



# 2016 End of Year Report

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## Executive Summary

This document offers some background on CRNI and summarises the network's main activities which took place during 2016.

The CRNI work plan is formulated in conjunction with the CRNI Board and is based on our five year strategy (2014-2018 inclusive) which envisages CRNI as a significant and influential stakeholder in resource efficiency, waste management, social enterprise and job creation discussions in Ireland.

The aims of the network are set out its current 5-year strategy as:

- Promotion of reuse
- Support for members
- Communication – internal and external
- Membership drive
- Policy input
- Research (including market research)
- Networking and Links (including European links)

2016 was another important year in raising the organisation's profile at a national level.



The promotion of reuse is a core function of the network and opportunities to present and/or exhibit were availed of at events such as Bloom in the Park, Electric Picnic, DJEI's CSR Forum and the National Waste Summit. The revamping of the CRNI website, the regular publication of a members-only newsletter and a quarterly bulletin to subscribers all helped to raise the profile of the organisation.

The first Reuse Month, which took place in October arranged by the three regional waste authorities, saw much cooperation and involvement by both CRNI and its members in events nationwide.

In continuing to support its members and deliver value for their participation in the network, CRNI held four network meetings, one of which focused on how to access funding. 2016 saw visits made to all members nationwide by the newly-appointed co-ordinator and many of our members were award winners in various environmental and social competitions. We also revamped the website, in part to better showcase individual members and their activities. Two new organisations joined the network but 2016 was a mixed year which also saw the departure of three other members; two member business ceased to trade or found they could not afford membership, the other business is now being run by its founder from Australia.

The latter half of the year saw us take a more strategic approach to the use of social media and in so doing, followers and connections on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook had all increased by year end.

The biennial conference also took place during the year and the organisation involved in putting together this event was well rewarded with excellent attendance and feedback.

Policy initiatives continued in 2016 with the publication and dissemination of a white Policy Paper, and follow-up meetings with various Department and other officials.

Research is key to informing and developing the reuse sector. An application for funding a project to examine the feasibility and potential brand value of a Quality Mark for reused goods was successful and the recruitment process has commenced. Confirmation was also received of funding for an EU-wide creative reuse project with which CRNI has been invited to collaborate.

Finally, in order to maintain its position as a leading stakeholder in both the resource efficiency and social enterprise sector, CRNI continued its work both on the National Waste Prevention Committee and on its Strategic Reflection Group. CRNI also maintained its membership of the board of the European RREUSE Network, providing us and our members with insights and opportunities for consultation on the Circular Economy Package.

## Community Reuse Network Ireland

The Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI) is the all-Ireland representative body for community-based reuse, recycling and waste prevention organisations. Since its inception in 2010, the organisation has supported its members and encouraged growth in the sector. With funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, CRNI has grown its membership base, fostered close links with EU and UK reuse networks, organised reuse conferences and participated in a myriad of workshops and seminars.

CRNI has a broad mandate with environmental, social and economic considerations within its remit. CRNI's environmental activities include the promotion of creative reuse where pre-loved items are up-cycled, re-designed and prepared for reuse. On a daily basis, the network members work to divert used items from landfill and to foster more sustainable use of resources. As CRNI works primarily with social enterprise organisations, a key function of the network is to communicate the importance of the reuse and recycling sectors in creating employment within a community and their role in providing training and upskilling opportunities. CRNI members help to prevent the marginalisation of unemployed people and so enhance the wellbeing of both individuals and the communities in which they live.



As CRNI is the only reuse network operating within Ireland, it has, along with its members, the potential to play a unique and valuable role in the development of resource efficiency and circular economy initiatives at both local and national levels. The growing importance of the reuse concept at both societal and political levels, offers exciting opportunities that CRNI intends to capitalise on in the next five years. The wealth of experience and the broad range of reuse and recycling expertise encompassed within the network, together with the links that CRNI has developed internationally through its involvement in the European RREUSE network, means that CRNI has the capacity to be an influential stakeholder in policy discussions and decisions in environment, enterprise and social protection areas. CRNI is in an excellent position to conduct research about reuse issues within the Irish context, both on its own and within collaborative research partnerships.

