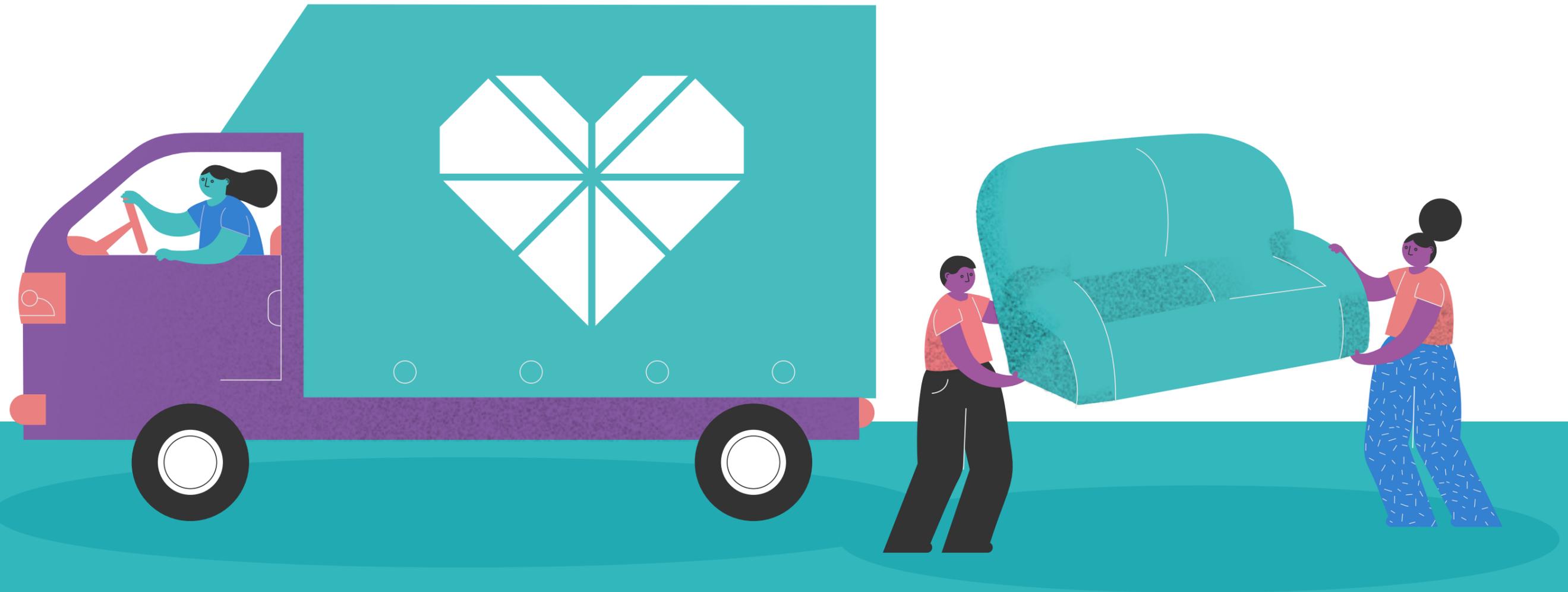


Social Impact Report 2022

reuse
NETWORK



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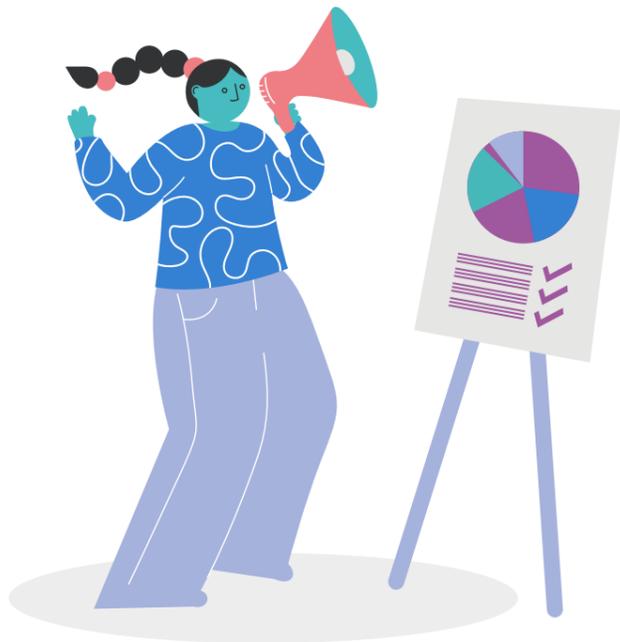
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A message from the CEO

