



Community Resources Network Ireland

Annual Report 2022



**CRNI receives core funding through
the EPA Circular Economy
Programme**

**www.crni.ie
info@crni.ie
+353 87 173 5184**



Introduction

Welcome to our 2022 Annual Report.

We're thrilled that you want to learn more about our growing network of members who work in community based reuse, repair and recycling across Ireland. Their important work in building a more Circular Economy in Ireland straddles the lines of 'Green' and 'Social'.

By Green, we mean that CRNI members work is at the heart of driving the circular economy. They work in communities across Ireland on reuse, repair and recycling initiatives, with the aim of creating an Ireland where the word waste doesn't exist.

By social, we mean that CRNI members strive to facilitate social inclusion by providing employment and engagement opportunities in repair, reuse and recycling to people traditionally excluded from the jobs market. They also provide goods and services at affordable prices, or at no cost at all, so that everyone can have access.

This report is a celebration and acknowledgement of the work they carried out in support of our network in 2022, without whom we would not exist. It is also a celebration of their increasingly important work in reuse, repair and recycling.

This report contains some conservative impact metrics that we're delighted to share. In 2021, just over **€52 million in turnover** was generated by CRNI members. They also **saved some 171,000 carbon tonnes**, and **worked with over 1000 people on employment schemes**.

With increased supports, we're confident that the community reuse, repair and recycling sector can deliver a Circular Economy that has incredible environmental, social, and economic benefits not just for some, but for all.

To learn more about the work of our members, visit our website (www.cрни.ie) or follow us on social media @cрниireland.



Mary Fleming
National Executive
CRNI



Una Lavelle
Board Chairperson
CRNI

1.0 Innovating and Demonstrating

One of CRNI's strategic goals is to mainstream the community resources sector, which includes identifying innovative projects and sourcing funding or collaborating to develop pilot projects.

Green Enterprise

Latest Projects

In December Q4, The '[Developing a Circular Textiles System in Ireland](#)' pilot project was completed with the final report submitted to the EPA.

Other Projects

ReMark Quality Mark for Second Hand Goods

With funding from the DECC Circular Economy Innovations Grants Scheme, CRNI re-launched the ReMark Quality Mark in October 2022. [Learn more about it here.](#)

Dissemination of Past Projects

In 2022 we actively promoted the findings of the [Q2Reuse report](#). [See a sample social media post here.](#)

Living Lab Campus Project

In Q4, we ran x2 Bulky Waste workshops as part of the 'Living Lab Campus Project' with the Irish Universities Association (IUA). As part of these workshops at NUIG and MU, campus stakeholders learned more about implementing their own bespoke reuse systems using information gleaned from the [Bulky Item Reuse Report](#). 2 more workshops will be held on campuses in Q1 of 2023.



Circular Economy Tools Online

In Q2, we updated our entire website to improve member and visitor experience and content relevance. Our general member and procurement directories were updated to improve ease of use, and our news section is now updated on a regular basis to provide visitors with circular economy updates from at home and abroad. We also updated the resources section of our website to include a 'green and social public procurement' page that contains links to the EPA's online tools.

As part of a separate funding programme with the Regional Waste Management Plan Offices, we launched our Virtual Green & Social Procurement Trade Fair, with an in-person event at the Rediscovery Centre on 28th September 2022.



About An Mheitheal Rothar

An Mheitheal Rothar offers a full set of bicycle repair and service options, undertaken by our team of experienced mechanics. Our award winning ReCycle Your Cycle initiative takes bikes sent for scrap to Galway City Council Civic Amenities Centre and repairs them, and concurrently teaches valuable cycle mechanic skills to their trainees.

This saves carbon emissions and reduces pollution from transporting, smelting down and recasting scrap metal. At the same time it provides skilled jobs, training opportunities and an affordable, fossil fuel free means of transport.

We also upcycle bikes while teaching repair skills under the Pilot Bike & Ebike Upcycling scheme supported by Department of Rural & Community Development/Pobal; and teach cycle mechanics via our Local Training Initiative in Cycle Mechanics supported by the GRETB,

You can also support our social and environmental outcomes by using our shop on Headford Road to purchase a new bike or ebike under the Bike to Work scheme. By purchasing a high quality, durable bike via the Bike to Work scheme, you are ensuring that the bike is easier to repair while you own it, and can be more easily recycled when it comes to the end of its first life with you.