### Why Reuse and Recycle?

At CRNI, we don't look at used items and think waste – we think materials! Reusing and recycling items means we waste less, save more money, resources and energy to make a more sustainable world. Reuse also provides local jobs and boosts local economies. Both reuse and recycling are defined under EU waste legislation. Reuse is defined as *any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived*, while recycling is defined as *the reprocessing in a production process of the waste materials for the original purpose or for other purposes including organic recycling (excluding energy recovery)*.

### Social Benefits

- Provision of employment and training
- Prevention of social exclusion
- Building of skills, confidence and self esteem for individuals and communities
- Provision of low-cost purchase option for household goods

### Economic Benefits

- Job creation, particularly for long term unemployed people
- Injection of revenue into local economy and community
- Fostering sustainable long-term local businesses
- Generating economic activity in deprived communities
- Building a local repair trade

### Environmental Benefits

- Conserving resources and materials
- Diverting waste from landfill
- Increase in reuse and recycling
- Decrease in carbon emissions

## CRNI Vision and Aim

CRNI members are actively involved in gathering, preparing, exchanging or selling reusable items. A wide range of reuse items and recycling processes are represented within the membership of the network including the reuse of textiles, furniture, WEEE, paint, art materials, mattresses and bicycles. In addition, CRNI members facilitate the reuse of a broad range of items, both between businesses and individuals.

The CRNI vision, aims and objectives have been constructed in conjunction with the CRNI members, so that all the efforts of the network board and executive are directed towards both the overarching mission of the reuse sector and also the needs of the members as individual organisations.

### **The CRNI 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.

The core strategy areas set out in the CRNI work plan are as follows:

1. Promotion of reuse
2. Support for members
3. Communication
4. Membership drive
5. Policy input
6. Research (including market research)
7. Networking and Links (including European links)



Membership of the network is helpful to member organisations in a number of ways. CRNI is an important conduit between policy makers and reuse practitioners. As a member of the National Waste Prevention Committee (NWPC) and the European Reuse Network (RREUSE), CRNI has a number of channels it can feed into policy at national and European levels. In addition, CRNI is committed to making submissions on policy and legislation relevant to the network members. This includes policy affecting waste management, resource

efficiency, social inclusion and social enterprise.

CRNI members have access to best reuse practice, as well as the latest news and developments, via the links CRNI has forged with international reuse networks. Members can share capacity in many skills areas including communication, retail, running a business etc. In addition, the ethos of the network is that of openness and co-operation and the resultant sharing of information, knowledge and experience is cited by current members as an extremely useful and attractive attribute of CRN membership.

CRNI has an important role in facilitating communication internally between members and also in communicating the message about reuse externally to all stakeholders including policy makers, business, community groups, educators, potential members and the general public. Such communication is multi-faceted, employing a range of channels including traditional and social media, the CRNI newsletter and network meetings. In addition, communication and the promotion of reuse are key aspects of important network activities such as our CRNI conference, presentations to diverse groups and stands at various events. CRNI members also take part in and benefit from network-led Green Enterprise projects such as the QMark project which will commence in early 2017.

## CRNI Membership 2016

Member	Materials/Services
Back2New	Furniture
Boomerang Recycling	Mattress Recycling
Bryson Recycling	Various materials
Busy Bees	Furniture
Camara	WEEE (Electronic Equipment)
Duhallow Revamp	Furniture
Eco Mattress	Mattress Recycling
Environmental Protection Agency	Resource Efficiency Plan
Free Trade Ireland	Online Exchange
Irish Charity Shops Association	Charity Shops umbrella group
ReCreate Ireland	Pre-waste Art Materials
Recycle IT	WEEE
The Rediscovery Centre	Furniture, Textiles, Bikes, Paint
Rehab Recycling	WEEE (IT and White Goods)
Revamp 3R	Furniture
Kingdom Furniture Revamp	Furniture
SMILE Exchange	Online Industrial Symbiosis
Sunflower Recycling	Paper and Plastic Recycling