“I am delighted to once again release our annual Social Impact Report, highlighting the very real difference reuse charities and social enterprises in the UK make to people’s lives and their local communities in 2022.”



We are proud to feature in this year’s Social Impact Report, some powerful stories on how our members stepped up to help during a year of ongoing challenges.

Poverty and austerity mean that the need for reuse is not going away. The demographic of who the sector helps is rapidly changing and demand for reuse is increasing while the source of these goods is diminishing as new retail sales are hit by the economic squeeze.

As we move ahead into the new year, our focus will be on three urgent aspects of reuse that we must not, or cannot avoid – people, profile and planet. These are crucial issues for the sector. The growing need to promote what we are doing in an impactful way, how we address the challenges and embrace the opportunities, and how we can make sure reuse is accessible to those who need it.

Now is the time for us to keep moving, keep innovating and shout louder about the great work and the exceptional effect that this sector has. We need to use our social value as the principal message: reuse can be and is for social good.

Craig Anderson
CEO, Reuse Network

Vision

A society where everyone can create a sustainable home.

Mission

We support the reuse of products by UK charities and social enterprises who are established to alleviate social exclusion, and address climate change.

About Reuse Network

The Reuse Network supports its members with the supply of products, advice and guidance to ensure that reuse charities and social enterprises are armed with the right tools to face differing challenges presented around the country and continue to provide their vital services at a time when they are needed most.

We are driving the message of reuse across the UK, creating a sustainable, supportive network that strives to build a society where everyone can create a sustainable home.

Our 2022 successes



Released Fit for Reuse, a guide to the repair, refurbishment and reuse of domestic electrical appliances.



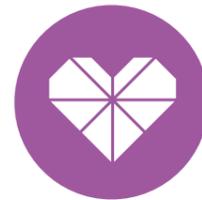
Held monthly seminars with industry experts from the fields of Marketing, Upcycling, Volunteering, Energy and more.



Successful conference with 120 delegates, 8 exhibitors and 7 speakers.



Launched our Buddy Scheme which is creating connections across the network.



Worked with our Members and Friends of Reuse Network to help get donations to Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.



Announced a strategic partnership with Viridor, one of the UK's leading resource and waste management companies, to further develop the UK's reuse sector.

Who makes up the sector

Our members make a difference. They help low-income households live better by giving them access to fairly priced goods. They tackle social exclusion by providing training and volunteering opportunities so that more people can get back to work and positively contributing to their communities. They combat climate change by reducing carbon emissions and cutting waste.

How our members are making a difference:



The Reuse Sector

In 2022, the reuse sector as a whole reused 2.7 million furniture and electrical items.



1.18m

households helped in the UK



£343.2m

saved for low-income households



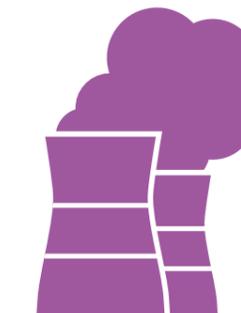
92,053

tonnes of products prevented from being wasted



98,935

tonnes of CO₂ emissions saved



Case Study: Newbury Community Resource Centre

The Newbury Community Resource Centre (NCRC) was established as a charity in 2000. It has grown from small beginnings, operating one furniture reuse project from a garage in Newbury, to expanding across West Berkshire and into North Hampshire.

Self-generated income helps to support a wide range of volunteering, supported volunteering and training opportunities for the local community across all of NCRC's operations. Its focus is on engaging with those who are at a disadvantage in some way, including people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health issues as well as young people excluded from mainstream education.

