



Launch of Flagship Reuse Centre

The Rediscovery Centre officially launched the WISER LIFE Project on Monday 14th March, as the sod was turned at the Ballymun Boiler House site. The Rediscovery Centre is a social enterprise providing community employment and training via innovative reuse enterprises. The project will see a €3.6M transformation of the iconic building into a '3-D textbook', which will demonstrate excellence for reuse in Ireland and serve as a platform to advocate for the circular economy.

The plan for the building involves its reinvention as an innovative learning space showcasing best practice eco-design, construction and material use. The building will be constructed using reused and recycled materials, with energy and water systems designed to conserve resources and demonstrate the latest research. The centre will deliver environmental workshops and education programmes for all ages and provide green services and products created on-site by waste reuse eco-enterprises.

The project has been funded by the EU LIFE+ Programme, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Dublin City Council and The Rediscovery Centre. ABK Architects, who have considerable experience in sustainable development, was awarded the design contract and Purcell Construction awarded the construction contract. The project is due for completion in October 2016.



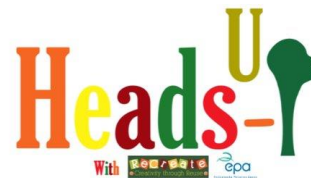
Ready steady launch! Top from left CEO of The Rediscovery Centre Sarah Miller, Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Noeleen Reilly, Chief Executive Dublin City Council Owen Keegan, Chairman of The Rediscovery Centre Ciaran Murray and SEO Dublin City Council Helen McNamara. Bottom: image of finished boilerhouse



Our Vision

An Ireland where the word 'Waste' doesn't exist and where our entire community benefits from the social, environmental and economic value of all reusable resources.

Community Reuse Network Ireland
The Eco Store, 1-2 The Turnpike
Santry Cross, Ballymun, D11
www.cрни.ie
E: communityreusenetwork@gmail.com
P: 087 173 5184
Charity No. CHY 19637



ReCreate are proud to announce their new project 'Heads Up' 2016. This exciting programme aims to demonstrate the benefits of creativity through the reuse of ReCreate materials in 18 inclusive educational settings.

Pre-school, primary, post-primary and community groups with a focus on those catering for special needs children, youths or adults are all invited to apply for the opportunity to be a part of this ground breaking campaign. "Heads Up" will be a fresh, fun addition to whichever lucky settings are chosen, providing up to 16 hours contact time with ReCreate artists.

The project will take place between March and October of this year in the Leinster area. Anyone interested in applying should contact info@recreate.ie

What's in a definition?

RREUSE, the European reuse network, has raised a number of concerns about the proposed Circular Economy legislative package. Some of the key issues raised are around the definition of reuse.

At present many reuse activities (e.g. charity shops, upcycling, online exchanges) fall under the “waste prevention” tier of the waste hierarchy and are not subject to waste legislation. Only “preparation for reuse” (e.g. household appliance repair) is considered to be a waste activity and requires permits.

The unclear definitions in the new Circular Economy legislative package could, according to RREUSE, lead to unintended consequences and regulatory burden for all second hand operators. This could have a significant and negative impact on the reuse sector. Instead, RREUSE is proposing to retain the definitions in the Waste Framework Directive and include a new definition for “preparation for reuse” facilities.

Other changes proposed by RREUSE include further measures to support independent repair operators; separate quantitative targets for reuse by 2018 and ensuring social clauses are included in procurement. These proposals have been submitted to the Commission for the next round of discussions.

Scotland launches Circular Economy Strategy

Scotland has unveiled its first circular economy strategy, entitled ‘Making things last’. This exciting and ambitious paper sets out in detail the vision and measures that will be taken. These include, amongst other things:

- **Supporting reuse**, by involving Scotland's enterprise agencies, trialing large scale reuse and repair hubs, improving the capture of items for reuse, clarifying regulations on reuse, working with local authorities on procurement, and building on Scottish reuse standard Revolve
- **Empowering Scotland's repair sector**, by creating a repair-finding service, expanding repair skills and engaging more companies in repair
- **Establishing new producer responsibility schemes** for furniture and mattresses
- **Supporting behavioural change** including through support of community based initiatives.

