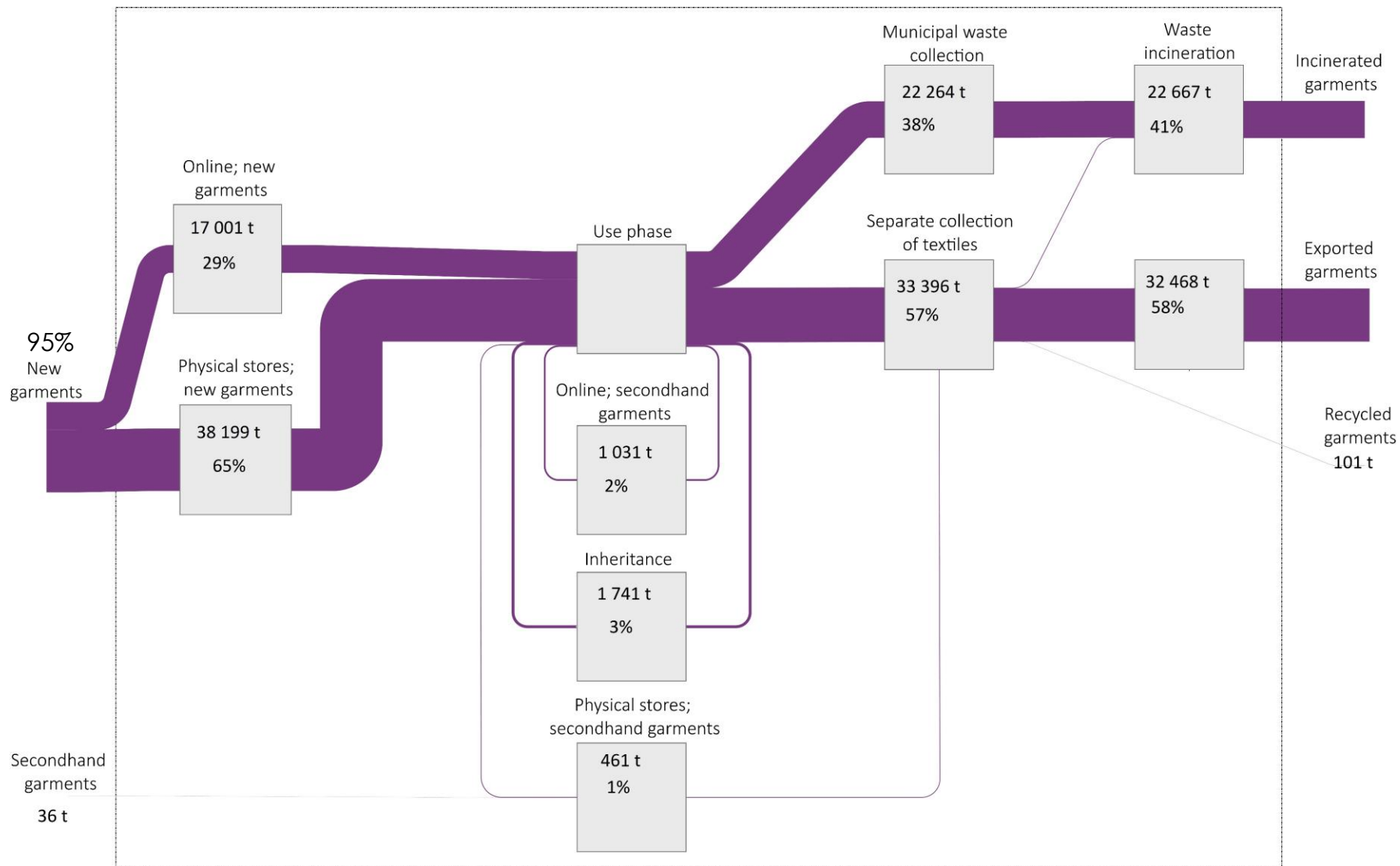
<https://clothingresearch.oslomet.no/>

<https://lasting.world/>

Oslo

- 709 000 inhabitants
- Oslo region of 61 municipalities: 2,3 million \approx 42% of the Norwegian population
- Asker: pilot city in Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI)
- Oslo goal: 95% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 2009 level





Norwegian clothing flows

- 95% of clothing acquired as new
- System is based on export: Less than 2% of separately collected textiles stay in Norway
- Small but increasing share of reuse
- Oslo is above average in clothing consumption

Source: Mora-Sojo, M. C., Krych, K., & Pettersen, J. B. (2023). Evaluating the current Norwegian clothing system and a circular alternative. *Resources, Conservation and Recycling*, 197, 107109. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2023.107109>

Oslo City Council's strategies for textiles

- Prevent textile waste by promoting rental, repair, reuse, second-hand sales, exchange and redesign.
- Arrange premises for circular solutions, such as clothing swap days.
- Strengthen the collection and reuse through good information and communication.
- Contribute to collaborative projects between the municipality, volunteers, non-profit actors and private actors for increased reuse and circulation
- Increase reuse of textiles within the municipality, such as workwear
- Impact target: Oslo has increased the reuse, repair and material recycling of textiles

Oslo City Council (2019) Framtidens forbruk – strategi for bærekraftig og redusert forbruk 2019–2030 [Consumption of the future – Strategy for sustainable and reduced consumption 2019-2030].

Oslo City Council (2020) Framtidens forbruk - Handlingsplan for bærekraftig og redusert forbruk 2020-2023 [Consumption of the future - Action plan for sustainable and reduced consumption 2020-2023].