We offer the following services:

Events, education + workshops:

- Provide tailored workshops
- Provide tailored educational programmes
- Manage / provide supplies for sustainable events

Bike donations, upcycling + repair

- Provide bike workshops
- Accept / facilitate donations of bikes
- Provide fit-out services

We can provide services in the following ways:

- In-person
- At a specific location
- Delivery
- Collection from Civic Amenity Sites

We've previously worked on contracts with:

- Educational Training Board
- University Hospital Galway
- University of Galway

Providing:

- Upcycled work benches
- Bike to work scheme bicycles

Procurement case studies created as part of CRNI's 2022 EPA work plan

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT 2021

REUSED
516 KG

**REPAIR
SERVICES**
8,448 KG

**CARBON
SAVINGS**
41.796 TONNES

SOCIAL IMPACT 2021

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES
6 people

**PART TIME
EMPLOYEES**
1 people

**EMPLOYMENT
SCHEMES**
3 people

ECONOMIC IMPACT 2021

SOCIAL VALUE
€134,435

**CUSTOMERS
SERVICED**
3,000 people

About Deaf Enterprises

Deaf Enterprises restores furniture with repair, reupholstery or French-polishing for private individuals as well as upholstery work for bars, hotels, nursing homes, schools, barbers, and playschools.

We also sell quality refurbished goods and offer a wide choice in occasional furniture such as fireside-chairs, Queen Anne chairs, pouffes and footstools which can be manufactured to your own spec and in your choice of fabric from our extensive top quality range. Our expert and friendly staff will be happy to assist and advise you in your choice and a home delivery service is available.

Our activities provide employment, training and work experience to the deaf community in Cork.

We offer the following services:

Bike donations, upcycling + repair

- Provide bike services (e.g., repair)
- Provide bike workshops

Furniture up-cycling + office fit outs

- Provide furniture reupholstery services
- Supply second life furniture

We can provide services in the following ways:

- In person
- At a specific location
- Delivery
- Collection

We've previously worked on contracts with:

- Department of Defence
- Department of Education
- HSE

Providing:

- Upcycled furniture

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT 2021

REUSED
11,008 KG

**REPAIR
SERVICES**
10,000 KG

**CARBON
SAVINGS**
6.8 TONNES

SOCIAL IMPACT 2021

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES
4 people

**PART TIME
EMPLOYEES**
3 people

**EMPLOYMENT
SCHEMES**
26 people

ECONOMIC IMPACT 2021

SOCIAL VALUE
€385,871

**CUSTOMERS
SERVICED**
2,600 people

About Recycle IT

Our not-for-profit organisation works to deliver environmentally friendly recycling solutions and real training and employment opportunities.

Recycle IT can offer organisations a cost-effective and efficient recycling collection service in Dublin and surrounding areas. Our team will accept all types of electrical, electronic or pure metal waste.

We ask that you let us know what you have to recycle and we can help determine the best electronic waste management solution for you including IT breakdown and destruction services.

