

METHODS OF CONTEXTUALISING

909 // GARBAGE DAY

GROUP WORK WITH SARA XU & MINHANG HAN

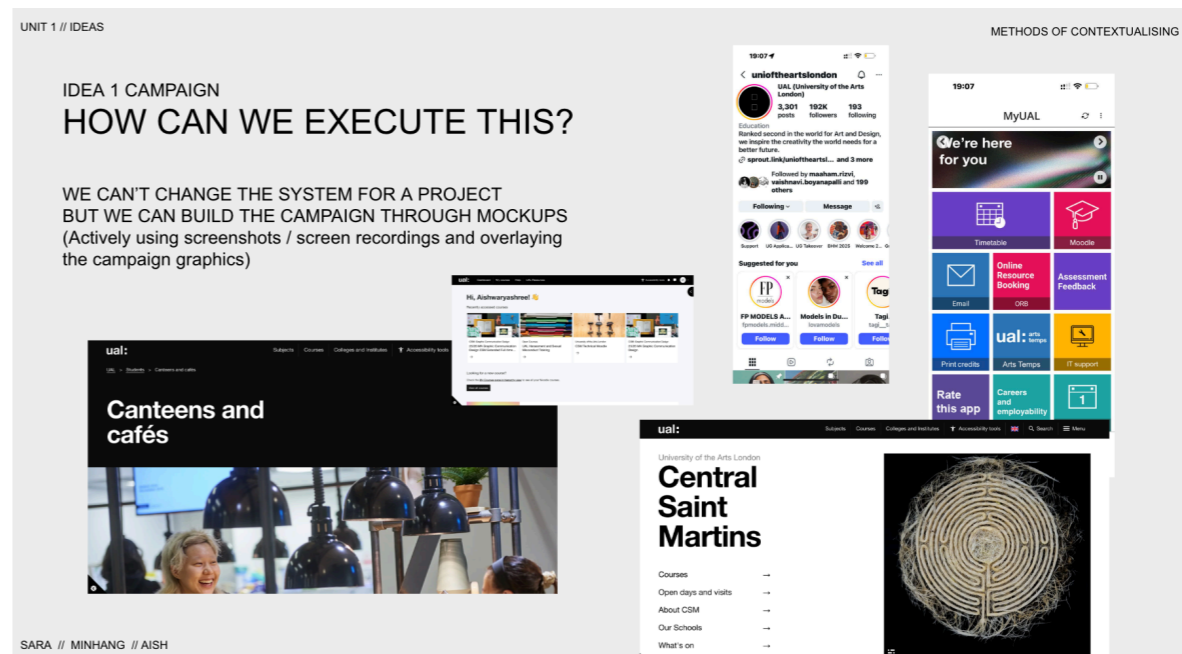
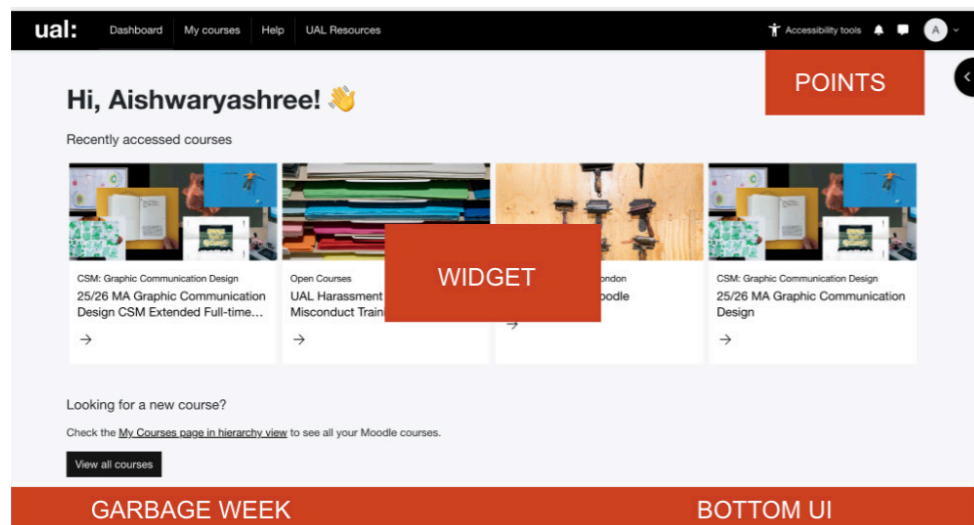
UAL produced 909.48 tonnes of waste in 2024–25

