



Northern Ireland Resources Network (NIRN) Membership Policy

NIRN is the representative body for reuse and repair organisations and local authorities across Northern Ireland. Our core purpose is to promote sustainable reuse and repair as practical, effective solutions to reducing waste generation. To develop and grow the reuse and repair sector, NIRN focuses on education and awareness-raising, member support, removing barriers to reuse, policy advocacy and research, and promoting funding opportunities.

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Membership Support

Funding

NIRN engages with government departments and funding bodies to develop, promote, and share funding opportunities, as well as to support the development of training and funding roadmaps for the sector.

Policy and Lobbying

NIRN works closely with members to identify key policy issues and to develop and deliver coordinated lobbying activity. Members benefit from NIRN acting as a single point of contact with policymakers, as well as providing links to similar networks across the UK, Ireland, and Europe.

Representation and Reporting

NIRN acts as the recognised authority on reuse and repair in Northern Ireland, providing a single reporting mechanism for reuse and repair organisations to relevant bodies.

Promotion and Awareness Raising

NIRN promotes sustainable resource management, including reuse and repair, through major awareness-raising campaigns and projects at local and national levels. This is supported through our website, social media channels, newsletters, and participation in conferences and events.

Networking Events

Members are offered regular opportunities to attend meetings, focus groups, conferences, and events at national level, as well as opportunities to present, deliver workshops, and share best practice at sector events.

Training and Knowledge Sharing

NIRN provides training and networking opportunities in collaboration with similar organisations, enabling knowledge exchange and exploring opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

Measurement and Reporting

In collaboration with policymakers and members, NIRN works to develop a single measurement and reporting framework for reuse and repair. This framework supports evidence-based policy, promotes the sector, and demonstrates impact.

Research and Innovation

NIRN supports and participates in research that addresses key barriers facing the reuse and repair sector and identifies new business and growth opportunities.

Membership types

There are three main classes of members:

I. Full Members

Any social enterprise, constituted organisation, community organisation or umbrella group representing the same, registered in Northern Ireland, that operates reuse and repair activities for the benefit of the community and the protection of the natural environment.

II. Affiliate Members

- Local authorities and statutory bodies.

III. Supporter Members

- Individuals and organisations that actively encourage, promote, or enable reuse and repair activities, even if reuse and repair is not their core business. This includes networks, community groups, advocates, and organisations that support the protection of the natural environment and/or wellbeing through awareness-raising, collaboration, or practical support for reuse and repair initiatives **

Third level institutions who offer courses in the Circular Economy and/or Sustainability who are keen to engage their students and collaborate on projects to understand and develop the reuse and repair market.

- Reciprocal Members including national and international networks who promote sustainable development or social value.

Other Membership classes

Other Memberships, including the appointment of honorary members, may be made at the discretion of the NIRN Board. The NIRN Board will determine who will be responsible for the approval of membership type on the basis of meeting the above criteria and information submitted.

Membership Benefits

All members receive:

- Promotion and Visibility
 - Promotion through NIRN-led awareness campaigns, social media platforms, newsletters, and other communication channels.
- Networking and Engagement
 - Invitations to participate in a range of network meetings and structured networking opportunities with peers, policymakers, and sector partners.
- Events, Conferences and Projects
 - Opportunities to attend and participate in conferences, events, and funded research projects, including attendance at the NIRN Annual Conference.
- Online Presence
 - A dedicated listing on the NIRN website, increasing organisational visibility and credibility within the reuse and repair sector.
- Regular Updates and Funding Intelligence
 - Monthly internal and external newsletters featuring funding opportunities, policy updates, sector news, and upcoming events.

Additional Full Membership benefit:

- Advocacy to key central and local government and funders, representing member priorities at policy and decision-making level
- Opportunities for members to feed directly into consultation responses and shape sector policy
- Representation of member views in strategic working groups and advisory forums
- One-to-one support provided by NIRN staff
- Access to the Circular Resources Library, facilitating structured peer-to-peer mentoring across NIRN's membership
- Peer-to-peer learning, signposting and resource sharing across the member network
- Online and in-person training, webinars and focus groups
- Attendance at NIRN networking events
- Access to online and in-person events via national and international networks, including Community Resources Network Ireland and RREUSE

- Facilitation of cross-border and international collaboration through existing networks
- Promotion of member events and activities through NIRN social media channels
- Amplification of member success stories and case studies
- Free professional photography session to support high-quality communications and promotional materials

Membership Criteria

All applicants applying for membership must :

- i) Operate in Northern Ireland
- ii) Satisfy the network as to their professional ability as practicing community-based reuse and repair activities
- iii) Operate to all relevant environmental, financial and other legislation relevant to the sector
- iv) Agree to the NIRN's code of conduct (see below)
- v) Agree to complete NIRN's annual survey of reuse and repair metrics to facilitate reporting on impact
- vi) Make an application in the prescribed NIRN form

An eligible organisation that is approved for membership will become a member on payment of the annual membership fee. NB: Full and Affiliate members will receive free membership for the first year (1st April - 31st March)

Membership is terminated if the member organisation concerned:

- Gives written notice of resignation to the association
- Fails to pay the annual subscription within the allocated time (by end March of the year in question)
- Conducts any activity that may be harmful to the network or results in it being brought into disrepute

If a full member ceases to operate as a not-for-profit organisation, the membership category will be reviewed. Membership of the network is not transferable.

Membership Fees

Type	Member Category	Fee
Full	Social enterprise, constituted organisation, community organisation or umbrella group representing the same, registered in Northern Ireland	*£50
Affiliate	Local Council in Northern Ireland	*£400
Supporter	Individuals and organisations that actively encourage, promote, or enable reuse and repair activities**	£400
Supporter	Third level institutions who offer courses in the Circular Economy and/or Sustainability	£400
Supporter	National Networks	None if reciprocal membership or TBA by board
*Full and Affiliate members will receive free membership for their first year - All new members will be invoiced on the 1st of April following their 1st free year.		

***Please note. All membership approvals are at the discretion of the NIRN Board and the decision is final.**

NIRN Membership Code of Conduct

All members are expected to:

- Support NIRN's mission and objectives and actively promote them
- Demonstrate a commitment to the principles of the Circular Economy, with particular focus on the Circular Economy Waste Hierarchy and waste prevention through reuse and repair
- Provide annual metrics to NIRN, including environmental, social and economic outputs, where reasonably practicable
- Share knowledge and collaborate constructively with NIRN and its members
- Strive to be well governed and effectively managed organisations
- Declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest as soon as they arise

- Respect organisational and individual confidentiality
- Seek to operate in a sustainable, ethical and transparent manner
- Support the creation of local employment and volunteering opportunities, where possible

NIRN reserves the right to review, suspend or revoke membership where an organisation is found to be in breach of this Code of Conduct or where continued membership may bring the network into disrepute.

Declaration

I confirm that I am authorised to apply for membership on behalf of the above organisation and agree to adhere to the NIRN Membership Code of Conduct.