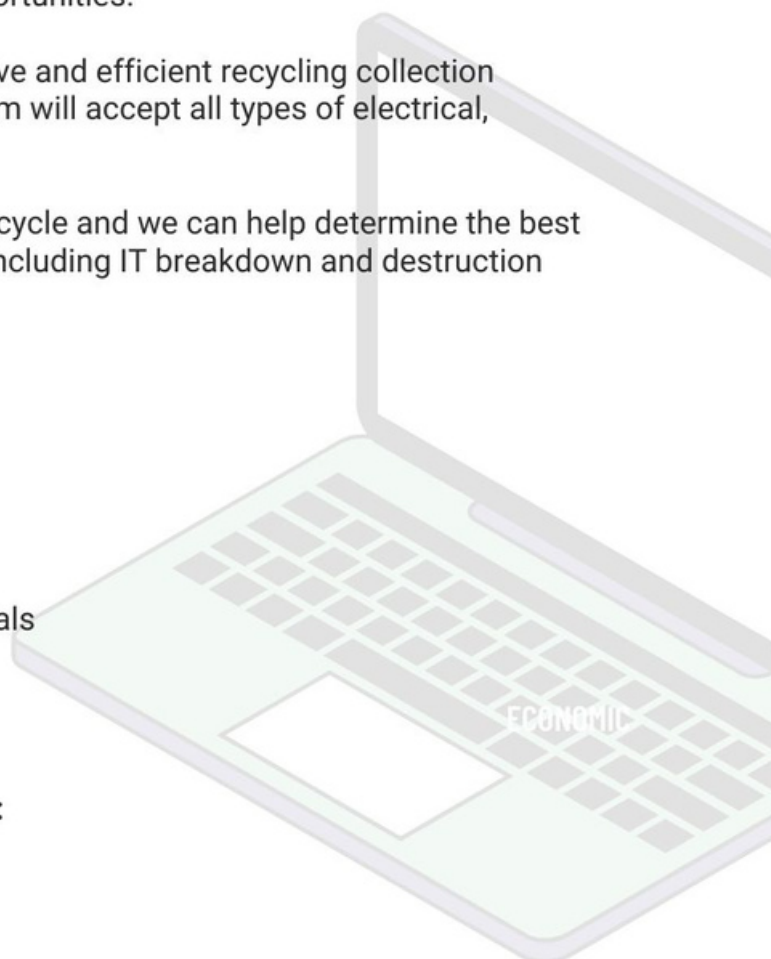
We offer the following services:

Recycling electric + electronic equipment:

- Collection of unused business waste materials
- Collect electrical items for recycling
- Collect and recycle pure metal

We can provide services in the following ways:

- Collection



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT 2021

REUSED
350 KG

**REPAIR
SERVICES**
1,785 KG

RECYCLED
653,000 KG

**CARBON
SAVINGS**
25.95 TONNES

SOCIAL IMPACT 2021

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES
11 people

**PART TIME
EMPLOYEES**
3 people

**EMPLOYMENT
SCHEMES**
5 people

ECONOMIC IMPACT 2021

SOCIAL VALUE
€250,734

About ReCreate Ireland

ReCreate is a social enterprise and registered charity making art materials and educational supplies accessible and affordable to every sector of the community for all kinds of creative purposes.

At ReCreate, we are inspiring tomorrow's inventors, engineers, and entrepreneurs by making unique and unusual open ended materials freely available at a fraction of the price of high street art shops.

We offer the following services:

Textile reuse + upcycling:

- Supply of reused textiles for creative reuse
- Accept donations of second life fashion
- Provide creative textile reuse workshops & events

Reducing your plastic waste:

- Supply of reused plastics for creative use
- Accept donations of plastics
- Provide creative plastics reuse workshops & events

Events, education + workshops:

- Provide tailored workshops
- Provide tailored educational programmes
- Provide staff training/team day events, creative products (challenge kits & videos)
- Manage / provide supplies for sustainable events

We can provide services in the following ways:

- In person
- At a specific location
- Delivery
- Collection
- Collection at Civic Amenity Sites

We've previously worked on contracts with:

- Department of Defence
- Department of Education
- HSE

Providing:

- Upcycled furniture

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT 2021

REUSED

85,715 KG

CARBON SAVINGS

184.3 TONNES

SOCIAL IMPACT 2021

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

8 people

PART TIME EMPLOYEES

3 people

EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

5 people

VOLUNTEERS

23 people

ECONOMIC IMPACT 2021

SOCIAL VALUE

€279,540

CUSTOMERS SERVICED

15,000 people

About Roscommon Women's Network

Roscommon Women's Network (RWN) is a **local community project** and **charity** dedicated to supporting women and families throughout County Roscommon.

Their CycleUp initiative is an environmental and training social enterprise which addresses the issue of textile waste through a community development approach to environmental protection, supporting the hardest to reach women and families to engage.

CycleUp trains individuals and groups in the repair and reuse of materials and produces upcycled items for sale as part of the circular economy. By upcycling waste and unwanted textiles through its training and social enterprise, CycleUp raises awareness of the Circular Economy, as well as educates and empowers women to generate flexible employment opportunities while protecting the environment in a rural context.