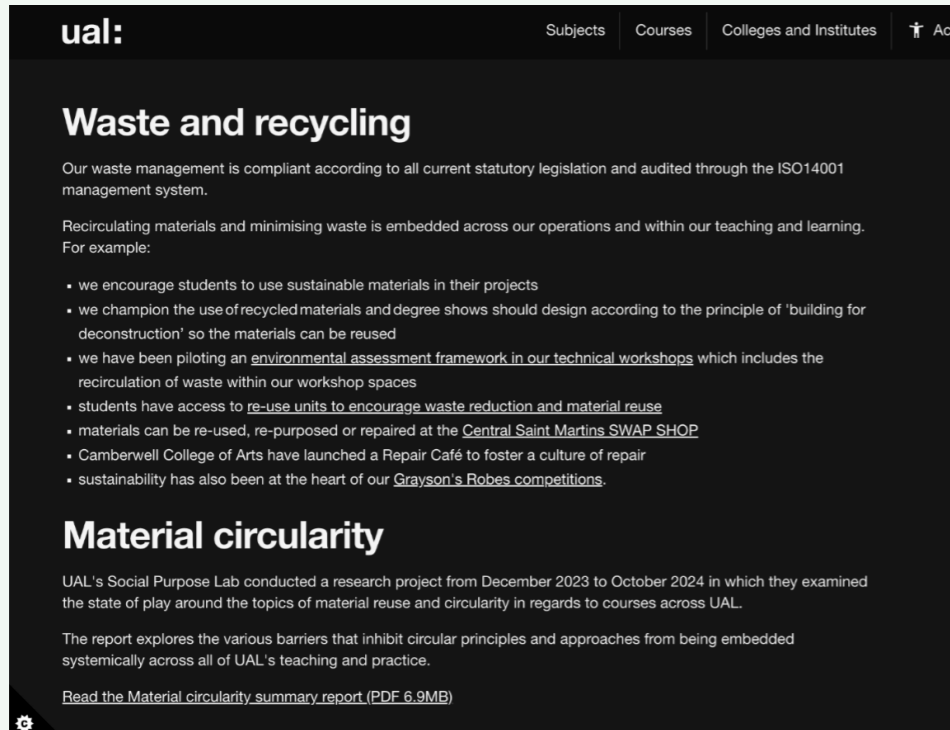
We selected the waste data set due to a shared concern and its potential for tangible impact rather than symbolic intervention. In the first week of ideation, we adopted an outcome led approach to streamline collaboration, generating multiple proposals before deciding on a Waste Awareness and Management Campaign.

We initially proposed a digital only, week long campaign across the UAL digital ecosystem titled Garbage Week or 909. The project was later streamlined, shifting from a broad campaign strategy to the development of interactive widgets for Moodle that promote waste awareness through engagement and participation.

Waste total (tonnes), 2024/25

Waste type	Sum of Collected Weight (Tonnes)
Batteries - Alkaline IC	0.10
Biodegradable Kitchen and Canteen Waste IC	15.05
Clinical Waste IC	2.35
Confidential Waste Paper IC	15.84
Dry Mixed Recycling IC	128.76
Food Processing Waste IC	53.89
General Non-Hazardous Waste IC	532.93
General waste Dry - without organics	74.36
General waste Wet - with organics	22.46
General WEEE Directive Waste IC	1.34
General WEEE Directive Waste IC Unit	0.05
Mixed Hazardous Waste I&C (see annex for details)	0.40
Mixed Packaging Glass IC	9.12
Mixed Textiles IC	0.31
None Entered	1.84
Non-Infected Sanitary Waste IC	49.40
Oily Rags Per Unit IC	1.14
Paint & Paint Related Material Per Unit IC	0.10
Sharps 18.01.03 IC	0.05
Grand Total	909.48





(Above)
UAL Provisions for Waste Management

In 2019 we recruited a team of student Sustainability Interns who worked collaboratively with the University to identify and complete sustainability-focused projects across all our colleges. One of the resulting projects focused on waste reduction, material reuse and saving money. This overlapped with research undertaken by SU Arts that found a "statistically significant relationship between respondents who achieved a 70 - 74% grade on their most recent assessment and how much they spent on their assessment."