## The value of reuse: Economic, Environmental and Social

CRN members are committed to providing benefits to the triple bottom line (environment, economic and social). In total in 2016, our members achieved the following:



32,500 t reused  
17,800 t recycled



Supporting 750 jobs  
210 training opportunities  
7,650 volunteer positions



Over €70 million turnover  
Est. €44.7 million  
employment value

Below are just some details of individual member achievements, which demonstrates the value of community reuse and recycling to all three strands.



## Boomerang Enterprises, Cork



In 2016, **Boomerang Enterprises** achieved the following:

- **Diverted 78 tonnes** of metal (85% went for recycling, 15% went for reuse) and **104 tonnes of material**
- **Employed and/or trained 2 people**
- **Took on 1 person** through a labour activation scheme
- **Awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> prize** in Get Involved competition
- **Funding awarded for investment** in capital to expand the business and enhance training opportunities provided

## Bryson Recycling, Belfast & Donegal

In 2016, Bryson Recycling achieved the following:

- Directed **approximately 11,950 tonnes** of WEEE for recycling
- Recycled **approximately 2,200 tonnes** of paper, plastics and polystyrene
- Employed a total of **134 people** of which more than 80 are living with a disability



## Eco Mattress Recycling, Dublin



In 2016 **Eco Mattress recycling** achieved the following:

- **Diverted approximately 285 tonnes of bulky waste.**
- **Facilitated 22 participants** from labour activation schemes.
- **Of the 22 people, 5 full-time and 7 part-time** became employed **staff** during 2016.
- **Saw a large increase in business year on year**

## Free Trade Ireland, online

In 2016, **Free Trade Ireland** achieved the following:

- **Diverted 13,098 items (12.9 tonnes)** from landfill, a 6.45% increase on previous year
- **2.25 million page views**
- **Finalist in the Green Technology Award** category at the Green Awards
- **Upcycle Challenge** attracted more than 80 entries



## Irish Charity Shops Association, nationwide



In 2016, *Irish Charity Shops Association* members achieved (estimated figures) the following:

- **Diverted approximately 22,100 tonnes of textiles** from landfill of which 50% was reused through sale in charity shops, over 30% was sold to textile merchants to be re-used and 17% was re-used and/or repurposed for industrial wipes, flocking, car insulation and roof felt
- Several **hundred tonnes** of bulky items such as books, furniture and household goods were sold
- **Increased membership to 38** registered charities, running **434 shops** in total
- Employed over **550 people** in shops during 2016
- Provided the opportunity for **approximately 7,600 volunteers** to work in charity shops, promoting social inclusivity
- Money raised funded essential community services both in Ireland and abroad

## Rehab Recycling, Dublin

In 2016, Rehab Recycle achieved the following:

- Directed **approximately 11,950 tonnes** of WEEE for recycling
- Recycled **approximately 2,200 tonnes** of paper, plastics and polystyrene
- Employed a total of **134 people** of which more than 80 are living with a disability



## SMILE Exchange, online



In 2016, *SMILE Exchange* achieved the following:

- **Diverted 11,741 tonnes of material** from landfill
- Estimated cost savings to the businesses involved of **€1.9mn**
- Winner in 2016 of the Waste Prevention Business category at the **Pakman Awards** run by **Repak**
- **Technical Consultants** taken on to work in the three waste regional areas

## Recycle IT, Dublin

In 2016, **Recycle IT** achieved the following:

- **Diverted more than 640 tonnes** of WEEE from landfill, directly into recycling
  - Approximately **12,100** people availed of their services during the year
  - Employed **2 people** full-time and a further **19 people** through three labour activation schemes
- Had **1 trainee** move onto full employment



## Revamp 3R, Longford



In 2016, **Revamp 3R** achieved the following:

- **Diverted more than 38 tonnes** of used furniture from landfill, directly into reuse
- Employed **15 people**
- All people employed came through labour activation schemes

## CRNI in 2016

### Organisational Development

In February 2016 a new Network Co-ordinator, Claire Downey, was appointed following the departure of Joanne Rourke at the end of 2015. Claire brings a wealth of experience in the waste management sector to the role, having previously worked for Indaver Ireland. Claire is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management in Ireland.