Since August 2021 the charity has dealt with the local impact of several international crises.

With the evacuation of Afghan nationals last year, the charity received a late-night request to support 300 evacuees the next morning. Support delivered immediately

included clothing, laptops, sports equipment and bicycles alongside furniture and household goods for families settling locally.

During the period since the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 the charity has supported 370 people and their local hosts through the provision of furniture, white goods, bicycles, laptops and SIM cards.

The support to the above groups has continued alongside the wide range of existing services provided to the local community.

At the heart of delivering services to the new arrivals in the district has been a determination to ensure that in all ways possible they are made to feel welcome and part of the community. A number of refugees now regularly participate in volunteering and sporting events arranged by the charity. The support will be on-going.

“The role of the charity as a local hub of long standing for those in need enabled it to quickly facilitate local people’s wish to support those in need by receiving, checking, repairing and distributing a wide range of reusable items.”

Lesley Atkinson, Newbury Community Resource Centre



Our commercial partners

Since we started in 1989, we have created strong ties with some of the most well-known retailers in the UK. Ranging all the way from big department stores, to TV + Film storage companies, to interior designers. The scope of who we work with is vast!

In 2022, through major commercial retail partnerships managed by Reuse Network, we supplied our members across the UK with 52,000 furniture and electrical items.

41,850

households helped in the UK



£6.5m

saved for low-income households



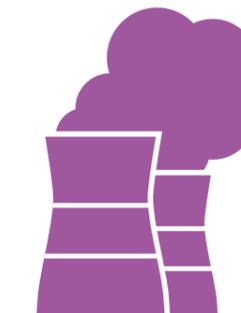
1,824

tonnes of products prevented from being wasted



1,611

tonnes of CO₂ emissions saved



Case Study: The Benjamin Foundation

The Benjamin Foundation is a charity working in Norfolk and Suffolk to prevent youth homelessness, providing youth services and emotional wellbeing support to children and young people who are experiencing challenges in their lives.

Through its network of second-hand furniture and household stores in Norfolk and Reuse Shops in Suffolk (in partnership with Suffolk County Council and FCC Environment), the charity are champions for reuse while raising vital funds to support its work.

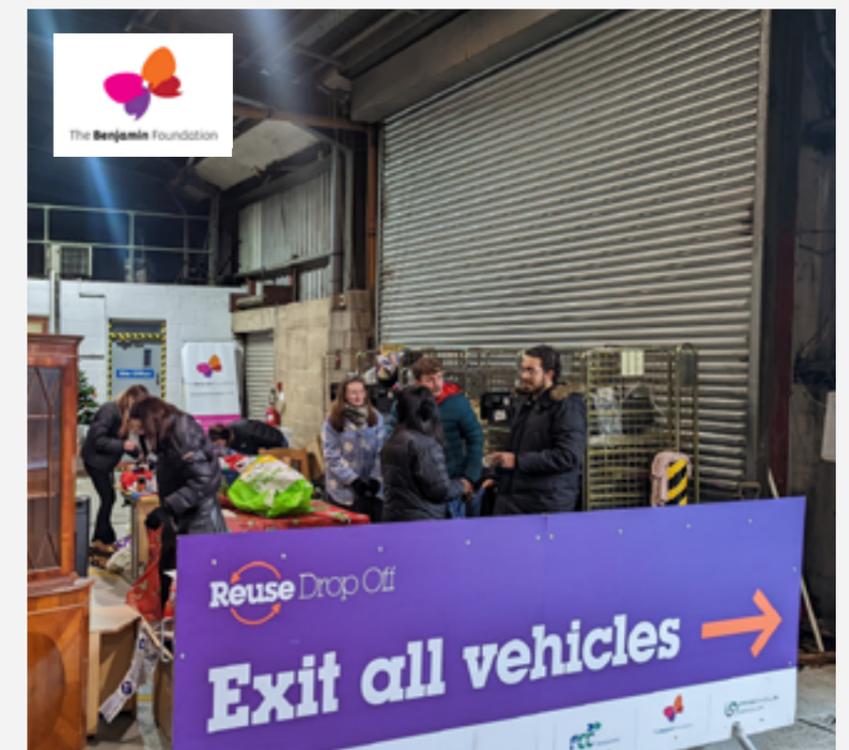
The Benjamin Foundation's second-hand furniture stores, reuse shops and Drop Off Reuse Centre provide easy and convenient opportunities for people in Norfolk and Suffolk to support reuse and reduce the number of items ending up in landfill.

