

Repair Week NI 2025

3rd – 9th
March

Evaluation Report



NIRN
Rethink - Reuse - Repair

Funded via the Carrier Bag Levy by:



An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnótháí Tuaithe

Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

Repair
Week



Executive Summary

Northern Ireland Resources Network (NIRN) proudly delivered the **UK's first nationwide Repair Week** across Northern Ireland (RWNI) from 3rd to 9th March 2025 - a landmark campaign **promoting repair, reuse, and skills sharing**. Delivered in partnership with **ReLondon**, the team behind London's Repair Week, the collaboration gave NIRN access to UK wide branding, assets, and guidance, enabling a high-impact campaign.

Repair Week Northern Ireland 2025 (RWNI25) campaign successfully showcased Northern Ireland's repair and reuse sector, **empowering NIRN members** and other organisations to participate more visibly. With support from councils, social enterprises, businesses, and individuals, the week enabled and promoted more resilient, circular communities. **Funded by Department for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)** through the carrier bag levy, a major highlight was civic and political engagement, including a **video endorsement from Minister, Andrew Muir** - significantly raising the campaign's visibility and credibility.

Repair Week NI allowed NIRN members to embrace repair culture by creating innovative events, workshops and seminars, and encouraged organisations, who were already running successful repair events, to **scale up activities** such as **repair workshops, swap shops, sustainable fashion shows and repair cafés**.

Skills development was another key outcome. The week offered **hands-on opportunities to build and share practical repair knowledge**, from electrics and sewing, to furniture restoration and bike maintenance. This **learning was intergenerational** and supported personal growth, confidence to repair, and **potential career pathways in the green economy**.

Executive Summary (continued)

New connections were created between organisations, schools, libraries, businesses, and civic bodies. Many of these partnerships are anticipated to evolve into **future collaborative projects**, with participants calling Repair Week NI 2025 a “door opener.”

Looking forward, NIRN sees potential to **broaden the campaign’s focus** to areas including **reuse activity**, alongside **deeper partnerships** with **public bodies** and a targeted engagement with schools. Plans for an **All-Island Repair Week** are in discussion, reflecting shared environmental goals and growing the repair and reuse movement across Ireland.

Repair Week NI 25 set a groundbreaking moment for sustainability and community led innovation across Northern Ireland. The first of its kind in the region, it also highlighted **Northern Ireland as important partner in the growing European repair movement**. Strongly delivered by NIRN, this pioneering pilot not only showcased the power of repair to reduce waste and extend the lifespan of products, it also demonstrated the potential to inspire wider policy change and grassroots action across Europe. **Neva Nahtigal, Director at RREUSE**, commended NIRN for its leadership and vision, highlighting the organisation’s role in elevating the repair agenda and building strong political and community support:

“You’re a real inspiration with how you’re managing to drive these efforts and always taking the conversation to the next level. And great to see the continuous engagement and support of Minister Andrew Muir! Keep up the great work, Eimear Montague and everyone else at NIRN – Northern Ireland Resources Network! We’re lucky to have you in our network.”

Highlights of Repair Week NI 25

59 events took place throughout NI

52 happened with the support of RWNI25

Across 9 council areas

200+ hours of repair events / workshops

400+ items repaired

Skills shared with 426 people (in person)

Environmental Impact of Repair knowledge share -8087

413 people involved in hosting / facilitating events

1.7k+ people attended events in person

8.6k+ people viewed NIRN digital content (videos / podcasts / webinar)

37+ tonnes of CO2e saved

12+ tonnes of waste diverted from landfill

Tonnes of waste diverted from landfill (using WRAP's displacement rate)

During RWNI25, 401 items were repaired and 427 had the potential to be repaired through skill share.

Based on WRAP's Displacement Rates Untangled Report, this equates to

12.37 tonnes

of waste being diverted from landfill

For every five items repaired, four new purchases are avoided, resulting in a displacement rate of 82.2% (WRAP)

See Appendix B

[View report here](#)

RWNI25 -carbon benefits of Items repaired

During Repair Week NI 2025, **401** items were repaired (across textiles, furniture, bikes and electricals).

This equates to **saving** approximately:

20.5 tonnes of CO₂e

(See Appendix A)

RWNI25 – carbon benefits of repair skills shared (scenario)

During Repair Week NI 25, 426 people were taught a new repair skill in person (across textiles, furniture, bikes and electricals).

