



Community Resources Network Ireland (CRNI)

Annual Report 2025



CRNI Annual Members' Conference 2025, St Peter's Cork : A Circular 360: Evaluating our Circular Impact

Supporting community-based Repair, Reuse and Recycling activities in Ireland since 2010

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1. Executive summary

CRNI is the national representative body for social enterprise organisations working in reuse, repair and recycling. Founded in 2010 by community-based practitioners, CRNI plays a unique role in strengthening the circular economy through representation, capacity building and collaboration. In 2025, CRNI consolidated its organisational capacity and translated it into increased member support, stronger policy engagement, and practical projects that help social enterprises contribute to Ireland's circular economy transition.

2025 was a year of consolidation, visibility and practical delivery — strengthening CRNI's role as a connector, evidence base and advocate for community-led circular activity.

42 active member organisations represented in the attached membership file	17 member learning, networking and knowledge exchange sessions	100+ stakeholders engaged through Virtual Trade Fair procurement events
€30k Training Links funding secured for Social Impact Training	41 annual conference attendees from 17 member organisations	9+ Comprehensive policy submissions and formal advocacy contributions

Summary of 2025 highlights

- Member network strengthened through membership renewal, new member onboarding, targeted recruitment conversations, and the beginning of a membership framework review linked to CRNI's next strategic plan.
- Member capacity expanded through Regional Hubs, Communities of Practice, Network Connect sessions, Lunch & Learns, a Skill Swap pilot, and the launch of Training Links sessions focused on social impact reporting and stakeholder mapping.
- The Virtual Trade Fair project was completed with major procurement events in Dublin and Cork, over 100 delegates engaged, and recommendations developed to improve circular and social procurement opportunities.
- CRNI secured €30,000 through The Wheel's Training Links scheme and Community Foundation Ireland support for regional hubs, Communities of Practice and enhanced member activities into 2026.
- CRNI's visibility grew through newsletters, Circular Stories, social media, member features and external events, including strong member representation at RREUSE and NIRN conferences and events.
- CRNI contributed to national and EU policy development, including public procurement, insurance reform, carbon budget, waste collection, circular textiles, sustainable products, rural development, and the Whole-of-Government Circular Economy Strategy.
- Governance and organisational capacity improved through updated governance documentation, audited accounts, a new CRM, staff appraisal processes, stakeholder mapping, and successful Executive Director recruitment. Aidan Ó Gormáin joined the organisation in October as Executive Director in Succession to Chris Mooney-Browne

2. CRNI supporting and strengthening the Community Resources Sector

Ireland has a strong and growing community-based circular economy sector. CRNI's members include social enterprises, charities, community initiatives, networks and mission-led organisations working across textiles, furniture, bikes, electronics, books, food, toy libraries, sharing models and repair cafés. Most members combine environmental outcomes with social value through training, employment, community participation and affordable access to reused goods and repair services.

Member network snapshot

42 active full members, including 16 members recognised as Work Integration Social Enterprises. Not including the reach of members such as CRI who are themselves National Member organisations, the network spans at least 15 different counties and works across major material streams including textiles, furniture, bikes, WEEE, food rescue, books, toy lending, repair cafés and circular education.

Network development in 2025

CRNI's network development in 2025 balanced consolidation with targeted growth. The reintroduction of membership fees created a clearer membership base, while the organisation continued to onboard new members and engage prospective organisations whose circular activity is core to, or emerging within, their wider social purpose.

- New members were onboarded through the year, including We Make Good, with Buíon Waterford progressing to board review after establishing a repair café.
- A membership review was positioned as part of the 2026–2030 strategic planning process, with a focus on regional reach and clearer pathways for different types of circular social enterprise.

Knowledge sharing and connections

CRNI continued to create practical spaces for members to connect, learn and exchange knowledge. The format varied from Network Connect meetings and Communities of Practice to in-person visits, training sessions and the annual conference.

- Q1 included six knowledge exchange events with 43 attendees, covering furniture, textiles, bikes, VAT essentials and social impact.
- Q3 included a cross-border CRNI/NIRN visit to the Rediscovery Centre, with eight CRNI member organisations and 11 individuals participating.
- Q4 included a Network Connect meeting, a network-wide Regional Hubs and CFI programme session, and the annual member conference at St Peter's Cork.

Enhancing member capacity

CRNI's 2025 capacity-building programme responded to practical member needs around impact, scale, governance, business confidence, procurement readiness and collaboration.

- Training Links funding enabled an 11-session programme focused on impact reporting, stakeholder mapping, defining what to measure, tools and methods, and theory of change.
- Lunch & Learn sessions addressed VAT, social impact measurement and scaling readiness.
- A Skill Swap pilot enabled one member to spend a day with another member organisation, sharing practical skills and operational learning.

Promotion and advocacy for members

In 2025 CRNI increasingly used communications as a capacity-building and advocacy tool. Circular Stories placed members' practitioners and motivations at the centre of CRNI's public voice, while newsletters and social media provided a regular rhythm of member updates, opportunities, achievements and sector information.