The organisation provides a place to bring items otherwise intended for the 'tip' to have a second chance by being sold in the charity's shops to raise funds for the work it does helping local children and young people.

The charity also plays an important role in its communities by championing and promoting reuse and breaking down barriers around the perception of second-hand items. This promotion and education is important and, as it currently works with 14 recycling sites in Norfolk and Suffolk, The Benjamin Foundation is committed to delivering this message as it continues to seek opportunities to expand and grow.

“Reuse needs to be easy and convenient for people to do – and we are proud of all we have achieved in Norfolk and Suffolk to enable people to do this while supporting local people at the same time.”

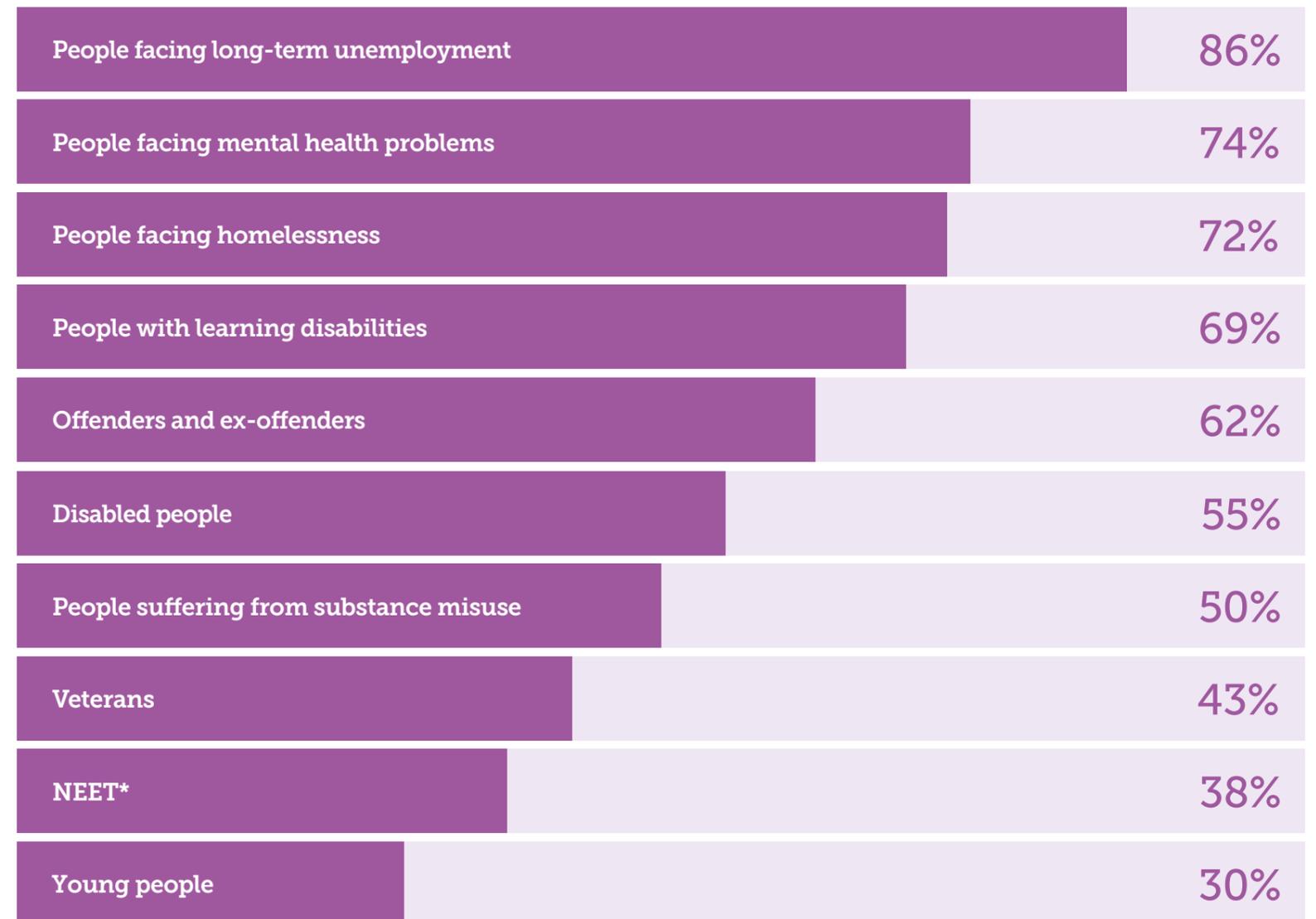
**Paul Sinclair, Operations Manager,
The Benjamin Foundation**