With this new skill, If each of the 426 people repaired (or is now empowered to repair) 1 item instead of replacing it with a new one, this equates to **saving** approximately:

16.8 tonnes of CO₂e

(See Appendix A)

What does 37.3 tonnes of CO2e look like?

Appx **37.3 tonnes** of CO2e was saved by repairing items across Textiles, Furniture, Electrical items and Bikes during Repair Week NI 25 (through actual repair and repair through skill share scenario)

(See Appendix A)



Driving a typical petrol car 5.17 times around the earth



What 1,700 trees absorb in a year



Emissions of 14 average UK homes over a year

NIRN Members who took part in Repair Week NI 25:



NIRN Council Members where Repair Week NI 25 occurred.



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council



Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSráthá Bán
Derry Cittie & Stràbane
Destrick Council

Ards and
North Down
Borough Council



Belfast
City Council



Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

NIRN Supporters who took part in Repair Week NI 25:



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST



Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Repair Objectives

DAERA is committed to advancing the circular economy, with a **strong emphasis** on waste prevention, **reuse, and repair**. 'Waste Prevention Programme for Northern Ireland – Stopping Waste in its Tracks,' published in July 2020, focuses on reducing waste generation by promoting resource efficiency and sustainable consumption. This programme aligns with the EU Waste Framework Directive's goal of decoupling economic growth from environmental deterioration. [View full report here](#)

Repair Week NI **supports** the objectives of DAERA's **Environmental Improvement Plan**, with key priorities such as **transitioning to a circular economy, reducing waste, and empowering communities**. The initiative aligns with **Strategic Outcome 5** by **promoting reuse and extending the life of goods**, reducing reliance on raw materials. It also reflects **Strategic Outcome 4**, which focuses on **sustainable consumption and behaviour change**. The initiative also addresses DAERA's **emphasis on green skills and education**, as outlined under its **Green Growth goals**. Through workshops and community engagement, the initiative encourages hands-on learning and repair literacy, contributing to a skilled, low-carbon workforce. [View full report here](#)

DAERA has just launched its **Corporate Plan 2025 – 2027 – 'Towards 2050** – Delivering a net zero positive future, supporting sustainable agriculture and thriving rural communities – promoting sustainable production and consumption. [View full report here](#)

Northern Ireland Resources Network (NIRN) Repair Objectives

NIRN is dedicated to promoting **resource efficiency**, focusing on **waste reduction and reuse**. Their **commitment to repair** is part of a **broader effort** to move **towards a circular economy**, where materials and products are kept in use for as long as possible, **reducing waste and conserving resources**. NIRN advocates for repair as a key element of sustainability, recognising that extending the life of products through repair can significantly reduce the environmental impact of manufacturing new goods.

Repair Week NI, the first of its kind across the UK, aligns perfectly with NIRN's objectives by **raising awareness** about the value of **repairing and reusing items**, offering **practical solutions**, and **encouraging local communities** to embrace these sustainable practices. The initiative helps to **strengthen the region's circular economy**, **reduce waste**, and **empower communities**, businesses and individuals to take responsibility for the resources they use.

NIRN ties in with DAERA's long term goals of **encouraging local ownership of waste reduction** and climate impact. Initiatives like the quarterly Local Authority Forum, repair cafes and now RWNI, facilitate ideas exchange, challenges and solutions, and encourage consistency in region wide approaches to reuse and repair and resource efficiency.



Environmental Benefits of Repair – Published Measurements

RWNI25 Categories –
Textiles, Furniture,
Electrical Goods &
Bikes

Impact measurements of repair across the categories...

Textiles

- For every five items repaired, four new purchases are avoided, resulting in a displacement rate of 82.2%. **(WRAP)**
- Repairing a cotton t-shirt instead of buying a new one can save over 7.5 kg CO₂e, equivalent to ironing for 25 hours. **(WRAP)**
- Fixing a hole in a wool jumper can save over 16 kg CO₂e, comparable to keeping a 60W lightbulb on for over 50 days. **(WRAP)**
- Mending a rip in a waterproof jacket can save over 45 kg CO₂e, akin to running nearly 300 washing cycles. **(WRAP)**

Furniture

- According to findings of WRAP and eBay collaboration, through the Circular Change Council, approximately
 - 22 million furniture items discarded annually in UK, with around 20% suitable for reuse.
 - Opting for repaired and reused home furniture instead of purchasing new, households could collectively save £2.37 billion and prevent approximately 62,255 tonnes of carbon emissions.
 - This reduction in emissions is equivalent to removing 28k+ cars from the road for an entire year. **(WRAP)**

Impact measurements of repair across the categories...

