Blade circularity

Where do wind turbine blades go when they're decommissioned?

The European wind industry pledges to reuse, repurpose, recycle and recover 100% of decommissioned blades within Europe – committing to a landfill ban as of 1 January 2026.

Blades can take different circular paths at the end of their life. And these solutions are already happening today!

Find out more:
windeurope.org/circularity

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Prevention

Maintenance and repairs extend the service life of turbines. Stronger blades last longer and need fewer replacements.

1 Reuse

Keep the blade spinning for as long as possible.

- **Refurbished blades and turbines** are already being resold in Europe and beyond.
- The second-hand market for wind turbines is booming, with **some markets refurbishing and selling around 50% of decommissioned turbines** to continue their service elsewhere.

2 Repurposing

Give old blades a new purpose.

- Blade sections are transformed into **bridges, playgrounds, shelters, benches, walkways, and more**.
- Each project is proof that **when blades stop operating, they can still provide valuable solutions** and open up new possibilities.

3 Recycling

Turn old blades into new materials.

- **Mechanical recycling:** blades are shredded into powder and fibres (used in new products).
- **Thermal or chemical recycling** (e.g. pyrolysis, solvolysis) recovers high quality fibres and resins suitable for new industrial applications.

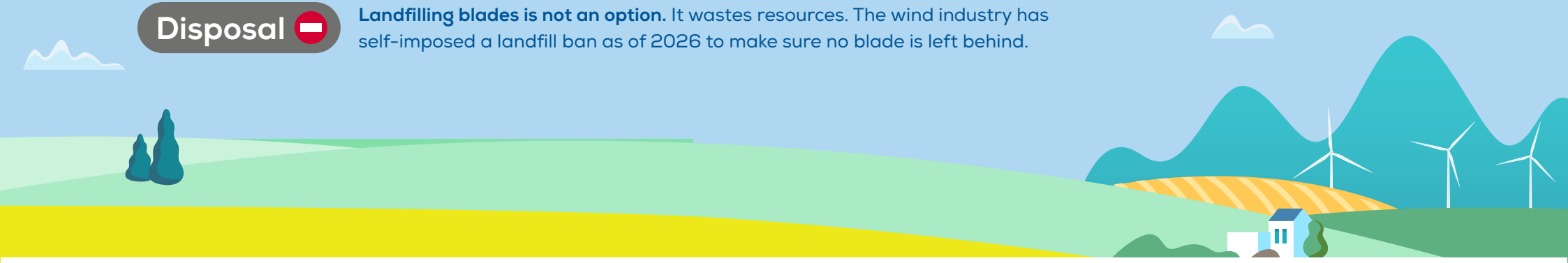
4 Recovery

Turn old blades into a resource for cement.

- Fibres are used as raw materials in cement, while resin provides energy.
- Saves **up to 1 tonne of CO_2 per tonne of blade waste** compared to other methods and cuts fossil fuel use.

Disposal

Landfilling blades is not an option. It wastes resources. The wind industry has self-imposed a landfill ban as of 2026 to make sure no blade is left behind.



By preventing waste, extending lifetimes, repurposing creatively, recycling efficiently, and recovering smartly, **the wind industry is leading the way on sustainable end-of-life solutions for wind turbine blades.**

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