We offer the following services:

BTextile reuse + upcycling:

- Accept donations of second life fashion
- Supply donations of second life fashion
- Supply of upcycled gifts

Events, education + workshops:

- Provide tailored textile upcycling workshops
- Provide tailored textile upcycling educational programmes
- Manage / provide supplies for sustainable events

We can provide services in the following ways:

- Online
- In-person

We've previously worked on contracts with:

- County Councils
- Schools
- Corporate Enterprises

Providing:

- Up-cycled items
- Provision of creative reuse materials
- Training and workshops

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT 2021

REUSED
2,599 KG

UPCYCLED
84 KG

**CARBON
SAVINGS**
22.261 TONNES

SOCIAL IMPACT 2021

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES
1 person

**PART TIME
EMPLOYEES**
1 person

**EMPLOYMENT
SCHEMES**
5 people

VOLUNTEERS
29 people

ECONOMIC IMPACT 2021

SOCIAL VALUE
€185,282

**CUSTOMERS
SERVICED**
1,700 people

2.0 Delivering Through Partnerships

As a network, CRNI values partnerships. Our strategic objectives include supporting collaborations, stakeholder engagement, representing members locally, regionally, nationally and at EU level, and developing strong relationships with key national and local partners.

Community Resources Network Ireland

In 2023, we grew our membership to **47** members, acquiring **7** new members in total.

New members members in 2022:



Cork Urban Soil Project



Frontline Bikes



Too Good To Go



Men's Sheds Ireland



Sustainable Skerries



Refunk Upcycling



Tog Hacker Space

In terms of member supports, we have delivered the following in 2022:

28

Themed Member Meetings

47

On-site Member Visits

15

Individual Member Support Meetings

11

Events Members Represented At

11

Business Opportunities Taken Up By Members

08

Policy Submissions Made

24

Member Alerts Delivered

104

Public Enquiries Fielded

05

PR Opportunities Generated

3.0 Advocacy and Communications

National Policy Input

All of our public policy work and submissions [can be viewed online here](#).

You can also read our letter to Minister Seán Fleming re: Insurance reform for a more circular economy [here](#).

In 2022 we focused on the following topics:

- Food waste prevention (IRL)
- Insurance reform (IRL)
- VAT (IRL)
- Budget reform (IRL)
- The Sustainable Products Initiative (EU)
- The Circular Economy Monitoring Framework (EU)

Policy submissions contributed: 07

Campaign letters written: 01

We also attended the following working groups to represent CRNI member interests:

- National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy
- DECC Short-Term Textile Action Group
- RREUSE Policy Working Group (various EU policy themes)
- Fine Gael Circular Economy Policy Kitchen
- Commission on Tax and Welfare
- Alliance for Insurance Reform
- DRCD CSP Consultative Group



**Community Resources Network Ireland
(CRNI)**

Pre-Budget Submission 2023

Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Charity No. 20077251
CHY No.19637

**CRNI's
Pre-Budget
Submission
August 2022**

**Click to
read!**

Our asks

We outline our budget / fiscal recommendations below under the following five headings:



1.Fund Environmental Action

- **1.1** Deliver on promise of increased funding for circular economy activities
- **1.2** Increase capital investment in reuse, repair & recycling activities
- **1.3** Provide increased financial support for awareness raising initiatives



2.Fund Social Mobility

- **2.1** Invest in social mobility through increased financial support of labour activation schemes



3.Fund Sustainable Economic Progress

- **3.1** Reduce VAT on reuse, repair and recycling activities to promote increased circularity
- **3.2** Develop and support adequate infrastructure to encourage Green Public Procurement

CUT VAT FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



We want you to Support Reduced VAT for the Community Based Reuse, Repair + Recycling Sector

And therefore, promote increased circularity in Ireland!

In December 2021, the European Council came to an Agreement on updated rules for VAT rates.

According to the Agreement, if social enterprises active in reuse, repair and recycling can identify themselves as 'organisations engaged in welfare or social security work as defined by Member States and recognised as being devoted to social well-being by Member States' the goods that they sell (being new or second-hand) or the services they provide can be subject to reduced VAT (no less than 5%).