As Claire went on Maternity Leave in October, a temporary Co-ordinator was appointed, Maeve Thornberry, who will fill the role until Claire's return in May 2017.

In addition to ensuring that the day-to-day requirements of the network were managed, such as finances and budget, social media marketing and governance, a new membership policy and a Staff Handbook were drafted, both of which are due to be approved in early 2017 by the Board.

2016 also saw changes to the Board. Having served for many years, Bernie Walsh of Sunflower Recycling decided to resign from the Board. The Board members would like to express their gratitude to Bernie for her many years of service on the Board to which she brought her expertise and in-depth knowledge of the reuse/recycling industry in Ireland.

Another Board member, Lynn Haughton, was deemed to have resigned from the Board as she is now working in Australia.

The Board is now comprised as follows:

Board Member	Representing	Position
Una Lavelle	RecycleIT	Chairperson
Sarah Miller	The Rediscovery Centre	Secretary
Linda Ward	ICSA	Board Member

In order to meet with good governance and best practice guidelines, it was decided to look for additional Board members, outside of the membership of CRNI. As Boardmatch provides a no-cost service for this purpose, a description of the organisation, together with details of the type of people sought by CRNI to join its board, was posted and several potential matches have been identified. It is the Board's intention to recruit at least two further board members during 2017.

## Strategy Areas

### Promotion of reuse

IN 2016 CRNI continued to raise its profile through the development of innovative outreach initiatives, programmes and events. Some of these events are outlined below.

#### Conference – “Making Reuse and Recycling Happen”

In October, CRNI hosted its biennial conference in Farmleigh House, titled “Making Reuse and Recycling Happen”. With nearly 100 delegates in attendance, the conference programme, of speakers from various reuse and recycling organisations, a keynote address by MEP Lynn Boylan, the premiere of a short film focusing on employees of three CRNI members, a panel discussion and a World Café session, ensured plenty of interaction and engagement. The feedback



received has been extremely positive and it is hoped to host an even bigger event in 2018. A full report on the conference is available on the CRNI website [here](#).

### Exhibits at Bloom, Electric Picnic and National Waste Summit

In June, CRNI was able to exhibit at Bloom, the major garden festival which takes place annually in the Phoenix Park. With more than 115,000 people passing through the exhibition over its 4-day duration, it was a valuable opportunity for CRNI to push the message about reuse and recycling to a wider audience.



During September, CRNI was given the opportunity to exhibit at Electric Picnic, a major outdoor music and arts festival, in Stradbally. With an attendance of more than 50,000 people, from varied backgrounds and interests, it was again a chance for CRNI to forge new connections and build a wider network for reuse.

However, with both these events, it is difficult to quantify the impact of CRNI's presence and how lasting the message about reuse was with attendees. While CRNI was given the space for free, both stands involved a considerable use of resources, with much time spent in preparing for the events and manning the stand for the

duration of the festivals. If CRNI is offered the opportunity to exhibit at one or both of these festivals a different approach would be required to make the investment of resources worthwhile.

In November, CRNI was presented with the chance to exhibit at the Irish Waste Management Conference, which took place in Carton House and was attended by more than 300 delegates. The programme was very interesting as it had a range of both local authority and private sector speakers. While it provided an opportunity for CRNI to chat with many of our stakeholders, there was limited interaction from other attendees so CRNI's attendance at the same event in 2017 will be reviewed.