Electrical Goods

A one-week analysis at **Brent Fixing Factory** found that nearly **50%** of small electricals brought in for recycling (274 out of 599 items) could have been reused or repaired, rather than discarded. This represents over **700kg** of **avoidable waste** and potential carbon saving of nearly **6 tonnes of CO₂e**, if those items replaced new purchases.

Extrapolated nationwide, this suggests that **30,000 reusable devices** may be **unnecessarily scrapped** every week across the UK, representing a major missed opportunity for environmental and social impact. (**Restart**)

Bikes

European Cyclists' Federation (2011) estimates that manufacturing a new adult bicycle emits between **96 and 240 kg CO₂e**, depending on materials and complexity.

Saving 240 kg CO₂e by repairing a bike instead of buying new is equivalent to:

- Driving 1,300 km (800 miles) in a petrol car
- Over 1 months' worth of an average UK household's carbon footprint
- The energy used to charge a smartphone 30,000 times

Benefits of teaching the skills to repair...

There is growing recognition across the UK and Ireland that **developing repair skills is essential** to support a **circular economy** and **reduce waste**. Multiple reports and initiatives highlight the need to **introduce repair education** into communities, schools, and businesses - not only to extend the life of products but also to build resilience, job opportunities, and environmental awareness.

The Community Repair Network and **The Restart Project** run practical programmes like "Repair Café in the Classroom" and the "Student Repair Revolution," helping young people learn how to fix electronics and textiles while understanding their environmental impact. These initiatives are supported by broader research and academic efforts such as the **MAKERS Project at UWE Bristol**, which connects engineering students with community repair groups and supports co-learning between formal and informal knowledge systems.

At a national level, calls have been made for policy changes and curriculum integration. Reports from WRAP, Green Alliance, and others suggest that repair needs to be supported through vocational training, access to tools and parts, and funding for community repair spaces.

Circular Schools Skills & knowledge share with NIRN

NIRN is actively involved in promoting zero waste practices, particularly in schools, as part of its efforts to establish a Circular Economy and **Zero Waste region** in Northern Ireland. A key initiative is the **"Circular Schools programme,"** which aims to embed Circular Economy principles and actions in schools, educating young people about the Circular Economy and encouraging them to design waste out of their school environment.

Key areas of focus:

- Food & Drink
- Clothes & Textiles
- Plastics & Electrical





Activities - workshops and events delivered across NI council areas

Locations used...

Repair Week NI 25 took place over multiple venues across Northern Ireland. Most events happened at members buildings and community centres.

However, other locations were also used, showing areas for expansion for future Repair Weeks...

Additional Venues -

1 x school

2 x Universities

2 x shopping centres

1 x NI Exhibition Centre

1 x Leisure Centre

1 x Train Station

1 x Library

6 x Online



Derry & Strabane District Council

*"Our favourite outcome from the event was pairing Sue from Tools for Solidarity up with teachers from St Cecilia's so the school is able to avail of much needed machines, materials and also able to plan future workshops which means students will continue to benefit long after the event being finished which is ideal. It was also lovely to see the different generations coming together for such a wonderful environmental message." **Creggan Country Park, Derry***

Belfast City Council



“We got good feedback from those attending, that they really appreciated the chance to attend, to see our premises and find out what we as an organisation do, plus there was great enthusiasm for learning how to fix items, there was a will to repair, not to throw away.”