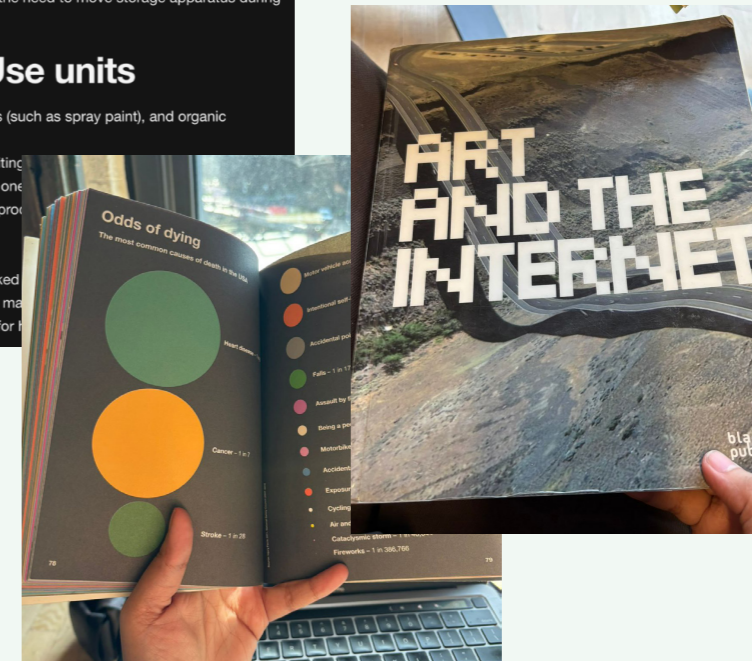
The Sustainability Interns reviewed material storage at each College building, reviewing what worked well and what could be improved. The focus was on creating a storage solution that enables students to deposit and collect spare and re-useable materials for their projects. This would both save students from spending money on costly materials whilst also reducing UAL's carbon footprint.

The solution was Re-Use units, which have been co-created with Luca Beckerson (Design Project Manager - Catering, Retail and Accommodation Services). The units address common concerns around lack of storage space, existing storage solutions not meeting needs of students with physical impairments, the need to move storage apparatus during end-of-year shows and instances of materials blocking fire routes.

How to correctly use the Re-Use units

- Please do not deposit flammable liquids, knives, chemical agents, aerosols (such as spray paint), and organic compounds in the units for health and safety reasons.
- Please be considerate about the quantity of certain materials when depositing diverse material resource and filling them with enormous quantities of just one.
- Please follow the text descriptions on each door/drawer when depositing products to ensure they are easy to use.
- The units must not exceed a maximum weight of 120 kilograms.
- The units are mobile and can be wheeled short distances but must be locked.
- Please close the door/draw when you are finished depositing or collecting materials.
- The tops of the units are sloped to prevent depositing of materials, this is for fire safety reasons.