### Reuse Month



The three Regional Waste Management Offices worked together to initiate Ireland's first Reuse Month, in October. As the national representative body for reuse organisations, CRNI collaborated with the Offices and many of our members took part in activities nationwide, such as upcycling workshops, fashion shows, library talks and radio interviews. CRNI's conference was timed to take place during Reuse Month, together with the visit of European RREUSE members. CRNI also took the opportunity to engage directly with local authority staff and the general public by taking a stand at the Eastern-

Midlands Waste Region Expo in the Dublin City Council Offices at Woodquay. Some of our members were also exhibiting and a number of DCC staff stopped by to have a chat about CRNI and its activities.

### Support for Members

Membership of the network needs to deliver tangible benefits if CRNI is to retain its existing members and encourage new organisations to join. In addition to the network meetings and regular internal newsletter, opportunities for members to present and/or showcase their work are found (this led to many members' involvement during Reuse Month) and prospects for grants/funding are investigated.

CRNI strives to give its members the best possible value for their participation. In 2016, a total of four network meetings were held. These meetings provide valuable opportunities for members to air their views on a range of topics, network with other members and focus on particular areas of interest, such as developments in retail, insurance costs and availability of funding/grants.

Specific topics and areas of interest or concern are also researched as requested by members. In 2016 several members expressed concern at the rising cost of insurance so a workshop, hosted by Campion Insurance, was attended by CRNI. As a follow-up, enquiries were made about the potential for a group scheme to be set-up. Due to the diverse range of business types and sizes this was not deemed feasible; however, the broker advised that they could look at the policies of individual members to see if a better deal could be obtained for some or all of them. This work commenced in late 2016 and will continue into 2017. The broker warned that as Allianz, the largest provider of cover in the recycling industry generally in Ireland, has decided to withdraw from this market, the area of insurance is likely to be one on which CRNI will need to continue to advocate for its members.

During the year, a couple of members advised of difficulties they were encountering in accessing “waste” materials from some large companies. It has happened that certain materials (for example old coffee sacks, gold foil) which have been deemed as unsuitable for use by an Operations team in a company and were ready to donate, could not be collected as the Finance team decided that such material still had a retained value in balance sheet terms. As Accenture in the Netherlands had completed some pro-bono work for a reuse organisation there, CRNI contacted Niamh Smyth, a Technology Consultant in Accenture’s Dublin office to see if some work could be done in this area under their CSR policy. The work is ongoing and should be completed by Q2 2017.

Retail was another area in which some members had expressed an interest, both potential for setting up and managing online and in-store sales. “Working towards establishing a reliable and effective sales channel for reused and recycled items produced by CRNI members” was stated as an objective in the 2016 Workplan. CRNI prepared on paper exploring the various options that might be available, although none of which were likely to be sustainable without some significant investment on the part of the relevant members. The paper was distributed to all members and based on the feedback received, retail is not a priority area for further research during 2017. The newly-opened Rediscovery Centre (RDC) has a retail space and members have been invited to make contact to discuss the display and sale of items directly with RDC.

## Communications

Communication is an important part of the CRNI work programme each year and this includes both external and internal communications.

In 2016 CRNI continued to build its social media presence strategically, using Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook. As each of these mediums attract different audiences it is possible, at very low cost, to continually push the message about reuse and recycling. CRNI finished the year with 750 followers on Twitter, more than 475 connections on LinkedIn and with 200+ “friends” on Facebook. Using these various social media in a targeted manner is a cost-effective way of raising the profile of CRNI and its members.

The CRNI publishes both an internal members-only e-Newsletter (began as fortnightly but now published monthly) and a quarterly e-newsletter to subscribers. The internal newsletter is designed to keep members abreast of developments both within the network and in the wider reuse/recycling industry in Ireland and Europe. The external newsletter is used to ensure that the activities of CRNI and its members are highlighted to stakeholders and other interested parties on a regular basis.



