

Charleville community encouraged to participate in 'Donate Don't Waste' textiles research pilot

Take the survey, host a collection point, donate clean and dry clothing and home textiles

Charleville has been selected as a pilot area for the Donate Don't Waste separate textiles collection pilot, part of Community Resources Network Ireland's (CRNI) innovation and demonstration project, Developing a Circular Textiles System for Ireland, which will inform national policy. This project is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy grant-aid funding programme.

The Donate Don't Waste pilot in Charleville aims to understand attitudes and behaviours around unwanted clothing and home textiles, share information on where and what to donate, and make donations easier through increased donation points and door-to-door collections. All clothing and home textiles have value and keeping them in circulation for longer within Ireland has potential to save environmental resources and create new local jobs, training and business opportunities. The fashion industry is responsible for 10% of annual global carbon emissions. In Ireland, about 68,000 tonnes of textiles are discarded every year by householders and commercial users. By comparison, about 14,500 tonnes of textiles are reused by Irish Charity Shops Association (ICSA) members. If just 15% of discarded textiles were reused, there could be environmental savings of over 100,000 tonnes of carbon.

Charity shops are the main drivers of textile reuse and ICSA's members include Vincent's charity shops, who support the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP), the project's charity partner.

Christine Costelloe, CRNI's Circular Textiles Research Lead, said "We're delighted that there are so many ways for Charleville community members, businesses, schools and community groups to get involved and positively contribute to environmental, social and economic change."

Dermot McGilloway, National Retail Development Manager for SVP, said "At Vincent's charity shops, we are an essential link in the circular economy, enabling local

donors to pass on pre-loved items for reuse in our local communities. We are committed to tackling the twin problems of poverty and deprivation on the one hand and the excessive consumption of fast fashion on the other."

Mary Lynch, President of St. Vincent de Paul Holy Cross Conference Charleville, said "Our fantastic charity shop in Charleville is delighted to be involved in the project and will benefit from what we will be able to sell from our shop. People in the locality have responded positively to the project and we have some wonderful volunteers from the local community who go over and above to help us."

Take the survey on unwanted clothing and home textiles at www.donatecharleville.ie. Respondents could win one of six €50 Shop Local gift vouchers.

Community members can donate clean and dry unwanted clothing and home textiles at existing collection points, including charity shops, at new collection points and through door-to-door collections in some neighbourhoods taking place on 31st March, 28th April and 26th May. Ballyhoura Development CLG and Clean Technology Centre at MTU and are helping with door-to-door collections, which will benefit Vincent's Charleville.

Charleville businesses can host a textile collection box and share Donate Don't Waste information with customers. Donations will benefit Vincent's Charleville. Participating businesses will be on the www.donatecharleville.ie map and promoted on CRNI's social media channels @CRNIreland.

Schools and community groups can host a textile collection box, share the survey and Donate Don't Waste information with students, families, group members and volunteer for flyer drop offs and donation pickups.

To get involved, view the latest announcements and see details about door-to-door collections, visit www.donatecharleville.ie, contact info@crni.ie or 087 173 5184, follow #DonateDontWaste on social media.



Nicole Dennehy, Ballyhoura Development CLG, Michelle Greene, Cork County Council and Pauline McDonagh, Southern Waste Region.



Dermot McGilloway, National Retail Manager SVP, Sarah O'Connor, Glean Technology Centre and Mary Fleming, CRNI.



Ann Greensmith, Shop Manager SVP Charleville, Mary Lynch, President Holy Cross Conference SVP Charleville and Sonia O'Neill, SVP Regional Manager.



Pictured at the Donate Don't Waste, Charleville launch at the Charleville Park Hotel were Christine Costelloe, Community Resources Network Ireland (CRNI), Dermot McGilloway, National Retail Manager SVP, Mary Lynch, President Holy Cross Conference SVP Charleville, and Ann Greensmith, SVP Shop Manager Charleville.



Carol Merrick and Maria Kelly of CBS Secondary School, Charleville with Fr. Anthony Sheehan.



SVP Charleville volunteers, Mary Murray, Margaret O'Callaghan, Margot Connelly and Mary Cooke.