Belfast Tool Library

Mid Ulster District Council



*“RWNI reinforces the concept of repair and reuse for all items. Its an acceptable practice for high end items such as vehicles where we already have a good repair network. If we can raise the awareness and demand for the repair of items, the networks will follow.” **Mid Ulster Council***

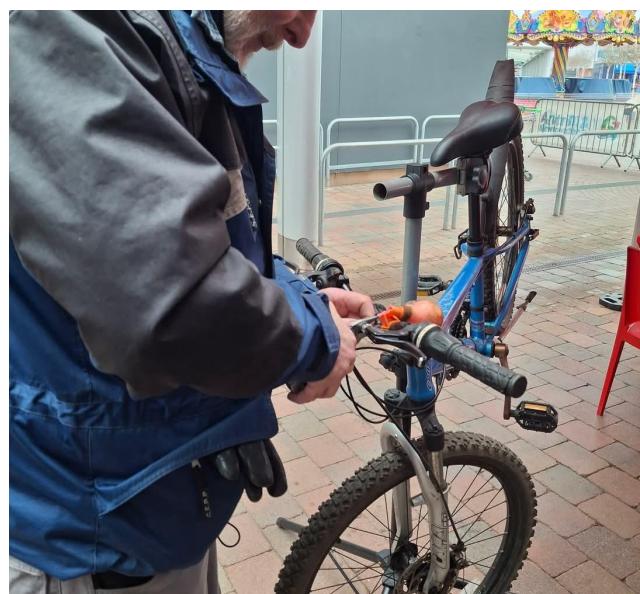
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

*“Bigger and better next year – with a full week of activities! **East Belfast Mission & LCCC***



Antrim & Newtonabbey Borough Council

“...this was a wonderful start to what I would hope would be an annual event. Funding was helpful to secure quality facilitators to make the event even stronger, but I particularly welcomed the support from NIRN to organise the event, for ideas/concepts to be explore, SM Assets and their physical support at the event. Also grateful for the Corporate support from The Junction, Antrim Mgmt Team and Starbucks Antrim. The venue was perfect and a good trial for next year or larger events.” A&NBC





Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon

“The volunteers really enjoyed it. They are very passionate about reducing landfill, so this was the perfect opportunity for them to get involved with another activity within the shop. I think these types of events are growers... the more we do, the more benefits we'll see. SVP would definitely be interested in doing similar again.” SVP

Ards & North Down



"Our fixers loved 'our mini repair cafe' - there was a great buzz and happy folks leaving with fixed items! A big cheer from all when a lady got her food mixer fixed - her husband bought it for her 46 yrs ago!"

Repair Café Bangor



"It (Repair Week NI) raises awareness of repair opportunities in the local area and also raises awareness on the whole repair ethos. It was well received by our residents in AND and we would be happy to support again."

Ards & North Down Council

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

"Yes, the event should be held again. The support, help and funding we received was fantastic in terms of NIRN staff, Deirdre and the social media posts. This made it really easy to organise the event. I don't think we could improve on it." FODC





Causeway Coast & Glens Council

"We think it's great for the local community - another way to meet people and get items fixed. It's also a great opportunity for deaf and hearing people to mix and share their skills."

Hands that Talk

Webinar – ‘Mend Your Ways -Stitching Communities & Businesses Together to Create Successful Repair Models’

MEND YOUR WAYS --- WEBINAR

Stitching communities & businesses together to create successful repair models

Presenter
Louise Cullen
Agriculture & Environment Correspondent - BBC

Guest Speaker
Angeline Murphy
Designer, Textile Artist & Sustainability Advocate

Guest Speaker
Jenny Holloway
Ethical Manufacturing & Skills
Fashion Enter, London

Guest Speaker
Mary Fleming
Founder & CEO, Change Clothes

MONDAY 3RD MARCH 2025, 7 - 8.30PM

NIRN **Repair Week**

As part of Repair Week NI, NIRN successfully hosted a free webinar titled ***Mend Your Ways! Stitching communities and businesses together to create successful repair initiatives.***

The session explored how individuals, communities, and businesses are embedding circular principles into their choices through repair, helping to accelerate much-needed transformation.

Chaired by **BBC NI's Agriculture and Environment Correspondent Louise Cullen**, the webinar brought together leading voices in the repair movement: **Jennifer Holloway, founder of Fashion Enter; Angeline Murphy, designer, repair advocate and former contestant on *The Great British Sewing Bee*; and Mary Fleming, founder of Change Clothes** and recently featured in ***The Irish Times* "50 People to Watch in 2025."** Together, they shared powerful insights on how repair is reshaping sustainable fashion and building the case for circular business models.



Artitude – Climate Culture & Circularity Project

Five short videos were launched throughout RWNI25 to **celebrate the power of repair** – showing how small actions can have a big impact on sustainability, creativity and community. Tying in with **International Women's Day**, the videos also celebrated 5 women behind repairs and sustainable initiatives.