Another important communication platform for CRNI is the organisation's website [www.crni.ie](http://www.crni.ie), which underwent a thorough overhaul, as planned, in 2016. The revamped website was launched in time for the conference in October, and while being more user-friendly and mobile responsive, it also has a news section and a live feed from the CRNI Twitter account. It is easier to navigate and has much improved landing pages, with a feature on each member and a link to their individual website (where available). Traffic to the website has increased and training for the co-ordinator on how to update the site directly is due to take place in early 2017.

A link to a short film, commissioned by CRNI, is also available on the website. The video was premiered at the conference and was very well received, focusing as it did on individual staff members of three CRNI members (Rehab Recycle, Revamp 3R and EcoMattress). Their stories, drawn out by interviews by JG Murphy, together with footage of the activities of each of the businesses, make for a very powerful [film](#).

### Membership Drive

As always, it is CRNI's intention to increase its membership of organisations nationally and our efforts continued in 2016. Three new members joined, Bryson Recycling (based in Belfast), Back2New (based in Limerick) and Duhallow Revamp (based in Cork). However, we were disappointed to lose three members during the year; BusyBees Recycling (the business closed down), Revived&Retro and the Upcycle Movement (founder relocated to Australia). It is hoped that the development of a revised membership policy in late 2016 will provide a driver for attracting new members in 2017, as different categories of membership will be made available, without diluting the core functions of the network.

### Policy Input

The overarching goal for CRNI with regards to policy discussions is to become a go-to organisation for policy makers seeking advice and insight into issues of reuse, waste prevention, diversion from landfill, social enterprise and green job creation.

To this end a detailed policy [paper](#), covering the six most vital areas of interest to the sector, was published in September. The paper gives a comprehensive background and frames the context in which the reuse and recycling sectors operate in Ireland. It then addresses areas of particular concern, framing the policy and other initiatives that CRNI would like to see developed at government and departmental level, together with corresponding actions to which CRNI can commit.

The areas are; Better Design; Eliminating Waste; Changing Behaviour; Supporting the Reuse Sector; Maximising Recycling; Supporting Communities. The paper and actions contained therein have been key considerations in the formulation of the 2017 Workplan.

During 2016, CRNI sought to build on existing and develop new relationships with key stakeholders and other organisations whose policies have both direct and indirect effects on the network and its members. Meetings were held with the following contacts during 2016:

- Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment. CRNI met senior officials, Jean Clarke and Bernie Kiely, twice from the Dept, the second of which focused on the CRNI policy paper. It was noted at both meetings that Bernie and a colleague would be interested in visiting the sites of some CRNI members and it is hoped to arrange this in Q1 2017. Bernie attended the CRNI conference in October.
- Department of Social Protection. CRNI met twice with the official with responsibility for one of the main labour activation schemes, Ronan Harney. The second meeting in September was very productive as we learned that a particular scheme, thought to be closed for new applications, is still operational and particularly suitable for our members. Ronan also advised that a single Principal Officer in the Dept is now responsible for overseeing all the schemes, which he feels will result in more positive and cohesive policies in 2017. Ronan also attended the conference.
- Ibec. CRNI has an excellent working relationship with Anne Murphy, the Green Business Executive in Ibec. She was able to arrange a meeting with Aidan Sweeney, their Senior Policy Executive to discuss reuse and the role of public procurement in driving a market for second-hand/reused goods. It was a particularly informative meeting and is an area that CRNI plans to review in 2017 with a view to, potentially, seeking GEF funding for a project to examine how the reuse/recycling sector could best access the public procurement market. (The QMark project could also dovetail very well into this area).
- Regional Waste Authorities. As the RWAs were still in their infancy during 2016, CRNI ensured that it met with all three authorities at least once during the year and maintained contact throughout, especially in the run up to the start of Reuse Month. An excellent working relationship has been developed with all the RWA staff, particularly the Regional Waste Officers; Joanne Rourke (EMWR), Pauline McDonogh (SWR) and Killian Farrell (CUWR).
- EPA. Following on from excellent feedback received from Deputy Director General, Dara Lynott, regarding the CRNI conference, the Board of CRNI requested and held a meeting with him in December. The CRNI policy paper, the role that communities have to play in meeting sustainability targets generally and the potential for having one central source of information about reuse and repair nationally were among the topics discussed.