Photo by Naturvernforbundet (Friends of the Earth Norway)

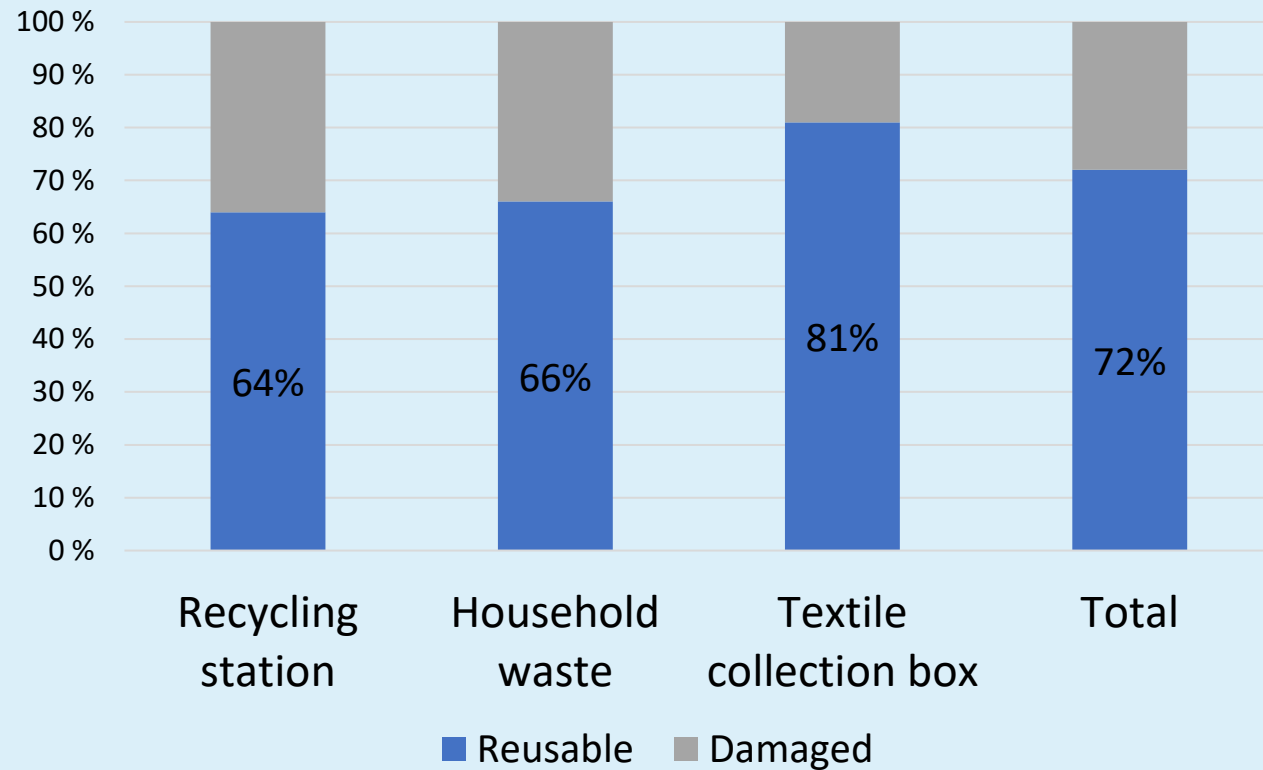
Collection of used textiles and shoes

- Four organisations have a contract with the municipality for collection of textiles
- In Oslo, you can deliver both usable and damaged clothes and textiles in the textile collection boxes
- Damaged or large items can also be delivered to recycling stations
- Broken shoes, bags and other accessories should be disposed of in the residual waste.
- Wet, moist or dirty textiles are residual waste.



Photos from Kirkens Bymisjon, UFF Norge, NLM and Røde kors

Condition of disposed textiles based on waste audits in Norway



- **3111 kg textiles**
- **Three different streams**
- **Large reuse potential!**



Pilots on separate collection of damaged textiles

- Conducted to prepare for the new European requirements on the separate collection of textile waste from 2025
- Six pilot studies around Norway with different collection solutions
- Increased amounts of collected textiles, and reduced amount in residual waste.
- The quality of textiles delivered for reuse increased, but the collection of damaged textiles included a high share of reusable textiles
- Citizens were content with most collection solutions, and information was important



Sewing machines in libraries

- Various types of sewing machines available at ten libraries in Oslo
- Sometimes sewing help is given at workshops, but in general self-service with instruction manuals and videos
- Aim at increasing repair and redesign
- Necessary equipment available, including thread, scissors, and measuring tape, but you need to bring your own fabric, buttons etc.



Deichman library. Photo: Erik Thallaug

Equipment loan

- Over 20 locations in Oslo where citizens, schools and organisations can borrow equipment free of charge
- Most for children for outdoor activities
- Run by different non-profit organisations



Photo: BUA

Shopping mall for second-hand products: Omigjen in Asker

- Omigjen is a shopping mall in Asker that only sells used items.
- A project by Asker municipality supported by funds from the Norwegian Environment Agency.
- Asker municipality rents the 1500 m² premises and sublets it to the shops.
- Stores for used clothing, furniture, toys and equipment for children and pets, as well as services for repair and redesign
- Aims at making reuse more convenient by being similar to regular stores, with diverse product range, easily accessible locations and longer opening hours.



Crown Prince Haakon and crown Princess Mette-Marit visiting the mall.
Photo by Omigjen. <https://www.omigjen.no/>

Thank you for your attention!

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