



Building Capacity for Sustainable Communities

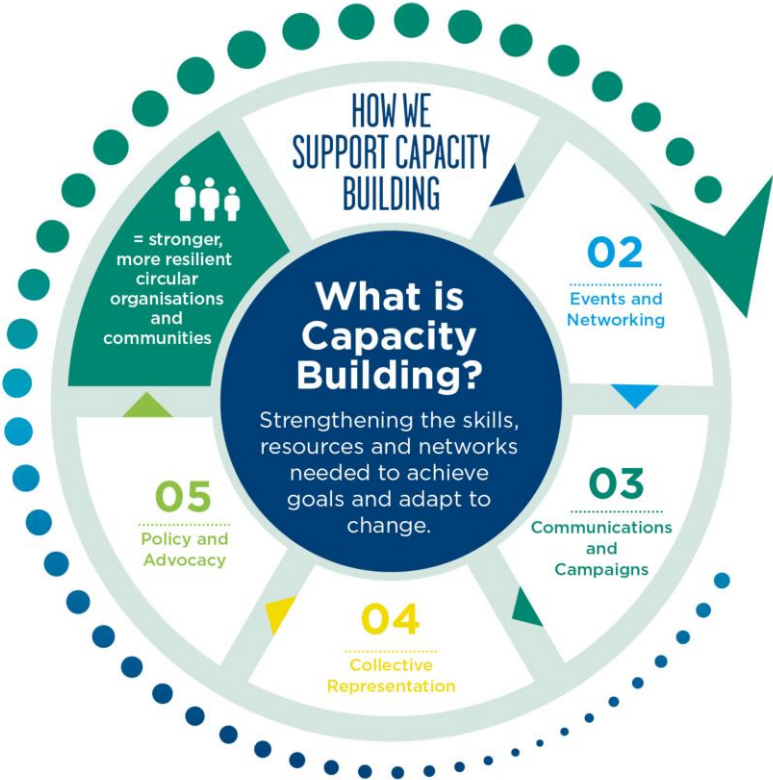
Michael Cook, CEO



**CIRCULAR
COMMUNITIES**
SCOTLAND

**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
2025**

CAPACITY BUILDING IN OUR SECTOR



THE DIFFERENCE OUR MEMBERS MAKE



Reuse retail or charity shops



Repair Projects



Textiles and clothes reuse



Bike reuse



Zero waste shops



White goods, WEEE and IT repair & reuse



Reuse consortium members



Men's Sheds



Sharing Libraries



Community fridges or larders



Starter packs



Food Banks or FareShare Networks



Local food growing



Reuse services at recycling centres



Wood reuse



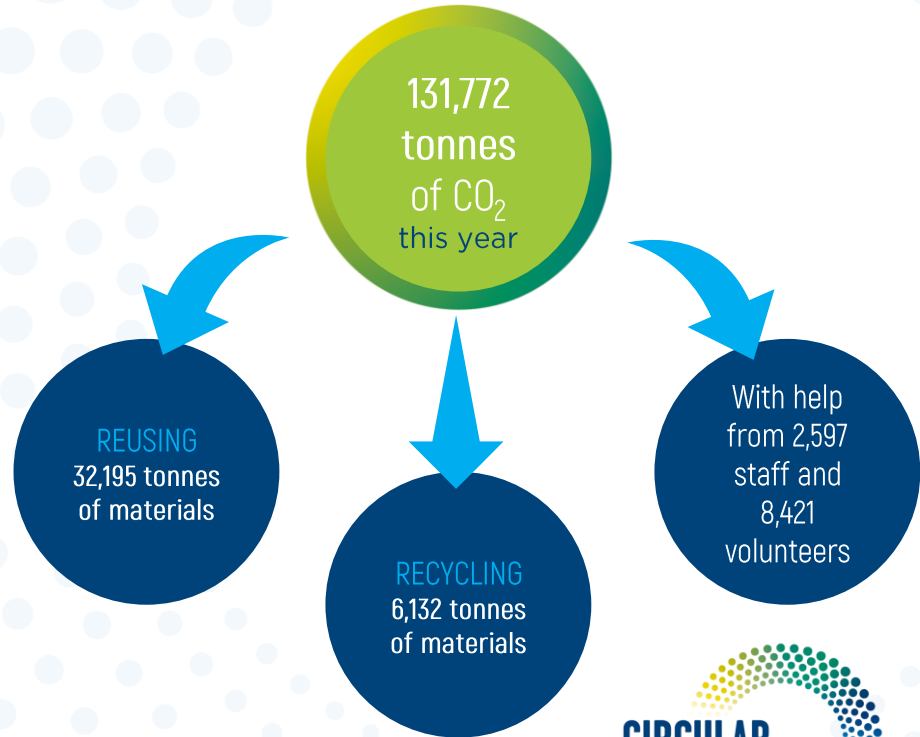
THE DIFFERENCE OUR MEMBERS MAKE

Our members saved:

Annual Survey

Data from our Annual Survey shared here shows increases of our members impact compared to last year's report, including:

- 2%** increase in membership
- 8%** increase in staffing levels
- 5%** increase in volunteer levels
- 5%** increase in reuse and recycling tonnage
- 5%** increase of waste diverted from landfill
- 5%** increase in tonnes of CO₂ saved
- 1%** increase in member turnover



CAPACITY FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

Charity Retail Association[®]

The voice of charity retail



RESTORING LIVES AND FURNITURE



“ The furniture is as unique as the people who make it. Every item tells a story of restoration. Literally, in the way it has been carefully hand-restored and reimagined, and figuratively, in the way the artist behind the piece has often been navigating a period of crisis.