(Below) Art and the Internet, Infographica



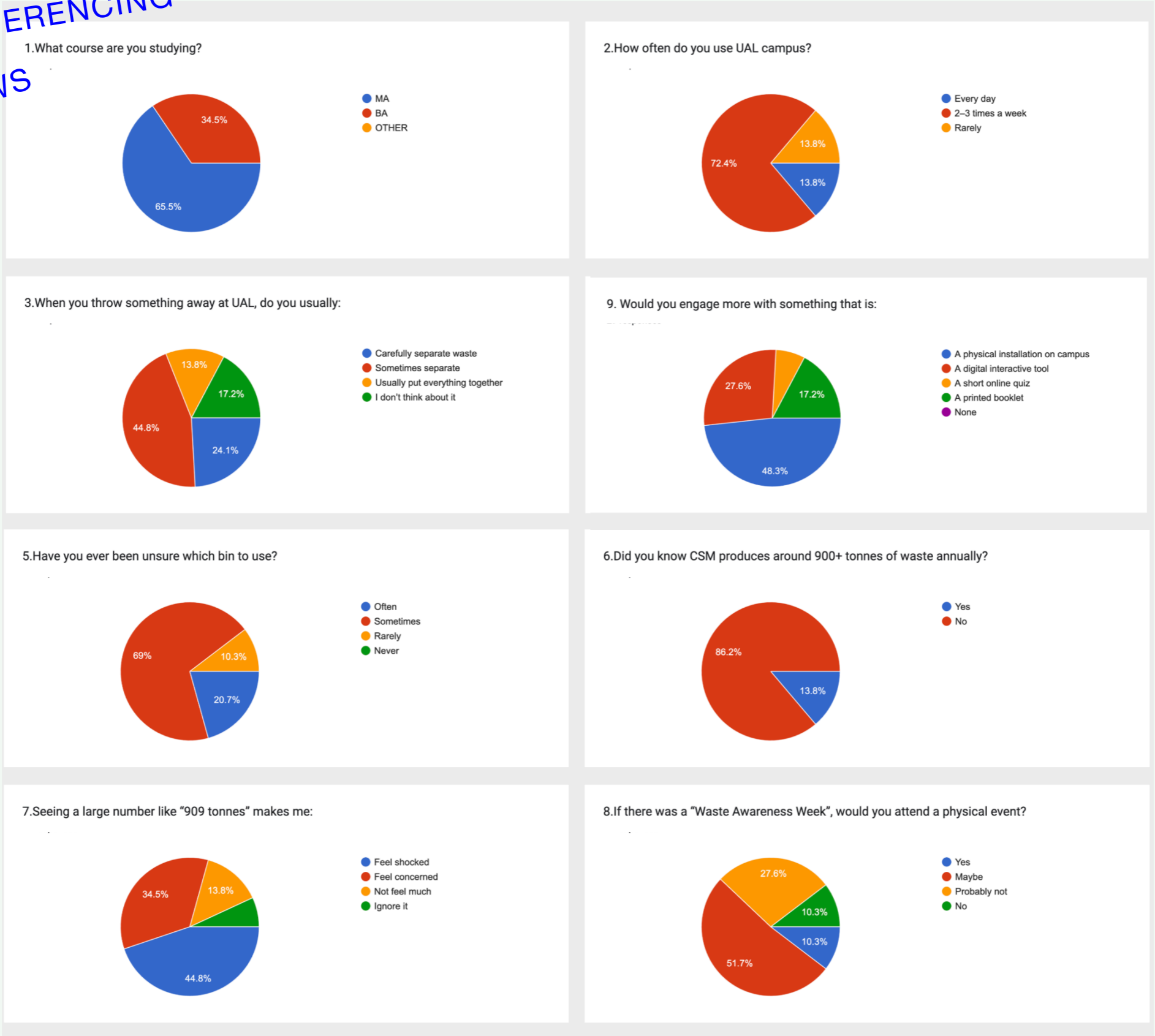
Reassessment and Strategic Shift

Following our first critique and feedback, we reassessed the project by going back to research & posing further questions to ourselves and to UAL students. Although the campaign remained conceptually strong, its feasibility was challenged, particularly in light of a potential institutional shift from digital to analogue communication. Concurrently, Matilda from the Net Zero team emphasised the importance of waste segregation and reuse as critical priorities in addressing overall waste reduction.



(Left)
The Climate Museum, New York

METHODS OF CONTEXTUALISING



WORKSHOP FLOW

SEGMENT 1
909 TONNES

This segment introduces the data set of UAL's collective waste and its many forms, we also brush through CSM's waste contribution. Back to our UAL data set we look at what all kinds of waste we generate the most as a university and what it looks like. This will take us directly to the installation, we urge people to take the installation apart, divide the cards and take it with them as they're plantable.

WORKSHOP FLOW

SEGMENT 3
REUSE

Now that participants know how to dispose of waste correctly, we get to how and what all to reuse. We share CSM's systems of reuse and other ways to ensure reuse and cost saving instead of just discarding something. We then play the game: CSM REUSE PATHWAYS. (change name)

SEGMENT 2
SEGREGATION

Now that we have introduced the many types of waste UAL generates we take them through the many waste streams and what goes in it. We then get to our segregation activity: SORT IT OUT. Here they test their knowledge.