## Research

Providing figures and showing the value of reuse and recycling, economically, environmentally and socially is important for many reasons. It helps to promote reuse, negotiate and implement policy as well as measure policy impacts and is an effective communication tool. The Rediscovery Centre, supported by CRNI, carried out research in the area of metrics during 2016 and plans to publish its findings in early 2017.

The idea of developing a Reuse Quality Mark was identified by CRNI as a research area of interest in 2015 and in 2016, CRNI submitted its application to the Green Enterprise Programme for project funding. The aim of the project is to establish the feasibility and potential value of a reuse quality mark for Ireland / Northern Ireland in strengthening consumer confidence in reused goods. In December CRNI was delighted to receive confirmation that it had been successful in its application. The recruitment process, to hire a manager for the project's expected 14-month duration, commenced in late December and the project will kick-off in March 2017.

During 2016 CRNI was approached by Atelier D'Eco Solidaire, a social enterprise based in Bordeaux, which runs a creative resource centre that promotes the reuse of waste materials. The business advised that it was in the process of applying for funding at a European level and was looking for partner organisations in other EU countries. The purpose of the project is to develop a SWITCH (Sustainability & Waste; Innovation, Training and Community Hub) with proposed project objectives including raising environmental awareness through creativity, developing job creation using waste as a resource and creating a network of professionals to share best practices. It was decided that ReCreate and the Rediscovery Centre are the CRNI members whose



activities are most aligned with the project objectives and they agreed to get involved in the project should the funding become available. Letters of support were also sought and obtained from ECO-Unesco and EMWR. Just before Christmas Atelier advised that the project submission had been a success and will commence in early 2017.

CRNI was pleased to be able to assist with a project headed by the University of Limerick, by taking part in a round of interviews. Dr Colin Fitzpatrick is managing the UpWEEE Project, assisted by Kate McMahon, the aim of which is to offer options to policy makers that will support the WEEE Reuse sector in Ireland.

### Network and Links (Including EU)

Networking both in the national and European arenas has always been an important part of CRNI activities and in 2016 CRNI continued to develop relationships with agencies in Ireland and abroad.

On a European level, CRNI continued to build its relationship with RREUSE, the European Reuse Network. We took part in many skype calls/discussions and responded, either directly or through member feedback, to their consultation documents which focused mainly on the EU Circular Economy Package. CRNI also attended two RREUSE meetings abroad this year (in Ghent (March) and Amsterdam (June)) where policy and developments in relation to the circular economy, reuse and recycling were discussed.

RREUSE membership allows CRNI to feed into policy discussions at European level. It allows us insights to current practices and research around reuse that is taking place in Europe. CRNI was re-elected as a member of the board of RREUSE this year, which gives CRNI a say in the direction and the priorities of the RREUSE organisation.



CRNI was delighted to host the Autumn/Winter RREUSE members' meeting in Dublin, which coincided with the conference. About 14 members, representing organisations from seven different countries, travelled to Dublin and were able to participate in the World Café session at the conference, complete three site visits, have presentations made to them by two CRNI members (the Rediscovery Centre (RDC) and the EPA) and receive an update on the area of

WEEE reuse in Ireland. They also held their general meeting and Board meeting during the visit. CRNI would like to acknowledge the support of the RDC and Rehab Recycle in hosting the RREUSE visit to Dublin.

CRNI also developed a working relationship with CRN Scotland as their objectives and goals are similarly aligned. CRNS hosts an annual conference which it is hoped that CRNI will attend in 2017. As they have developed a quality mark for some of their members, it is anticipated that the QMark Project Manager will travel to their Stirling offices in 2017. Contacts were also developed with WRAP UK, an organisation which works with businesses and communities to deliver practical solutions to improve resource efficiency.

