

CIRCULAR REUSE OF DISPOSABLE VAPES

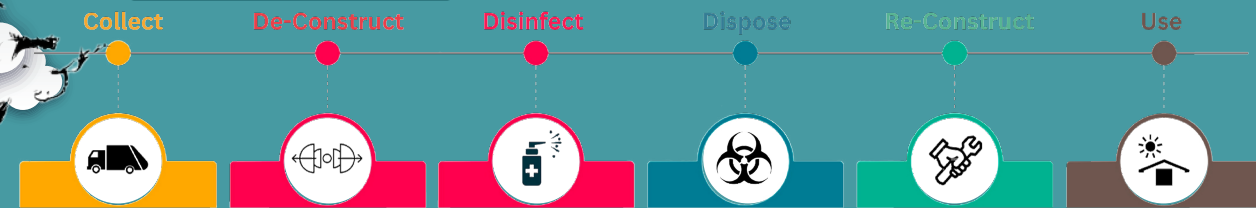
Disposable vapes are a **growing environmental hazard**. With a short lifespan and improper disposal, the devices significantly contribute to **e-waste and plastic pollution**.

When discarded in landfills, vapes pose **considerable risks to ecosystems and human health**, with harmful chemicals leaching into the environment.

Cities like Melbourne and Sydney have already recognised the issue by funding **vape collection programs**, focusing on disposal rather than material recovery.

This presents an opportunity in the manufacturing line for the reuse of reclaimed vapes into a sustainable building material.

PROCESS



Decontamination:

Collect discarded disposable vapes.
Submerge them in a deionized water bath to remove residues and toxins.
Dry thoroughly to prepare for shredding.

Shredding and Reformation:

Extract and shred the polycarbonate components.
Process the shredded material into panels, sheets, or other forms for construction purposes.

Initial Use:

Fabricate UV-stable building materials for external uses such as bus shelters, cladding, or public infrastructure.
Leverage Australia's high UV exposure for natural secondary decontamination during the material's outdoor lifecycle.

Secondary Use:

After years of UV exposure, the materials can be recollected.
Recycle the decontaminated polycarbonate into high-quality interior building materials for applications like wall panels, furniture, or fixtures.

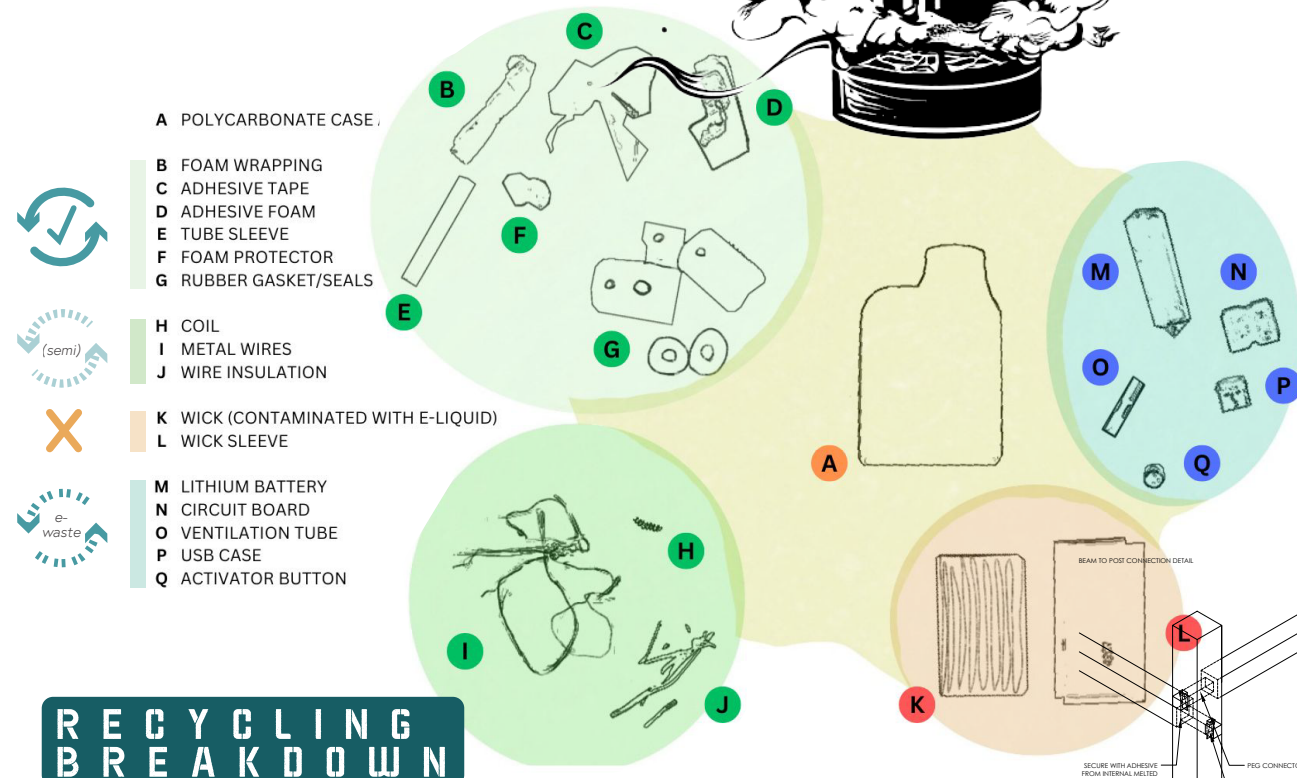
CHALLENGES

Collection Logistics: Establishing systems to collect used vapes effectively.