Circular Stories created a human-centred way to showcase member innovation and impact.

Circular Stories	Social media reach	Member visibility
Seven changemakers were profiled in the 2025 roundup, covering textiles, bikes, furniture, reusable nappies, packaging reuse and toy libraries.	By the end of the year our Social Media reach had grown to over 1,718 Instagram followers, 2,200 Facebook followers and 612 LinkedIn followers.	Member updates were included in monthly newsletters, social channels and Circular Stories, with member achievements and sector opportunities amplified beyond the network.

3. CRNI sector leadership

CRNI occupies a unique and strategically useful position in Ireland's circular economy. It maintains a direct line to community-based reuse, repair and recycling practitioners and can translate their experience into evidence, policy recommendations and practical pilots. During 2025, CRNI's sector leadership was evident in procurement, training, policy, cross-border collaboration and European engagement.

Virtual Trade Fair and circular procurement

The Virtual Trade Fair project was the primary project completed in 2025. This project promoted CRNI members to procurers, explored barriers to green and social procurement, and gathered evidence on how the platform can evolve into a leaner, more useful buyer-facing directory. Two in-person procurement events in Dublin and Cork brought together more than 100 delegates and strengthened dialogue between public buyers and social enterprises.

- The VTF was recognised by procurers as a potential “missing link” between circular suppliers and procurement decision-makers.
- The projects Final report recommended simplifying the platform, expanding access while preserving quality criteria, and pairing the directory with procurement readiness supports. It provided a platform for the continued evolution of CRNI's Virtual Trade Fair Platform
- A Southern Region local authority order for reusable party bunting, valued at €3,650, showed how CRNI can broker practical procurement opportunities for members.

Collaboration and knowledge sharing

CRNI strengthened its collaboration with NIRN, RREUSE, the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, EPA networks, local authorities, the Western Development Commission and wider social enterprise actors. Cross-border learning, shared visits and European engagement helped position Irish circular social enterprises within a wider movement.

- CRNI and its sister organization in Northern Ireland held in-person CRNI/NIRN team and member learning sessions. CRNI also participated in Europe's RREUSE Network meetings, annual conference and EU-level policy discussions relevant to repair, EPR, textiles and circular economy legislation.
- During the year CRNI Engaged with the Western Development Commission on social enterprise and circular economy opportunities in the western region.

Policy influence and contribution

CRNI's 2025 policy work was more active and structured than the previous year, with submissions and engagement across national and EU consultations. This work ensured that the needs of community-based social enterprises were visible in policy discussions that will shape the operating environment for reuse, repair and recycling.

- CRNI Submitted responses on EU public procurement, insurance reform, carbon budget, waste collection market transition, circular textiles, sustainable products and rural development.
- The Organisation Drafted and submitted a comprehensive response to DCEE's consultation on the Second Whole-of-Government Circular Economy Strategy.
- CRNI advocated on specific member issues including the treatment of bicycle tyres under end-of-life tyre scheme discussions.



Member and board representation at RREUSE annual conference activity supported visibility for Irish circular social enterprises.

Annual members’ conference 2025: A Circular 360

CRNI’s Annual Members’ Conference took place at St Peter’s, Cork on 19 November 2025 under the theme ‘A Circular 360: Evaluating our Circular Impact’. The format placed members and stakeholders in a circular seating arrangement to encourage participation, equality and shared ownership of the sector’s next steps.

41	17	360°	St Peter’s
Member Attendees	member organisations	impact theme	Cork venue

The conference brought together members, DCEE representatives and wider stakeholders to explore how circular social enterprises can evaluate their impact, professionalise the sector, access better supports and incentives, and influence meaningful policy change. It also provided a strong platform for CRNI’s 2026 priorities, particularly regional hubs, Communities of Practice, impact measurement, policy representation and partnership development.

4. Governance and organisational capacity

As a national representative organisation and registered charity, CRNI continues to strengthen its governance, management systems and organisational capacity. This work is essential to ensuring that Departmental funding delivers measurable value, that members are supported efficiently, and that CRNI can engage confidently with national and EU policy opportunities.

Governance

- Trustee recruitment documentation and a trustee welcome pack were drafted.
- The Governance Compliance Report for 2024 was prepared and the audit process completed smoothly.
- CRNI's updated constitution was formally adopted at the AGM and filed with the CRO.

Organisational capacity

- A bespoke member database/CRM was developed to support better membership management.
- A successful Executive Director recruitment process was completed.
- A staff appraisal framework was established, with the first round of appraisals undertaken and a quarterly rhythm set.

Communications and stakeholder engagement

- CRNI reviewed communications channels, assets and branding to strengthen visibility.
- A stakeholder engagement plan was drafted and stakeholder mapping began.
- Member-focused newsletters, wider stakeholder updates and Circular Stories were used to disseminate information to members, policymakers, funders and supporters.

Funding sustainability

- Community Foundation Ireland support was secured for a multi-year programme of enhanced member supports and activities.
- Additional funding applications and tenders were pursued, including Training Links and consortium opportunities.

Annex A: CRNI members

The following active member records are listed in the membership file supplied for this report. Counties and activity descriptions are included where available.