SEGMENT 4
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

For closing we distribute what is a toolkit in form of a handbook: Tips and tricks of what you can do as a student to manage waste at a time of climate crisis. These tips will be cost and time efficient to support student life.

Post Interview and Research Insights

Following interviews and further research, we identified a stronger inclination among students toward physical engagement over digital interaction. Participants showed interest in educational installations and expressed tentative openness to attending in person events. Additionally, many acknowledged uncertainty around correct waste segregation practices, indicating both a knowledge gap and an opportunity for practical learning interventions.

Workshop Digital Kit

This led us to design a downloadable workshop kit containing all the materials required to host a waste awareness session. The kit includes mini lectures, reinforcing games, shareable posters, a practical handbook outlining cost and time effective actions, and an interactive building card installation made of seed paper, which can be taken home and planted after the workshop.

Work Division

Sara — Installation

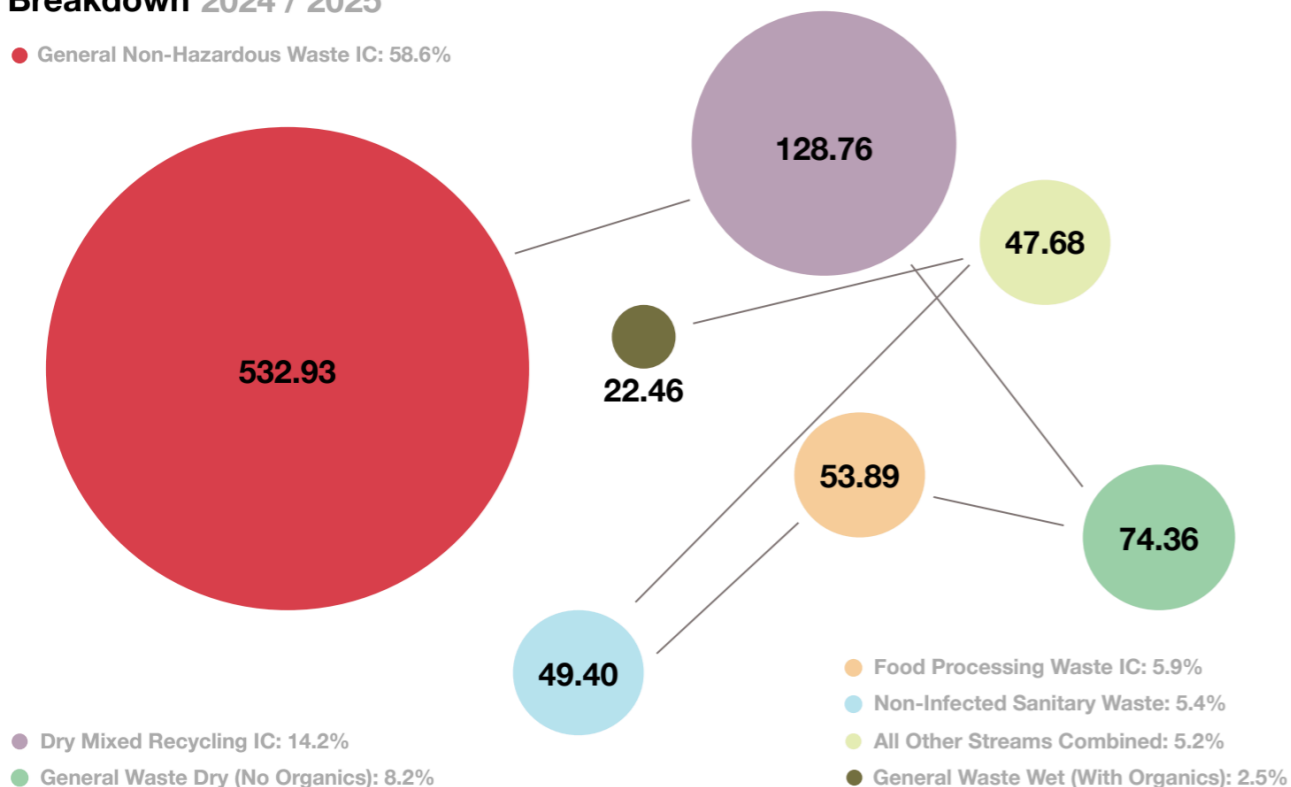
Aish — Digital Kit

Minhang — Supporting both installation and digital development

909.48 tonnes Breakdown 2024 / 2025

● General Non-Hazardous Waste IC: 58.6%

IC : Industrial & Commercial



ual:

Waste Awareness & Management Workshop

Working With What We Know

The Big Four of waste streams reflect how heavily the school operates through material exploration. As design students, working with materials is integral to our learning and cannot be fully excused. At the same time, the overwhelming pressure placed on students in the context of the climate crisis, when we have hardly been the primary contributors, can create anxiety or even ambivalence.