Initial Decontamination: Ensuring safe handling and thorough removal of harmful residues.

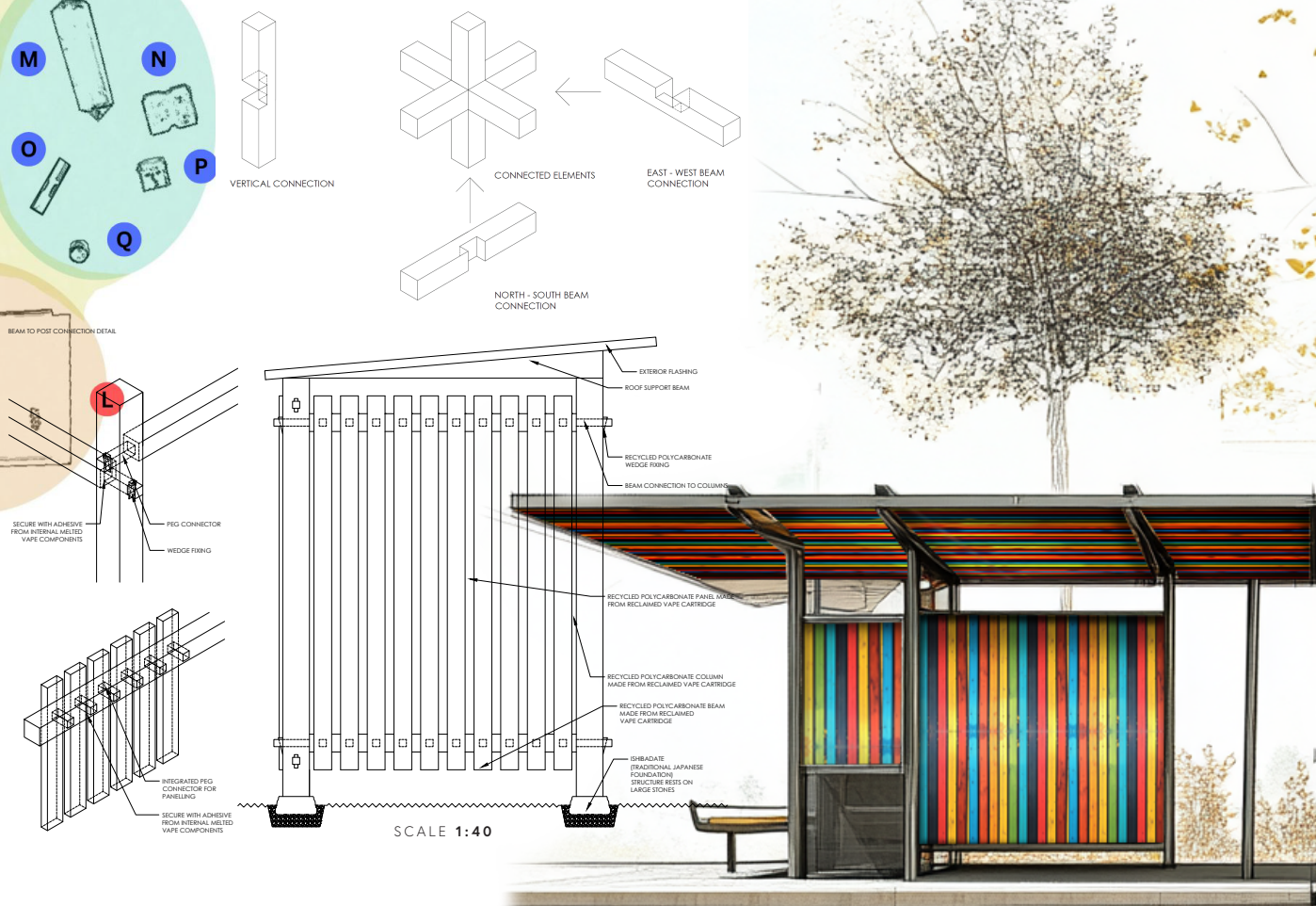
Material Durability: Testing for long-term performance in external applications under intense UV exposure.

Public Perception: Educating stakeholders about the safety and sustainability of reused e-waste materials



APPLICATION

EXAMPLE OF COLUMN TO BEAM CONNECTIONS
BASED ON MIYADAUKU (TRADITIONAL JAPANESE NAILLESS CONSTRUCTION)



BENEFITS

WASTE REDUCTION:

Redirects non-biodegradable e-waste from landfills.

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY:

Extends the lifespan of polycarbonate materials through a two-phase usage cycle.

UV DECONTAMINATION:

Utilizes natural UV exposure to neutralize residual toxins.

SUSTAINABILITY:

Promotes a circular economy by designing for eventual recyclability.