Social media insights between 3rd March and 1st April 2025:

8.5k views across Social Media

Podcasts – Sustainable Conversations

The [**NIRN Podcasts**](#) focus on sharing stories, practical tips, and insights related to reducing waste, promoting a circular economy, and highlighting initiatives across Northern Ireland. The latest podcasts, '**Fixing the Future**' and '**Drowning in Fashion**' have been particularly relevant during Repair Week NI, as they showcase the value of repair and reuse, and how these practices contribute to sustainability.



The Hidden Labor Behind
Your Clothes: A Human Effort



control back
is by stopping
buying the stuff.



Media Coverage

Repair Week NI 2025 received significant media attention across broadcast, print, online, social and local authority platforms. This coverage played a key role in raising awareness, increasing participation, and embedding the message of repair and reuse throughout Northern Ireland.



RWNI25 Media Insights

Newspapers, Radio & Magazines

(Provided by Gray's
Communications)

Reach – 555,533

Visits – 2,734,145

Unique Users – 1,218,569

Print Run – 103,692

Circulation – 80,950

Traditional media coverage...

Print & Online News Media

Several outlets published stories covering both the launch and local events throughout the week:

- The News Letter
- Farming Life
- Derry Now
- Ireland Live
- Strabane Weekly News
- Antrim Guardian
- Northern Ireland World
- Sync NI
- Ulster University News
- Join the Dots Together (Blog)

Local Authority Promotion

Local councils played an active communications role through websites, social media, and press:

- Belfast City Council
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Mid Ulster District Council
- Ards and North Down Borough Council

Broadcast Media

Mark Patterson Show (BBC Radio Foyle)
Featured a live radio interview with Eimear Montague & Deirdre Williams, to promote the week's themes and activities, reaching audiences across the North West.

Spreading the Word: Repair Week NI Featured Across UK, Ireland and European Newsletters

- **NIRN E-newsletter**
- Reached 70+ Stormont Assembly MLA's
- **Promotion – E Newsletters**
 - CRNI
 - RREUSE
 - Rediscovery Centre
 - Climate NI
 - Join the Dots

NIRN NEWSFLASH! Network News & Member Spotlights

Northern Ireland Leads the Way as First UK Region to Host Repair Week (3 - 9 March)





Advocacy – Civic support for Repair Week NI 25

- Minister for DAERA, **Andrew Muir**:
 - Official photo and PR press release
 - Attended Bangor Repair Café during RWNI25

“Recycling is good, but repair is better!” Andrew Muir

[Repair Week NI endorsement - Andrew Muir - watch video here](#)

- Mayor **Neil Kelly**, A&NBC, attended Reuse & Repair day at The Junction Shopping Centre
- Chair of Environment Committee, Councillor **Niall McAleer**, launched the new Bike Reuse Scheme – Mid Ulster

Social Media Coverage

Facebook – 140k+ views / 5685 activities / 705 likes

Instagram - @30k views / 238 activities / 397 likes

LinkedIn - 757 views

X - 2.7k+ impressions

Tik Tok – 6k+ views

Feedback from Members & Supporters



Members Feedback

Why should Repair Week NI happen again?

Enthusiasm for repair skills & local events, with widespread support for more regular opportunities to connect & reduce waste

Platform to engage new audiences, raise awareness, drive a shift away from throwaway culture towards repair & reuse

Sparked a collective movement, uniting organisations & communities to champion repair & sustainability across Northern Ireland

With promotion, RWNI could introduce people to their local repair cafes, encouraging them to return in the future & join the community of repair

Enables community connection, learning, & collaboration, strengthening local networks committed to sustainability and repair

Normalises repair & reuse across all product types, helping to boost awareness and grow demand for repair services and networks

Members Feedback - What support required for next year?

- Early involvement from participants in shaping the event and setting goals would enhance the planning process. Greater collaboration among different repair cafes and outreach to various communities can help create a more unified and impactful event.
- Securing more funding and facilitators, including volunteers like electricians, could help manage the scope of the event. This would also allow for testing new initiatives and expanding offerings.
- Promoting events well in advance and emphasise the need for ongoing education around repair and reuse practices. Consistency and repetition in messaging will help to build awareness and encourage greater participation.
- Strengthen the sustainability of future events by ensuring ongoing support from NIRN, and public sectors. Building stronger relationships with elected members and local communities will be crucial for securing long-term engagement.