CRNI believes it is also essential that preparation for reuse is considered, and that all purchases made by social enterprises in preparation for reuse are subject to reduced VAT.

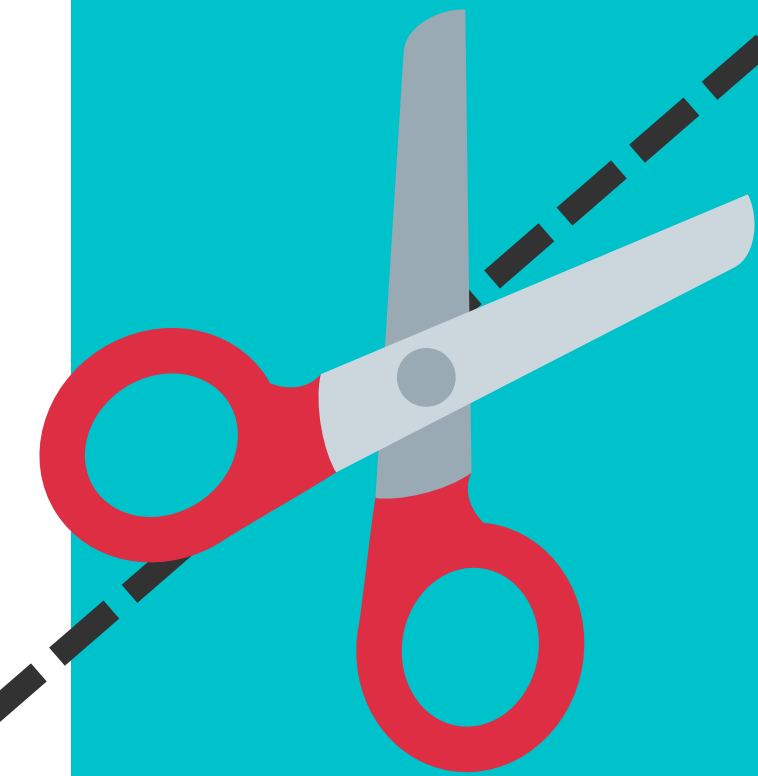
What do we want?

All VAT on reused, repaired and recycled goods and services sold reduced to a maximum of 5%

All VAT on good and services purchased in preparation for reuse, repair and recycling reduced to a maximum of 5%

OR increase the VAT threshold for social enterprises

CUT VAT FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



WHY?

Irish policy context

There are number of Irish policies that highlight the requirement for immediate action in transitioning towards a more circular economy that promotes environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and economic prosperity.

Policies and strategies include (but are not limited to):

- **The Circular Economy Act 2022**

- The Act builds on the government's commitment to achieving a circular economy, as set out in the 2020 Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy and the 2021 Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy, placing that strategy on a statutory footing, **putting the reuse of resources and reduced consumption at the heart of the Irish economy.**

- **Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy 2022 - 2023**

- The Strategy provides a national policy framework for Ireland's transition to a circular economy with a view to promoting public sector leadership, supporting the implementation of measures that **reduce Ireland's Circularity Gap**, raising public awareness, supporting investment, and identifying barriers to a just transition.

- **A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy 2020-2025**

- The Plan is a roadmap for waste planning and management.
- We need to embed climate action in all strands of public policy.
- This Plan shifts focus away from waste disposal and looks instead to how we can **preserve resources by creating a circular economy.**

- **Programme for Government: Our Shared Future 2020**

- By 2023, all procurement using public funds will need to include green criteria.
- **As such, it is critical to financially support the organisations that can deliver on this goal.**

- **Climate Action Plan 2021**

- The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 commits Ireland to reach a legally binding target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels).
- **In 2021, CRNI members saved some 171,000 carbon tonnes through reuse, repair and recycling activities.**

Ireland's current circularity rate

Ireland is at a turning point for the transition to a circular economy. The 2022 Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy provides the policy framework for the circular economy in the country, and the forthcoming Circular Economy Act is expected to strengthen waste and circular economy legislation.

