



CRNI Summary Report 2018

The Community Reuse Network Ireland is the all-Ireland representative body for community based reuse, recycling and waste prevention organisations.

Our key objectives are to support our members, promote reuse, recycling and social inclusion, and to strengthen the sector through policy input, research, representation at national and international level and networking.

Our network in 2018 comprised 22 members in total, including two new members: East Belfast Mission (Belfast) and Bounce Back mattress and furniture recycling (Galway). The estimated impact of our membership (based on 2017 figures) was over 22,000t reused and 60,000t recycled. This also had a significant social and economic impact as shown across.



22,000t reuse
60,000t recycling



850 jobs
370 training positions
7,600 volunteer positions



€80M turnover

In 2018 we **supported our members** by holding four network meetings around the country including training (based on feedback from membership surveys) on GDPR and communications strategies. Two subgroup meetings were also held to provide follow up training and a discussion forum for CRNI's recycling members. CRNI explored with its members numerous business opportunities in the areas of procurement and take back. A member's welcome pack and dedicated member's webpage were also developed. Other improvements to the website included a new jobs page for careers in the sector, a videos page, a reuse directory and reuse toolkits to inspire action. Our internal and external newsletters were also upgraded.

To **promote CRNI and its members**, we held our biennial conference on *Engaging Consumers* in September (attended by over 85 key stakeholders), and a pre-conference evening reception in City Hall focusing on *Social Enterprises as Innovators in the Circular Economy* (attended by over 70 key stakeholders). Further information on both events can be found at our website www.cрни.ie/presentations.



CRNI was a keynote speaker at the Community Resources Network Scotland conference, and was represented at a Tipperary Green Business Network seminar, the Environment Ireland and Irish Waste Management conferences, the Sustainability Summit, an ILDN social enterprise workshop in Brussels, and a Waterford partnership network seminar on opportunities for social enterprise in reuse and recycling.

CRNI partnered for the first time with the regional waste authorities to help develop and deliver the National Reuse Month campaign. With as focus on Everyday Reuse – at home at work at play – the campaign aimed to show people how they already engage, and could engage more, in reuse activities. The campaign attracted national and local media coverage, in addition to extensive social



media and website reach facilitated by over 20 videos. One of these videos featured Dublin blogger and journalist Rosemarie McCabe visiting a charity shop, and attained over 16,000 views. CRNI engaged with over 40 partners for events and promotion. All of this material is available on the website developed for the campaign www.reusemonth.ie and elsewhere in the CRNI site.

To provide **policy input**, we entered discussions with DCCAE and DAERA (NI) on supporting reuse through the transposition of the Waste Framework Directive. We engaged in consultations on measuring reuse through DCCAE, on the Community Services Programme (through DRCD), supported work on the introduction of a voluntary mattress Producer Responsibility Scheme and engaged with PRI scheme operators on the role of reuse in future schemes. CRNI also welcomed the allocation of funding for placements under the Community Services Programme (CSP) to a number of our members.

CRNI also proposed, and was awarded as part of a consortium led by CTC with Rediscovery Centre, a major research project to **qualify and quantify non-waste reuse** through the EPA's research call. This research represents a very important step for the sector as it will inform the Waste Framework Directive objective of tracking and measuring reuse with a view to setting targets in the future.

We were delighted that the first accreditation to the pilot **Quality Standard ReMark** (EPA Green Enterprise project) was awarded in October to Duhallow Revamp. This was followed by a second accreditation to Dublin Simon in December. We also began work on the EPA Green Enterprise funded **Bulky Item Reuse** project, developing service models to encourage public bodies to pass unwanted items on for reuse. These models were tested at three interactive workshops across the country with 41 key stakeholders.



CRNI and its partners ReCreate and Rediscovery Centre continued to work with youth groups on an international **design competition** with reuse materials through the ERASMUS+ ECOSStep project. This culminated in an awards ceremony with exhibitions and workshops, and one of the Irish teams winning the international prize. An interactive website was also developed through this project to showcase upcycling and engage young people in the sector.

Towards the end of the year, CRNI's 5 year strategy was replaced with a strategic 3 year plan covering 2019 – 2021 in consultation with our members and the EPA. This includes a rebranding to "Community Resources Network" to better reflect our growing community recycling membership (including 4 mattress recycling members) and sets out three key objectives including:

- supporting our members, with a dynamic network of 50 members and by increasing services to members
- mainstreaming the community resources sector through policy and research,
- building the capacity of the network

We also developed a communications strategy setting out our priorities and key audiences, which has provided better focus for campaigns and communications activities.

Finally, in order to effectively implement the new three year strategy, CRNI engaged a Funding and Communications Manager at the end of 2019. This saw our core staff base grow to two and we can now look forward to a dynamic and exciting year to come.