



Sustainability and the environment

Over its 100 years of operation, Sims Metal has made a serious commitment to be the world's safest and most responsible recycling company. This includes caring for its workers and the environment.

Sims Metal has three simple goals:

1. developing a zero harm workplace for employees and all visitors to our facilities
2. being an exemplary member of the communities in which we operate
3. being responsible stewards of the environment

Recycling scrap metal is one of the most significant things we can do to help protect our environment.

Companies who use recycled products during manufacturing, instead of purchasing brand new raw materials, help to free up space in our landfills and reduce pollution, carbon emissions, energy use and water consumption.

Here are some interesting statistics about metal recycling:

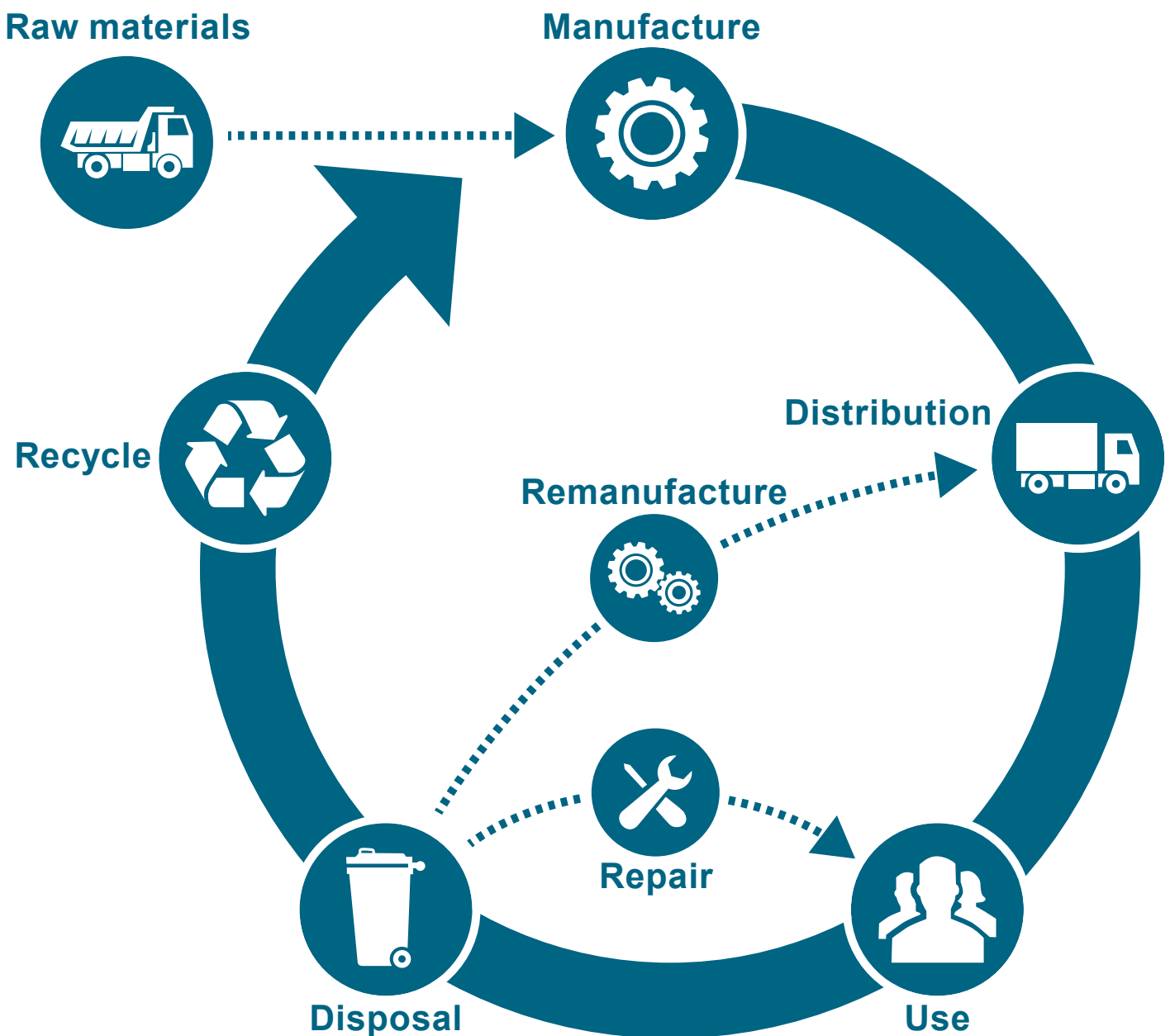
- For every tonne of steel recycled, carbon emissions are reduced by 2.1 tonnes.
- When one tonne of aluminium is recycled, carbon emissions are reduced by a staggering 7.9 tonnes.
- For every tonne of computers recycled, carbon emissions are reduced by approximately 4 tonnes.
- In Australia, Sims Metal has recycled more than 1 million cars. If these were laid out end-to-end they would stretch from Rome to Bangkok.
- The recycled appliances and fridges would stretch from Sydney to Amsterdam then across the ocean to New York!



Sims Metal is at the centre of the 'circular economy' by recovering and recycling products and materials so they can be reused. This helps to minimise waste going to landfill and is at the core of Sims Metal commitment to sustainability.



Here is a simple diagram of the 'circular economy'. The elements are explained on page 3.





Raw materials

Raw materials are used initially to manufacture products. These are outside the circle as the aim is to reduce how much of them are used.

Manufacture

Products are manufactured ready for distribution.

Distribution

Products are distributed to suppliers or retailers ready for sale.

Use

Consumers and businesses buy and use the products.

Disposal

Products are disposed of once they are broken, replaced or no longer needed.

Recycle

For those products that can be recycled, this will be done and the materials go back into the manufacturing process.

So the circle continues.

What about products that are not recycled?

Often recycling a product is not possible or necessary.

If a product is simply broken, it can be repaired and go back into use.

If a product is no longer required, it might be redistributed to someone who can still use it or remanufactured into something different.

If it cannot be fixed, reused or recycled, the product may end up in landfill.



Moving forward

At Sims Metal we are always striving to be a more sustainable business. In 2009 we set our first long-term sustainability goals and exceeded them by 2015. Some of our new goals (to be reached by 2020) are:

- 10% reduction in petrol use for our transport fleet
- 100% reduction of idling in yards (this is when vehicles are turned on, but not moving)
- 10% reduction in electricity use
- 10% reduction in water use
- move towards 5% renewable energy.