Who our members are

Our members are located throughout Scotland, Wales, England and the Channel Islands. They support people in their local communities through a whole host of activities. In addition to reusing household furniture and electrical items, many of our members run food banks, community cafés, and other complementary activities, as well as providing volunteering and employment opportunities.

The people our members support:



*Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Case Study: Refurbs

Refurbs is a charity organisation based in North East Wales that supports low-income households to furnish their homes for less, whilst also providing training and volunteering opportunities for people facing challenges such as health issues or long-term unemployment. In addition, Refurbs help the environment by stopping lots of good quality furniture from ending up in landfill sites.

Over the past year, Refurbs have significantly grown its benefits for both the community and waste reduction through new initiatives.

In early 2021 the charity secured funding to transform a vacant former bank into a repair and reuse centre with a café in Buckley town centre, achieving the complete renovation within three months. Since the beginning of 2022 it has achieved its ambition of becoming a reuse hub for the local community – it has now established

a regular weekend repair session with a growing team of repair volunteers. Refurbs has also established regular reuse-themed sessions including recycled bike sales, digital skills sessions and upcycling workshops.

Other ventures achieved this year include establishing a new community fridge at its Flint base and running upcycling workshops for housing association tenants to achieve community benefits. These new ventures have enabled the charity to reach additional community members, further reduce waste, and increase awareness of the benefits of reuse more widely.

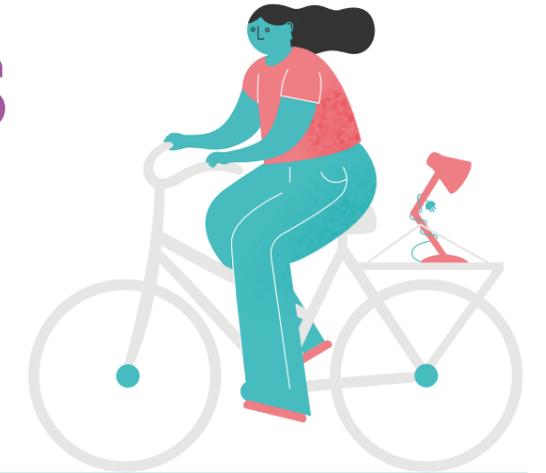
As well as reducing waste, its achievements in engaging the community are having significant benefit for people who are isolated or closely managing their finances – especially important with the cost of living crisis.

“Broadening our activities has engaged many more people with reuse and brought additional community benefits. More people are aware of repair and reuse through attending our events/ repair sessions and our café where we sell upcycled items, and using/supporting our community fridge.”