Members Feedback - What support would be required for next year (continued)

- Ensure sufficient time for preparation, allowing members to organise and commit to event details well in advance. A longer planning period would help improve the overall coordination of activities.
- Coordinate with other members to avoid scheduling conflicts. This could include gathering all members in one area or venue for a "mega size" event, possibly under a local authority venue, to consolidate resources and participation.
- Consider charging for attendance to help ensure that attendees are committed. Using platforms like Eventbrite could also help track attendance and manage catering needs, reducing food waste.
- Plan events with more variety, especially when multiple similar events (e.g., textile repair) are already planned in the area. Members can collaborate at the beginning of the process to brainstorm and design a more diverse range of activities to attract different audiences.

Recommendations for RWNI 2026

-  Planning & Preparation - allocate more time for campaign planning. Develop structured timelines to support deeper engagement with: Councils, Businesses, Educational institutions, Member organisations
-  Increase scope - expand the focus beyond four product categories to include areas such as – Reuse, Construction, food.
-  Increase political & civic support - Continue engaging political leaders and civic figures to raise visibility. Use this engagement as a model for best practice across the UK
-  Strengthen Collaborations - partner with additional public bodies such as NI Libraries, National Museums Northern Ireland, Housing Executive etc...
-  Develop targeted promotion strategies for - Schools and colleges, Local networks and communities

Recommendations for RWNI 2026 (continued)



Host events in everyday spaces such as – cafes, parks, pubs, supermarkets, leisure centres, train stations, more Libraries...



Celebrate success by introducing a high profile, end of week event to celebrate the campaign achievements, reflect on successes and build momentum for future campaigns



Collaboration. Maintain and strengthen shared planning and communication with other regions. Suggest face-to-face follow-up meetings to enhance national



Pursue All-Island Strategy - explore collaboration with counterparts in the Republic of Ireland. Aim for an all-island Repair Week reflecting shared environmental values



Share learnings on European scale – reach out to European partners and organise collaborations

Long Term Ambitions for Repair Week



RWNI become an annual event to celebrate the integration of repair into everyday life and becoming normal practice



An All-Island Repair Week



Repair activity happening across multiple spaces outside of member locations



Publicity around repair will increase and enter mainstream media

Appendices...

Appendix A – Calculations for total CO2e savings across RWNI25

	Types of items repaired	CO2e savings in KG per item	Average	Items repaired	KG of CO2e saved	Tonnes	Skills shared (to prevent one new purchase)	KG of CO2 saved	Tonnes	Total KG of CO2e saved	Total Tonnes of CO2e saved
Textiles	T Shirt	7.5	22.83	273	6232.59	6.2	323	7374.09	7.4	13606.68	13.60668
	Woolly Jumper	16									
	Raincoat	45									
Bikes	Type 1 (least)	174	207	61	12627	12.6	38	7866	7.9	20493	20.493
	Type2 (most)	240									
Furniture	Desk	12.7	26.23	30	786.9	0.8	28	734.44	0.7	1521.34	1.52134
	Bookcase	18									
	Wooden Filing Cabinet	48									
Electrical items	General	21.89	21.89	37	809.93	0.8	37	809.93	0.8	1619.86	1.61986
				401	20456.42	20.5	426	16784.46	16.8	37240.88	37.24088

Appendix B – Calculations for tonnes of waste diverted from landfill (using WRAP's displacement rate)

	Types of items repaired	Weight in grams	Average	Items repaired	Knowledge share	Diverted from landfill - grams	Diverted from landfill - tonnes	Multiplied by 82.2% (WRAP displacement rate)
Textiles	T Shirt	250	1150.00	273	323	685400	0.7	1.25
	Woolly Jumper	1200						
	Raincoat	2000						
Bikes	Type 1 (least)	8000	14000.00	61	38	1386000	1.4	2.53
	Type2 (most)	20000						
Furniture	Desk	70000	75000.00	30	28	4350000	4.4	7.93
	Bookcase	80000						
	Wooden Filing Cabinet	30000						
Electrical items	General	5000	5000.00	37	37	370000	0.4	0.67
				401	426	6791400	6.8	12.37