

Zero-Landfill Verification Checklist

Six questions to establish whether a zero-landfill claim is a reuse outcome or just a certificate.

A zero-landfill certificate tells you where furniture did not go. It says nothing about where it did. **A certificate can be issued for a clearance where every item was shredded and nothing was reused.** Ask your supplier these six questions. The answers tell you whether you have an outcome or just a certificate.

SIX QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CLEARANCE SUPPLIER

1 What percentage was reused or resold intact?

The highest-value outcome. Items stay in service, no new manufacture required. If the answer is zero or "we do not track that", the zero-landfill figure is **not a reuse figure**.

2 What percentage was refurbished and returned to service?

Refurbishment keeps the item in use with minimal new material. It carries a genuine carbon benefit and should be reported **separately from recycling**.

3 What percentage was donated, and to which organisations?

Named recipient organisations. This is social value evidence as well as a reuse outcome. **"Donated to charity" without a name is not verifiable.**

4 What percentage was recycled, by weight?

A legitimate last resort. It diverts material from landfill. But it is the lowest-value outcome and should be reported as **weight diverted, not as a carbon saving**.

5 Are reuse and recycling reported separately?

The critical question. If a supplier reports a single blended diversion figure, **you cannot tell reuse from shredding**. Insist on the breakdown.

6 Is the carbon figure attached only to reuse and refurbishment?

Reuse and refurbishment carry a carbon benefit. Recycling diverts weight from landfill. **If a supplier attaches carbon savings to recycling, they are overclaiming**, and that weakens your report.

THE LINE THAT SEPARATES A CERTIFICATE FROM AN OUTCOME

A credible clearance report gives you a breakdown: items reused, refurbished, donated with named recipients, recycled by weight, and carbon avoided through reuse and refurbishment only. **A weak one gives you a single number and a certificate. If you only have the number, you do not yet have the outcome.**