"Waste is merely raw material in the wrong place." Following this philosophy, the division Strategy and Networks of Fraunhofer Project Group IWKS develops innovative, national, global and process-specific material flow, waste, and resource management concepts.

Our common goals:
Core of our activities is the systematic evaluation of material flows, processes and technologies in order to create sustainable resource management concepts that improve the resource efficiency in your business.

Target groups and sectors:
We pursue a cross-sectoral strategy and work both for large-scale enterprises and SMEs as well as for key businesses and policy makers in different sectors:
- Municipalities, rural and city administrations
- Automotive manufacturing companies and automotive suppliers
- Electronics industry and suppliers
- Landfill operators and waste-disposal companies
- Chemical industry
- Food industry
- Mechanical and plant engineering
- Environmental and recycling industry
- Packaging industry
- Energy providers
- Aerospace
- Waste incinerator plant operators

Criticality studies:
Past, current and future resource mobilization from the biosphere into the technosphere requires new evaluation methods. Our comprehensive criticality assessments of raw materials, both at global and individual level, include not only numeric indicators but also expert assessments from internationally renowned specialists. Criticality analyses ensure a better comparability and more transparency among such complex and dynamic systems and, therefore, provide a strategic basis for decision-making on upcoming raw materials policies.

Materials flow analysis:
Static materials flow modeling considers input and output variables within a fixed system. It uncovers dependencies and highlights accumulations of potentially usable materials. This leads to increased transparency and, thus, to potential process optimization and overall efficiency enhancement. This working area is supported by the following software:
- meelSankey

Sustainability assessment and resource management:
Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) are initiatives to evaluate and take responsibility for a company’s effects on environmental and social well-being. Some areas of corporate culture have already begun to adopt a balanced view regarding the pursuit of profit and a commitment to ethical conduct. Based on GRI G4 and ISO 26000 standards, we support and guide you throughout the implementation of sustainability, environmental and resource management assessments.

Strategic networks:
The installation and management of scientific networks is an essential strategic building block of IWKS work. We are connected to regional, national and international networks dedicated to a sustainable exploitation of precious resources and energy. In order to achieve a geopolitically independent supply of critical raw materials it is necessary to gather competencies on many levels. We are collaborating with universities, research institutions, industry, professional unions and politics to find innovative and sustainable solutions.