Amy Cleary, Manager, Refurbs

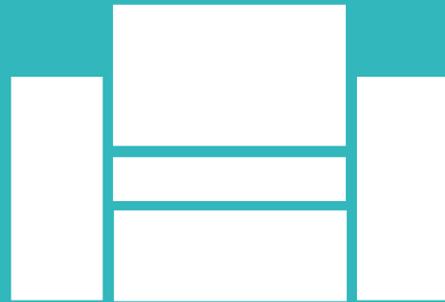


Our members' reuse activities



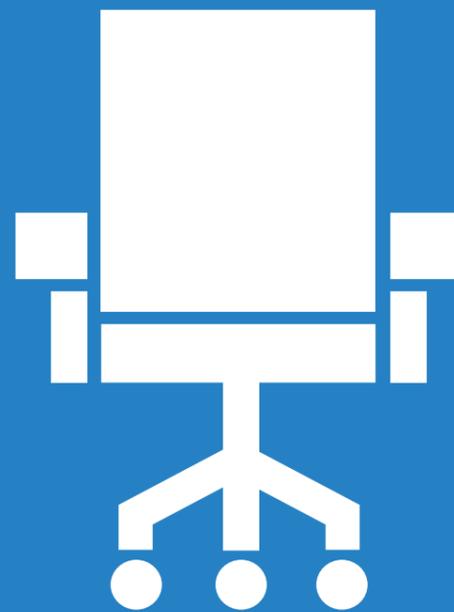
93%

reuse
household
furniture



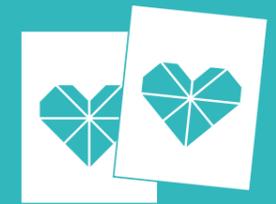
56%

reuse office
furniture



38%

offer starter packs



36%

reuse
textiles



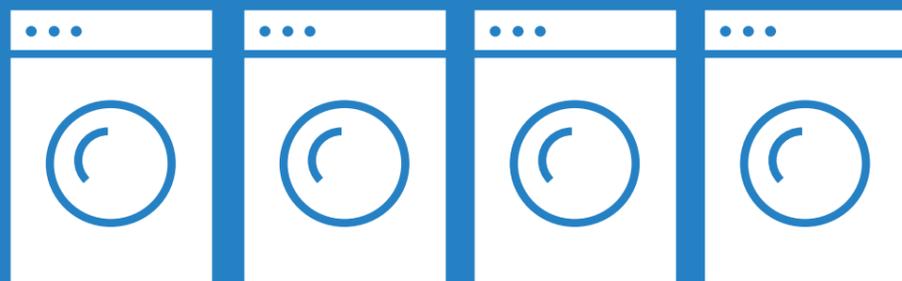
28%

reuse carpets
& flooring



85%

reuse electrical items



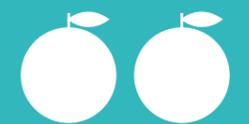
25%

reuse IT
equipment



21%

reuse paint



21%

run food
banks

Case Study: Groundwork Caerphilly

– The Furniture Revival

Groundwork Caerphilly is an established charity organisation based in Rhymney, one of the most economically and health deprived areas of the UK.

Focusing on reuse and recycling initiatives, in partnership with local authorities, Groundwork Caerphilly continues to tackle poverty by providing access to affordable household furniture and electrical items. In addition, the charity works to support community cohesion by providing a volunteering hub to facilitate training and development opportunities to enhance employability and skills within the local area.

The charity is a volunteering hub for its community and the staff team supports a team of loyal, skilled volunteers. Creating volunteering opportunities is part of the organisation's ethos and working model and its volunteers speak positively about their experience of volunteering, gaining valuable life skills, experience and qualifications.

Over the past year, the charity has: reacquainted multiple generations of unemployed and disengaged volunteers to the workplace; helped volunteers gain vital experience, training and qualifications, the majority of which were severely lacking; supported 8 volunteers who were previously unemployed, gain employment; created 15 employment opportunities.



“The times in which we are living are extremely difficult but even more so in the area in which we operate. Rhymney and its surrounding area is one of the most economically and health deprived areas of the UK, being in the top 5% of the UK. Our Social Enterprise has helped families with nothing, turn houses into homes, whilst fulfilling environmental aspirations also.”

**Byron James, Manager,
Groundwork Caerphilly**

reuse

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