Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

#ReuseRepairRecycle

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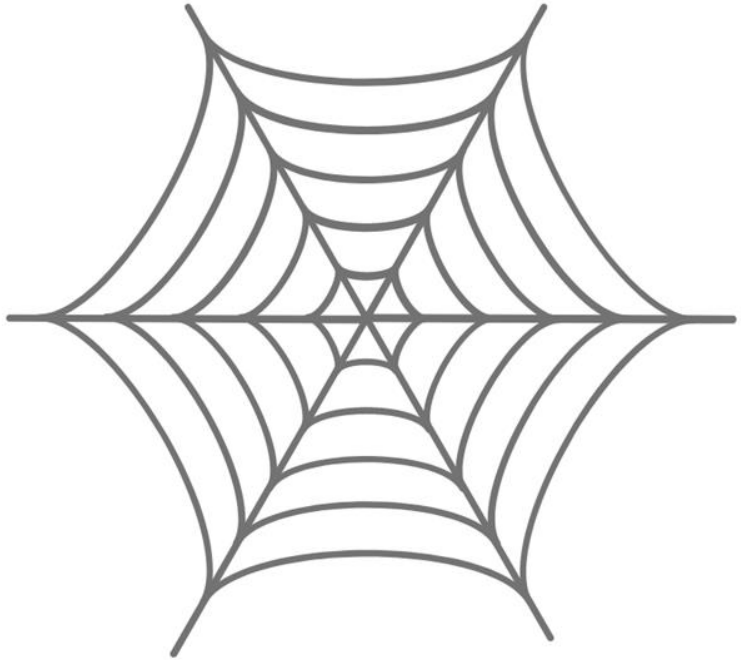
Reuse Repair Recycle



What is a network?

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1.Support

2.Mainstream

3.Bolster

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Collaboration

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Networking

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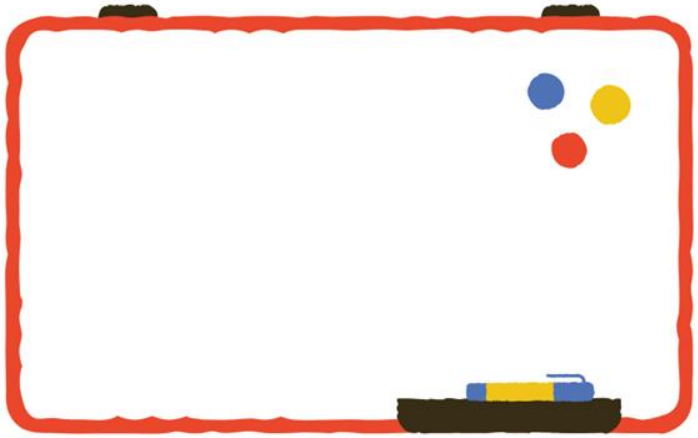

Training

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Research

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Policy

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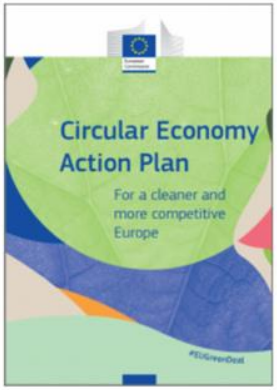