For more information, see [here](#).

Reuse in Numbers - 2015

CRNI members in 2015 achieved these impressive results:



27,300 tonnes reuse
11,680 tonnes recycling



694 jobs
7675 training opportunities



Over €63,000,000 turnover

The CRNI annual report for 2015 is now available on request.

Upcoming events

14th April: Green Awards event, Double Tree Hilton Hotel, Dublin. Good luck to CRNI members Rediscovery Centre and FreeTrade Ireland who have been nominated for awards!

21st April: Chartered Institute of Waste Management Circular Economy event, Red Cow Hotel, Dublin. CRNI will be presenting on reuse and the Circular Economy.

26 - 27 April: Furniture Reuse Network Conference “Reuse for a better future”, Daventry, UK

24 - 25 May: The Wheel National Conference and expo for the Community & Voluntary Sector, Croke Park, Dublin

2 - 6 June: BLOOM Festival, Phoenix Park, Dublin – come along and talk to us in the Conservation area.

Reuse Web Watch

Twitter: For inspiration about what can be achieved in reuse and repair – see [@ZeroWasteScot](#)

Website: Have you been onto the Ifixit website yet? It now contains 19,297 free repair manuals to help you fix anything at all. Click [here](#) to find it.

Blog: RecycleIT has an excellent blog covering recycling toys, computer recycling, planting trees in old washing machine tubs and much more... [here](#).

“It is the choices made by consumers – the public – that will ultimately determine success” – Richard Lochhead

Rust Never Sleeps ... how reuse came to the EPA

The EPA recently engaged in a nice example of practicing what they preach. A couple of vans that were rusting away on the car park at EPA Richview were bought back to life, and went on to live second lives in the service of a couple of very worthy charities.

One Ford Transit van with failed clutch and a Mercedes Vito van with out-of-date tax, insurance and DOE were rescued from their car park resting places. Both vans needed a significant amount of work, as much due to their time laid up on the car park as anything else, but then, "like two mighty automotive phoenixes, they rose from the ashes of despair to the sunlit uplands of new hope".



Transit rescue! One of two vans rescued from EPA carpark for repair and donation to Boomerang and Bia

There was a great deal of interest from charities in these vans and in the end they were donated to Boomerang (Ford Transit) and Bia Food Initiative (Mercedes Vito).

The Vito is already hard at work for Bia Food Initiative. Aoibheann O'Brien from Bia wrote "Writing from our Galway depot, drove the EPA van down here this morning with a load of ambient goods, as I have been doing the last couple of weeks. It has been invaluable so far, we are using it to collecting and delivering donations of fruit from Keelings, saving our chilled van for when it is needed and also to divert stock in Dublin down to our Galway depot which is slowly building momentum. The guys here are very impressed by my van driving skills and think the white van is very hipster!"

Congratulations to the EPA for this excellent demonstration of reuse!



An Taoiseach presents award to Executive Director of ReCreate Dara Connolly (middle right) at Social Innovation Ireland Awards 2015/6

CRNI member awards

2016 has already been a very successful year for CRNI members.

In January, ReCreate were one of the awardees of the inaugural Animate program from The Social Innovation Fund Ireland 2015/16. ReCreate is a social enterprise that takes end-of-line and surplus stock from businesses and reuses them as arts materials. The Animate Programme supports early stage innovations, projects, or organisations to get to the next stage of their development. ReCreate was listed as one of the top 4 innovative Social Enterprises in Ireland in 2015.

In February, Boomerang Mattress was awarded 3rd Prize in the Get Involved Awards. Boomerang is a social enterprise based in Cork that deconstructs post-consumer mattresses in order to divert for reuse and/or recycling. Get Involved is a sustainable communities initiative developed by 51 local newspapers throughout Ireland, with a total prize fund of €12,500 supported by SEAI and Clann Credo.

