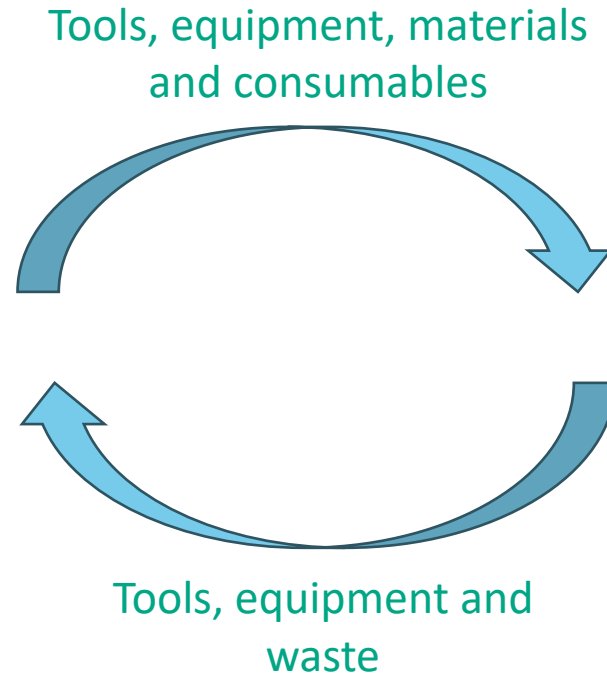


# Plastic Waste Reduction: How do we reduce the waste of materials and non-recyclable plastics? – EIP218

Neil Whalley – Northern Gas Networks

# Background

- Single use plastic (SUP) products are endemic within utility works
- Let's think about a typical utility project:



# A typical gas main replacement project SUPs

## Source: PE Pipe

Source	Annual quantity for NGN	What have we tried already?	Successful?
Plastic bandings	Unknown (>2000 t of pipe purchased)	Written to main pipe suppliers	No change
Scrap pipe – offcuts and sacrificial pipe from bypasses	~200 t	Longer coils of pipe; Reusable bypass pipe coils mounted on trailers	Yes, but....subject to individual behaviours to utilise new equipment and availability



# A typical gas main replacement project SUPs

## Source: PE fittings

Source	Annual quantity for NGN	What have we tried already?	Successful?
Spoiled fittings	Unknown	Behaviour controls and training	Yes, but room for improvement
Transport packaging – fittings orders collated in plastic bags for teams	>50k	Reused spare packaging from other products	Yes but ad hoc and subject to individual behaviours
Individual product packaging (bags)	~350k	Reviewed alternative materials (bio-plastics)  Engagement with some suppliers	No change to date. Standard specifies plastic packaging. Concerns about additional material spoiling / wastage



# A typical gas main replacement project SUPs

## Source: Ground protection

Source	Annual quantity for NGN	What have we tried already?	Successful?
Ground protection for excavation spoil	~ 20 t	Reusable plastic boards	No Too heavy / large Can't easily lap against walls





# What happens to this plastic waste?

Most preferable



Least preferable



Where we want to be

Where we are now  
Minimal waste reuse  
100% waste diversion from landfill

# Considerations

Existing industry standards for packaging

Human behaviours

Cost

Practicability / operational impacts

Alternative must be whole life better than current

# Thank you

Contacts

Neil Whalley

Head of Environment and Sustainability, NGN

Mobile: 07815243925

Email: [nwhalley@northerngas.co.uk](mailto:nwhalley@northerngas.co.uk)

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