Nevertheless, with a **circularity material use rate of 2%** (relative to an EU average of 12.8%) in 2020, Ireland shows significant scope for progress.

Source: OECD: 'The Circular Economy in Ireland', 2022 Report

For Economic Impact

CRNI Member Impact 2021

€52,683,563

**In financial turnover in 2021
is equal to...**



27,728,191 school dinners as per the Irish Government's School Meal Scheme



4,798 Solar Panels installed (average price) in households across Ireland



54,068 children in Ireland receiving free pre-school childcare (average price) for 1 month



19,932 people in Ireland having their (average) monthly salary paid for 1 month

**How much more could this have been if
VAT was reduced?**

For Environmental Impact

CRNI Member Impact 2021

171,238

**Carbon tonnes saved
is equal to...**



111,305 households in the Netherlands not consuming electricity for one year



445,219 economy flights Amsterdam from Amsterdam to Rome



Driving 1,027,428,000 km in a diesel car



20,829,904,034 smartphones charged

**How much more could this have been if
VAT was reduced?**

For Social Impact

CRNI Member Impact 2021

9,461

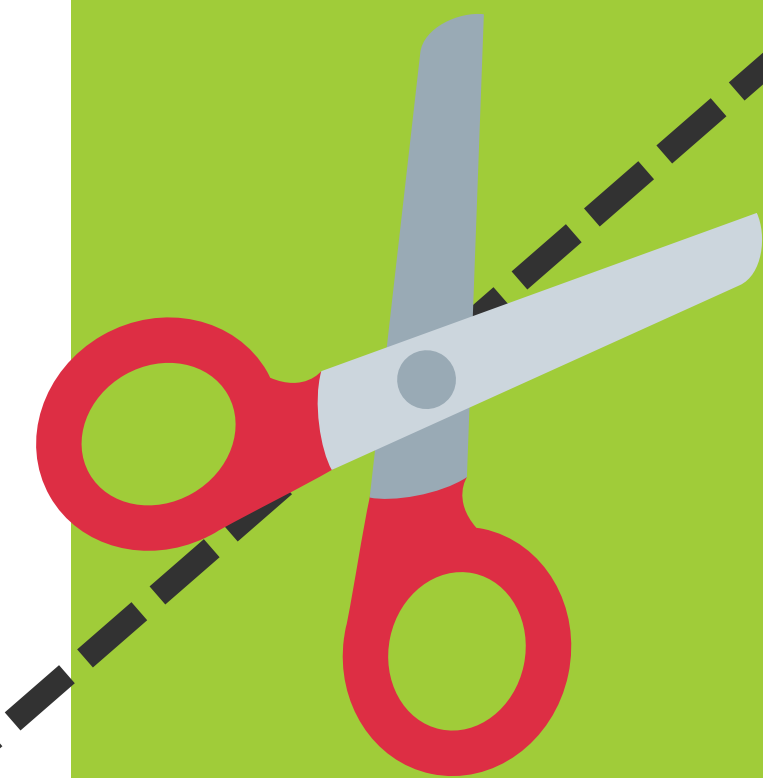
**People employed or volunteering
is equal to...**



**188 more people than the population of the
Holy See, Monsterrat and the Falkland Islands
COMBINED**

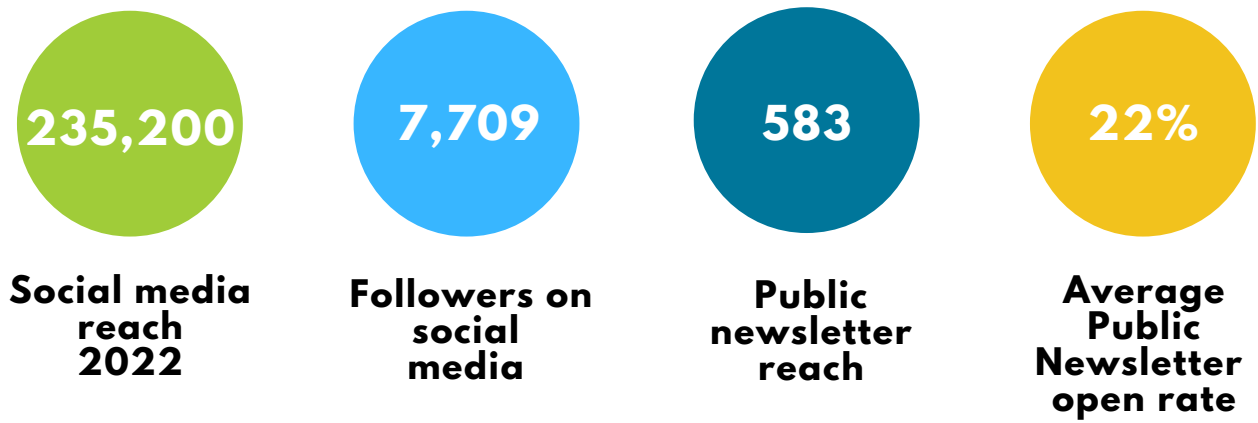
**How much more could this have been if
VAT was reduced?**