SCULPTING SUSTAINABILITY WITH CIRCULAR ARTS NETWORK



“

The Circular Arts Network is demonstrating the benefit of taking a creative approach with items that may well have been tossed aside. The more products we can reuse and recycle, the greater contribution we can make to reducing the carbon associated with manufacturing new items.

”

PLANTING SEEDS OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE



FreshStart
helping people make a home for themselves

“

[Fresh Start's gardening and cooking classes] help people learn how to take instruction again after years of being led by their addictions. Fresh Start gave me more than cooking skills - it gave me a connection to my past, my recovery, and my future. It's been life changing

”

BUILDING A CULTURE OF REPAIR IN CRIEFF



The Share and Repair Network has been key in supporting the growth and success of our Repair Hub. The guidance, resources, training and networking opportunities have empowered us to develop our Repair Hub service to run more efficiently, reach more people, divert more waste from landfill, and ultimately strengthen our local circular economy.



SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

Annual Survey

We asked our members what the significant issues or challenges their organisation faces.

Challenges	% of responses mentioning this challenge	Details of issues faced
Funding	35%	Core funding, short-term cycles, lack of multi-year support, difficulty securing grants, and sustainability of ongoing projects.
Costs	30%	Rising operational costs including utilities, wages, rent, taxes, and fuel.
Staffing	27%	Recruitment challenges, wage pressures, burnout, and retention issues.
Premises & Spaces	22%	Lack of secure, affordable, or sufficient space for operations, storage, and expansion.
Volunteers	22%	Shortage of volunteers, ageing volunteer base, and challenges in managing and supporting them.

85%

of members (who responded) said that they were confident that they would be able to deliver their projects and services effectively over the next 12 months.

THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE TO OUR MEMBERS

OUR EVENTS

Rated Helpful or Very Helpful



OUR COMMUNICATIONS

Rated Helpful or Very Helpful



The background features a large, stylized blue arrow pointing upwards and to the right, set against a white background with a pattern of green and blue dots. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on circular and geometric shapes.

REUSE MANIFESTO

“ It gives us reassurances that changes to policy are going in the right direction to benefit society. ”

OUR REUSE CONSORTIUM



Meet Nicola

Our Development and Partnerships Manager

23

local jobs maintained

3368

low-income households helped

6607

reused furniture items provided

£911,573

Value of purchases for social enterprises

£361,307

Approx budget savings over buying new



OUR SHARE AND REPAIR NETWORK



Meet Jane

Our Share & Repair Network
Coordinator

Your biggest achievement in 2025:

The biggest highlight of this year has to be receiving funding for another 3 years. Recognition from our funders Zero Waste Scotland demonstrates their ongoing strategic support for share and repair and an acknowledgement of the importance of these projects in delivering circular economy and waste reduction activities and behaviour change at community level.



OUR SHARE & REPAIR TOURISM FUND

This year, Circular Communities Scotland distributed funding to five of our members to deliver innovative, one-year projects to embed circular, sustainable principles into Scotland's tourism sector.

All the projects focused on sharing or repairing – giving Scottish holiday goers, travellers and tourism providers the opportunity to keep products and materials in circulation for as long as possible, instead of throwing them away.



Strathspey Works



**BROADFORD
& STRATH**
COMMUNITY COMPANY



STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR VALUES

Trust & Integrity

Openness & Community

Environmental & Social Justice



ESMEE FAIRBURN



**Esmée
Fairbairn**
FOUNDATION

Diversity,
Equality &
Inclusion

Building
Capacity

Policy
Campaign

*we are recruiting!



DOWNLOAD OUR 2025 IMPACT REPORT

Scan the QR code or visit the publications page of our website!



**BUILDING CAPACITY FOR
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

**CIRCULAR
COMMUNITIES
SCOTLAND**

WWW.CIRCULARCOMMUNITIES.SCOT

f in ▶

Alex-Max®

The graphic features a blue background with a dotted pattern. It contains three circular inset images: one showing an elderly woman in a brown coat interacting with a woman in a purple jacket; another showing a group of women in traditional attire; and a third showing a man in a purple shirt and a woman in a black coat with a white bag labeled 'Alex-Max' standing next to a red balance bike. At the bottom left, there are social media icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube, along with the website URL 'WWW.CIRCULARCOMMUNITIES.SCOT'. The 'Circular Communities Scotland' logo is in the top right corner of the graphic.



THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF, BOARD & FUNDERS



THANK YOU

to all of our members

The logo for Circular Communities Scotland features a semi-circular arc of white dots of varying sizes, creating a dotted effect. Below this arc, the words "CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with "SCOTLAND" in a smaller font size underneath.

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