Rather than responding with panic, it is more productive to actively participate in systems that are already adapting to this emergency. Often, meaningful change does not require grand gestures. It begins with understanding small principles and acting on them consistently. **Collective impact is built through informed, everyday decisions.**

ual:

Waste Awareness & Management Workshop

03 Mixed

MINI LECTURES

02 Reuse Systems

Mixed Recycling (Dry) Bins Examples



● **PUT IN**
Plastic bottles (rinsed), Aluminium cans, Cardboard (clean), Paper, Empty aerosol cans, Clean takeaway containers



● **DO NOT PUT IN**
Food, Liquids, Greasy cardboard

Fun Fact
If it is wet or contaminated, it stops being recyclable.

ual:

Waste Awareness & Management Workshop

Reuse Systems Accessible to Us



Swap Shop
A student-led exchange space where materials, clothing, and supplies can be given and taken for free. It keeps usable items circulating within the community instead of entering the waste stream.



Online Resale
Contaminated packaging, Online resale platforms such as Vinted, Depop and Facebook Marketplace allow clothing, materials and equipment to circulate beyond campus. They extend product life, reduce demand for new production, and offer a lower-cost alternative to buying new.



Material Library
A shared resource that provides access to material samples, references and sustainable alternatives without individual purchasing. It supports informed design decisions while reducing unnecessary material orders and waste.

UAL campus: Central Saint Martins

ual:

Waste Awareness & Management Workshop



Time 02:30 Progress 0 / 10 Start Reset

WASTE CARDS

Drag or tap → choose bin

Ready. Press **Start** for a timed round.

Coffee cup (plastic-lined)

Trick item.

drag

Greasy pizza box

Food-stained card.

drag

Banana peel

Easy.

drag

Sandwich wrapper (laminated)

Looks recyclable.

drag

Aluminium can (empty)

Rinse if possible.

drag

Oat milk carton (Tetra Pak)

Varies locally.

drag

Bubble wrap / soft plastic

Trick item.

drag

Clean paper

Easy.

drag

BINS

Drop into a bin

Residual

energy recovery / landfill

Non-recyclables, mixed materials, contaminated items.

Dry mixed recycling

sorting facility

Clean paper/card, cans, accepted plastics.

GAMES

Games designed to follow each lecture in order to reinforce and internalise key concepts through interaction.

Waste Management for the Artistically Gifted

You are not expected to single-handedly save the planet. You are, however, responsible for your foam board.

Lay everything out before cutting. Move it. Rotate. Fit them together. Treat the sheet like it's the last one in London.

HANDBOOK AS TOOLKIT

A handbook structured as a practical toolkit outlining accessible, cost and time effective actions students can implement in their daily lives.

Three items a day, five days a week, a full semester. Do the maths. A Tupperware moment will not undo you.

UAL is a dense ecosystem of half-used everything. Ask your group chat before you fund another sheet of virgin material.

ual:
Central Saint Martins
Garbage Day

- Kit
- Introduction
- Installation
- Lecture 1
- Game 1
- Lecture 2
- Game 2
- Handbook
- Poster

Waste Workshop Kit

Designed for group delivery. Discussion supports internalisation by forcing claims to be stated, tested, and revised.



Kit

Sequence

A compact sequence of lectures and games. It moves from shared context to applied judgement, then closes with a printable toolkit.

Link!

Link to the complete workshop kit:
<https://909workshopkit.netlify.app/>

Due to time constraints and an overly ambitious scope, the digital workshop kit was completed in a largely intuitive manner. Moving forward, I intend to adopt a more design led approach, refining both the content and the medium by exploring spatial, material, and interactive strategies that embed waste awareness into everyday experience rather than relying solely on lecture based workshops.