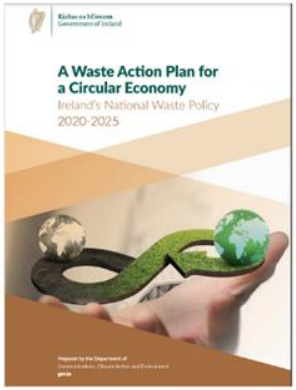

Circular Economy Bill 2022

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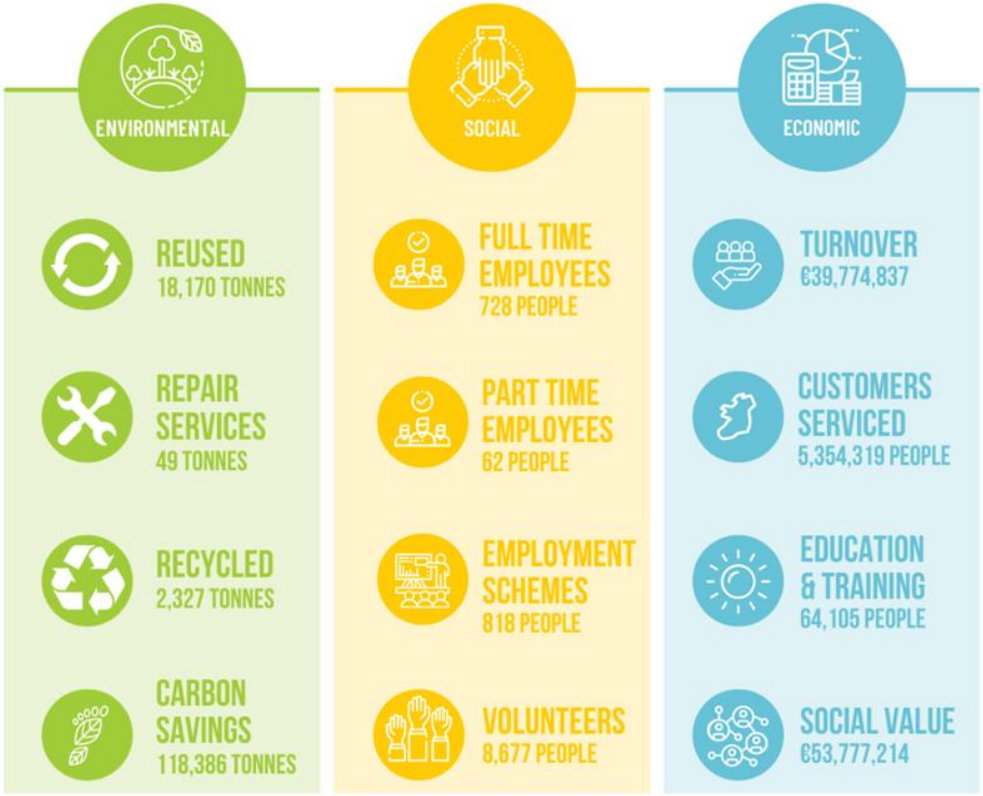
Member Metrics 2020



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Q2Reuse

Qualifying & Quantifying the Reuse Sector

Reuse In Ireland

epaResearch
Climate · Water · Sustainability

What is reuse?

Reuse is taking a product that someone is finished with and reusing it for the same purpose as it was used before e.g. when clothes are given to a charity shop.

Why reuse is important?

Reuse is really important because it keeps all the resources involved in making a product in use and prevents waste, helping with climate action.

It reduces demand for new products and counters the dominant culture of quick consumption and obsolescence.

Reuse contributes to local jobs, the national economy and our international commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals **(SDGs)**.

Why measure reuse?

Recent European legislation aims to strengthen reuse in all Member States and have EU countries measure reuse with the option of setting national targets in the future. By gathering information on the scale and size of the reuse sector in Ireland, we can benchmark and compare our reuse sector against other Member States and regions.

This in turn will allow us to figure out ways to improve it for all (practitioners, users, volunteers, etc.).

It will also provide a picture of the scale of reuse which can be compared to overall material flows, consumption rates, waste arisings and rates of recovery and recycling.

The benefits of reuse

There are significant benefits of materials being reused, as their life cycles are extended.

It avoids the environmental impacts of producing new products. That includes the impacts of resource extraction, manufacturing, and transport, involved in making replacement products.

The management of waste is avoided and less energy is used for reuse than for recycling.

Reuse needs no extra resources (other than the effort of getting the stuff to the next person).

Reuse figures in Ireland

The Community Resources Network Ireland (CRNI) estimated the level of reuse in 2018 based on feedback from its members, who manage a lot of the formal reuse in Ireland.

23,190 tonnes of goods get reused in Ireland p.a representing less than 1% of the total municipal waste generated.

This equates to **4.8kg** reused per person.

In total at least **220,000** tonnes of carbon are saved thanks to reuse (a considerable underestimate). This is the same as planting over 36 million trees.

670 full time equivalent jobs and **1,600** training positions nationally.

5,860 volunteers.

€39 million social impact value of above jobs & training positions.

€69 million turnover.

This project is funded under the EPA Research Programme 2014-2020. The EPA Research Programme is a Government of Ireland initiative funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

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CRNI
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Power of networks!

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Thank you

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