Member	County / Location	Primary circular activity
An Mheitheal Rothar	Galway	Repair bicycles
Attention Attire	Dublin	Textile upcycling - Upcycling festival and other waste
Bounce Back	Galway	Recycling mattresses
Bryson Recycling	Donegal	Kerbside recycling household recyclables
Camara Education	Dublin	Refurbishment computers
Carrickmacross Toy Library	Monaghan	Toy lending
Change Clothes		Clothes sharing & repairing
Charity Retail Ireland	Dublin	2nd hand charity shops
Circular Dress Collaborative	Donegal	Resale : Consignment of garments, accessories from Luxury brands to highstreet, to Irish made and vinyls. Repair : Providing repair purposes of garments at a fair price Repurpose : Repurposing of garments and accesso
Cloth Nappy Library Ireland	Kildare, Wexford	Nappies
Cork Community Bikes	Cork	Repair / 2nd hand bicycles
CUSP (Cork Urban Soil Project) c/o The Environmental Forum	Cork	Food waste prevention
CycleSense	Cork	Repair / 2nd hand bicycles and paint reuse
Deaf Enterprises	Cork	Repair / upcycling / 2nd Hand furniture
Duhallo REVAMP	Cork	Repair / upcycling / 2nd Hand furniture
East Belfast Mission	Antrim	Repair / upcycling / 2nd Hand furniture, bicycles, clothing, paint
FoodCloud	Cork, Dublin, Galway	Redistribution Food / Food rescue
Frontline Bikes	Dublin	Bicycle upcycling and repair
Gateway to Education	Limerick	2nd hand retail / school books and uniforms focus
Green Bubble	Dublin	We ensure bubble wrap is reused.
Habitat for Humanity	Dublin	2nd hand "B&Q" charity shops - DIY materials
LOVED BACK TO LIFE BY AISÉIRÍ	Waterford	FURNITURE UPCYCLING and FURNITURE RESTORATION
Native Events	Dublin	Sustainable events management
Northside Community Enterprises	Cork	Paint reuse
Oxfam Ireland	Dublin	2nd hand charity shops
Recycle IT	Dublin	Recycling WEEE
Refill Ireland	Dublin	Plastic bottles - Prevention single use bottles
Rehab Recycle	Dublin	Refurbishment computers (IT and White Goods)
Revamp 3R	Longford	Repair / upcycling / 2nd Hand furniture
Revamp Kerry	Kerry	Repair / upcycling / 2nd Hand furniture
Roscommon Women's Network	Roscommon	2nd hand charity shop / textile upcycling
Spraio agus Sport	Donegal	Charity shop + circular economy hub & activities
Suircan Environmental Forum	Tipperary	Repair Cafe, Toy Library, Cloths swap
Tait House	Limerick	Furniture/ Paint
The Bike Hub	Dublin	Bicycle repair
The Dublin Polishers		
THE REDISCOVERY CENTRE LIMITED	Dublin	Upcycling & repair furniture, bicycles, clothing, paint
The Sustainable Life School	Dublin	We are a social enterprise offering unique impact driven programmes that empower individuals at work, and in their communities, address the climate crisis through lifestyle changes and collective actions.
The Upcycle Movement	Wexford	Upcycling wetsuits - Textile upcycling
The Use-Less Project	Dublin	Textiles, Food
Thrifty	Dublin	Books, media, textiles
Tog Hackerspace	Dublin	Repair Cafes / WEEE reuse

Annex B: 2025 performance overview

This overview summarises delivery against the principal workstreams used in the 2025 performance reporting materials.

Workstream	2025 delivery summary
Support the National Reuse and Repair Network	Attendance, updates and contribution to shared national reuse and repair activity; Q1 update included VTF information and Q3 onboarding material for incoming Executive Director.
Support members and strengthen the sector	Membership renewal, new members, COPs, Network Connect sessions, Lunch & Learns, Training Links, Skill Swap and the annual conference.
Develop innovative projects and mainstream the sector	VTF final report; procurement events; party bunting procurement; CFI programme; Training Links; regional and cross-border collaboration.
Policy influence and contribution	Consultations and engagement on procurement, insurance, carbon budget, waste collection, textiles, sustainable products, rural development and circular economy strategy.
Governance and organisational capacity	Governance compliance, constitution, audit, CRM, appraisal process, stakeholder mapping, communications review and funding proposals.

Annex C: CRNI BOARD MEMBERS



Michael Sloan
Director

"Either you run the day, or it runs you"



Sarah Miller
Director

"Don't over think it. Start small, work with people you like and get on with it." - On making change in the community



Bernie Connolly
Interim Chairperson

"What keeps me motivated is the commitment, camaraderie and shared belief in a world without waste."



MEET THE CRNI BOARD



Mark Fox
Director

"Never give up and always seek a sustainable solution using less resources."



Seán Darcy
Secretary

"Don't stumble over something behind you"



Una Lavelle
Director

"My fellow board members and the team have kept me motivated. We've faced challenges, shared laughter, and achieved so much together."