At national policy level, CRNI continued to be part of the National Waste Prevention Committee and its Strategic Reflection Group and attended meetings hosted by both. This is an important body in waste policy terms and it provides an opportunity for CRNI to bring the expertise and knowledge of its members to that committee.

Participating in events gives CRNI important opportunities to contribute to discussions about reuse issues, to build networks and to further raise the profile of the organisation. In 2016, the CRNI co-ordinator gave presentations to a range of different audiences. These presentations or speaking engagements included a meeting of the DJEI-sponsored CSR Forum, hosted in Vodafone (September) and a presentation to local authority and private sector waste management operators who were in receipt of training on best practices in the waste management sector (October).

CRNI presented to the Strategic Policy Committee of Meath County Council and attended an ECO DEN event, hosted by EcoUnesco. CRNI also had stands at Bloom in the Park (June), Electric Picnic (September) and the Irish Waste Management Conference at Carton House (November). A meeting was held with Business in the Community during the year as well.

CRNI was represented at the EMWR Reuse Month Fashion event in the LexIcon, Dun Laoghaire (October), the Irish Charity Shops Association conference (October) and the launch of the HeadsUp Research by ReCreate Ireland and TCD at Trinity College Dublin (December).

Finally, the CRNI co-ordinator also sits on the steering committee of EcoTourism Ireland, a body that promotes and accredits Irish eco-tourism venues and experiences. Participation in this steering committee helps bring the message about reuse, recycling and waste prevention to a wider forum.

## Summary of CRNI activities 2016

The following table summarises progress made in relation to specific 2016 work plan objectives.

Objective	Progress for 2016
<b>Promotion of reuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand at Bloom in the Phoenix Park, June</li> <li>• Stand at Electric Picnic, September</li> <li>• Biennial CRNI conference, October</li> <li>• Collaboration with all three Regional Waste Authorities on Reuse Month, October</li> <li>• Stand at National Waste Summit, November</li> </ul>
<b>Support for members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 Board meetings, one Board EGM held in 2016</li> <li>• All members visited by the co-ordinator over the course of 2016</li> <li>• 3 Network meetings were held during 2016, including a workshop on funding</li> <li>• Retail options paper developed and distributed</li> <li>• Insurance cover investigated, ongoing</li> <li>• Several members' newsletters published</li> </ul>
<b>Communications</b>	<p>Presentation or Speaking Engagements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reuse Month launch, September</li> <li>• Presentation at DJEI CSR Forum in Vodafone, September</li> <li>• Presentation to Waste Management Training delegates, October</li> <li>• Targeted engagement on social media</li> <li>• 3 external e-newsletters published</li> </ul>
<b>Membership drive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruited 2 new members in 2016, 16 members in total</li> <li>• Development of a revised Membership Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Input</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devised a comprehensive Policy Paper "Making Reuse and Recycling Happen – Ireland's Transition to a circular Economy"</li> <li>• Attended National Waste Prevention Committee (NWPC) meeting and Strategic Reflection Group meeting</li> <li>• Attended EPA-led Circular Economy workshop</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with the Department of Communications, Climate Action &amp; Environment and the EPA to discuss its policy paper</li> <li>• Met with Ibec to discuss the role of public procurement and reuse</li> <li>• Met with the Department of Social Protection to discuss the various labour activation schemes available to members</li> </ul>
<b>Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU circular economy package response development with RREUSE, ongoing</li> <li>• Commencement of QMark Project</li> <li>• Confirmation of involvement with European Reuse project</li> <li>• Involvement in UpWEEE project</li> </ul>
<b>Networking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the board of RREUSE</li> <li>• Attended 3 RREUSE meetings</li> <li>• Member of National Waste Prevention Committee + Strategic Reflection Group</li> <li>• Developed a working relationship with CRN Scotland</li> <li>• Ecotourism Ireland steering group member – provided input into auditing of applicants for Ecotourism standard</li> </ul>