Finally, the Rediscovery Centre & FreeTrade have been nominated for the Green Awards. These annual awards celebrate those who have contributed to Ireland's success in the sector. The Rediscovery Centre has been nominated for the Green NGO category. FreeTrade, a free public online exchange of goods, has been nominated for the Green Technology category. Awards will be decided on the 14th April. We wish them the very best of luck at this event.

CRNI would like to congratulate these members on their achievements and welcomes the important recognition that awards bring to the reuse sector. Next stop: [The Circulars!](#)

CRNI Network News

Spring 2016

New Network Coordinator for CRNI

We are delighted to announce CRNI has a new Network Coordinator, Claire Downey, who took over from Dr Joanne Rourke in February 2016. Claire has over 10 years of experience in the waste sector and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management. She has extensive experience of working in the community sector on projects including repair cafes. Her particular expertise lies in waste policy and legislation, communications and project management.

Ghent Network Meeting

In March, CRNI attended the European reuse network (RREUSE) meeting in Ghent, Belgium. Key issues for discussion included proposals for the Circular Economy package (see page 2) and proposed standards for WEEE preparation for reuse. Attendees also met with the Ghent municipality, a strong supporter of social enterprise, with Bosch / Siemens regarding potential partnerships and went on site tours of repair and textile reuse centres.

Textile conference in Soissons

In December 2015, CRNI member the Irish Charity Shops Association (ICSA) attended the 2nd International Textile Conference in Soissons organised by RREUSE. The event focused on the role of social economy actors in the management of used textiles. Around 60 participants from 14 different countries attended. Key issues addressed included the falling purchase price for collected textiles, the textile producer responsibility scheme in France, the legal position of reused textile in Flanders and in Europe, and the potential implications of the recently published Circular Economy Package on the sector.

Re-news from CRNI



Upcycle Challenge 2016

CRNI members The Upcycle Movement and FreeTrade Ireland have collaborated to run the #UpcycleChallenge16. This is a Nationwide competition to find Ireland's Upcycling Champion. The winner will receive €500 thanks to the generous support of the EPA. To enter, competitors must find items on the FreeTrade [website](#) and upcycle them into something new on the theme of 'Interiors or Exteriors'. The end product must be min 80% upcycled materials. Entries must be in by 24th June to [this](#) address.

Camara Education

Camara Education is a non-profit international organisation dedicated to using technology to improve education and livelihood skills in disadvantaged communities around the world. This year, Camara expects to involve over 25,000 young people across Ireland in its LearnStorm project, a free, 9-week maths challenge designed to build confidence and competence in maths. For more information, see [here](#).

Circular Economy in the news

On the 26th March, the Irish Times featured a piece on the Circular Economy package, showing how social enterprises and big business are engaging in its principles. A special mention was given to CRNI member the Rediscovery Centre. See [here](#) for the full article.

Rebox and the SMILE Exchange

SMILE Resource Exchange provides a free platform for businesses to connect and identify synergies where a waste in one business can be a resource in another. The video [here](#) shows how SMILE has helped an eco-friendly family business secure unwanted cardboard boxes from many other SMILE members. Rebox Recycling remanufacture the boxes into custom sized boxes for their clients. This is a great example of a closed loop Circular Economy.

Some of the resources currently on offer on the SMILE Exchange include corrugated cartons, natural timber trimming, polyethylene shavings and insulation sheets. Click [here](#) to see all resources on offer or wanted.

Developing Reuse Guidelines

The Rediscovery Centre is currently finalising its *Development of a Material Reuse Protocol*, an EPA funded research project that will see guidelines developed on the reuse of post-consumer goods (e.g. furniture, bicycles, textiles) and post-manufacturing goods (e.g. surplus food).

These guidelines will bring together international good practice, legislative requirements, and experience from Irish reuse organisations and charities. They will cover the steps to be considered when reusing materials, practical information about determining whether an item is suitable for reuse, and points about general operations and procedures. In addition to the guidelines for specific goods or material streams, the Rediscovery Centre is also developing a *High Level Material Reuse Guide for Reuse Organisations and Irish Consumers*.

Reuse practitioners can look forward to these guidelines being available shortly.