CUT VAT FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Knowledge Sharing and Communications

2022 in numbers



Member statistics for 2021



CRNI MEMBER IMPACT REPORT

#ReuseRepairRecycle

20
21

[Click to
read!](#)

“
CREATING
AN IRELAND
WHERE THE
WORD WASTE
DOESN'T EXIST



Member Impact
Report created
as part of 2022
EPA work plan

CRNI Member Impact 2021

The figures

Environmental impact

Positive impact for our environment



REUSED
12,441 TONNES



REPAIR SERVICES
54 TONNES



RECYCLED
10,195 TONNES



CARBON SAVINGS
171,238 TONNES

CRNI Member Impact 2021

The figures

Social impact

Positive impact for communities and the well-being of individuals and families.



FULL TIME EMPLOYEES
617 PEOPLE



PART TIME EMPLOYEES
154 PEOPLE



EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES
1,029 PEOPLE



VOLUNTEERS
7,661 PEOPLE



SOCIAL VALUE
€50,971,095

CRNI Member Impact 2021

The figures

Economic impact

Positive financial impact for Ireland



TURNOVER
€52,683,563



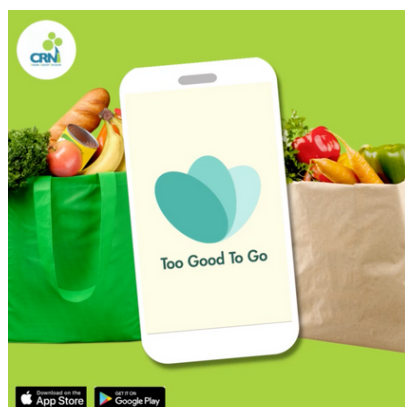
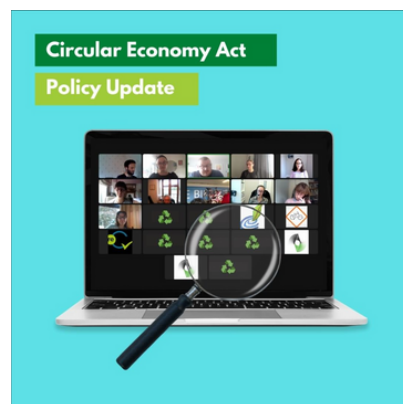
CUSTOMERS SERVICED
6,374,151 people



WORKSHOPS + EVENTS
91,942 people reached

Sample social media posts from 2022

Double click to view!



4.0 Governance

Building CRNI's capacity as a network and good governance are part of our third strategic goal.

- We worked with our Auditor to progress a full set of audited accounts for 2021. You can view them [here](#).
- CRNI held 6 Board Meeting in 2022.
- An extra Board Meeting was held to discuss a sustainable HR strategy for the organisation moving forward.
- As a result of Board discussions and a review of strategic priorities, CRNI hired an Administration Manager in Q3 of this year.
- The Administration Manager is responsible for building CRNI's capacity through excellent organisation and financial management, as well as ensuring good governance at Board Level.
- This role is part-time, 2 days a week.
- Since the Administration Manager has been in place, the National Executive has worked 3 days per week across Member and Stakeholder Engagement, Strategy, and Policy.



Community Resources Network Ireland

Annual Report 2022