







MAKING MORE POSSIBLE

2026 IMPACT REPORT

CIRCULARCOMMUNITIES.SCOT

CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND

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A LETTER FROM OUR INTERIM LEAD

This year has been one of growth, organisational change and renewed ambition. While our members continue to navigate a range of challenges, they remain at the forefront of building a more circular, fair and just Scotland. Their innovation, determination and resilience continue to inspire us every day.

This year's impact report is about Making More Possible. A key focus for Circular Communities Scotland this year has been strengthening our understanding of member needs and the impact of their services. We continue to gain richer insights into both the successes of our members and the challenges they face while also helping us to better understand how we move forwards to support a wider range of people and communities through our diversity and inclusion work.

We've invested in building our own capacity to Make More Possible with a Policy Officer and Local Authority Partnership Development Officer now in place. We are already seeing new policy resources and stronger public sector links that are connected to our communications and campaigns activities, our Share & Repair activities and Reuse Consortium activities.

It's been a year of transition too. We said goodbye to our CEO of 7 years, Michael Cook, and following a period of interim leadership, we look forward to welcoming a new CEO and beginning an exciting new chapter for the organisation very soon.

We're grateful to our two main funders for supporting us to Make More Possible – Zero Waste Scotland and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Their support and investment enable us to strengthen support for our 270+ members, amplify their voice in policymaking, create new opportunities for collaboration, and take important steps towards becoming a more diverse, equitable and inclusive organisation.

Together with our members, funders and supporters, we are committed to building stronger organisations, stronger communities and a stronger circular economy for Scotland.



Matt Lewis
Interim Lead



Naomi Johnson
Chair of the Board

A note from the CABINET SECRETARY FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs, Gillian Martin said:

Over the last year, Circular Communities Scotland has continued to demonstrate what can be achieved when environmental action goes hand in hand with social benefit. Across the country, charities and social enterprises are reducing waste, creating jobs and volunteering opportunities, supporting local economies and making everyday goods and services more accessible.

This year's theme, Making More Possible, reflects the ambition, innovation and determination shown by Circular Communities Scotland and its members. Their work is helping to embed circularity in communities, inform developing policy and extend the life of valuable resources and create opportunities for people and places to thrive.

I welcome this Impact Report and thank everyone involved for their ongoing contribution to a fairer, greener and more sustainable Scotland.



Gillian Martin MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs

SUPPORTING SCOTLAND'S CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES

Circular Communities Scotland: Empowering Scottish Communities to Deliver a Circular Economy

Across Scotland, community reuse organisations are finding practical ways to keep materials in use, reduce waste and make goods more affordable.

They are creating jobs and volunteering opportunities, promoting social justice, strengthening communities and helping Scotland move towards a more circular economy.

Circular Communities Scotland exists to help make more of this possible

We support and represent more than 270 charities and social enterprises working across reuse, repair, sharing, recycling and other forms of community-led circular action.



OUR MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

A Note from our Interim Manager

This year, our team has made significant moves towards an outcomes-based approach to evidence our impact. Working with our funder, Zero Waste Scotland, we developed a monitoring and evaluation plan and reviewed our systems, making it easier to show how our activities contribute to the outcomes set out in our **strategic plan**.

We reviewed how each activity contributes to our intended outcomes by highlighting a clear purpose, and identified the evidence needed to demonstrate progress. No one system can capture the full impact of our work: numbers and facts are helpful for comparison and planning, but members' voices, feedback and stories provide essential context through case studies and narrative.

Our approach is to help staff effectively report to our main funders, make considered decisions through our learning from the qualitative feedback we receive, and analyse trends that can be responded to and effectively reported on.

In short, we look forward to continuing our work to capture the full impact, power, scale and potential of our membership network.



Rhoda Reid
Interim Manager

We monitor our work by looking beyond what we do to understand why we do it, what changes as a result, and how we know progress has been made.

Our 10 Year Outcome

A more circular Scotland, with a demonstrable increase in reuse, repair and sharing activity, resulting in social, environmental and economic benefits.

OUR ACTIVITIES

Events, communications, policy and partnership work

Diversity, equality and inclusion

Share and Repair Network and Reuse Consortium

Local Authority partnership development

Wider member support

OUR PURPOSE

To support our members

Provide information and connections

Share good practice

Strengthen relationships and influence policy

OUR OUTCOMES

Our members will be better equipped to deliver their projects

Government policies will create new opportunities for circular activities for our members

Circular Communities Scotland will be recognised as a strong and resilient organisation

MAKING MORE POSSIBLE TOGETHER

Our Commitment to Making More Possible. We are committed to Making More Possible for our members through...



Improved measuring, monitoring and evaluation



Providing opportunities for growth and development



Equipping our sector to be even more resilient



Embedding circularity into our society



Advocating for fairer and better funding

Our Members' New Projects and Opportunities.

Our members are Making More Possible...

24 are starting a new circular project or service

18 are creating new circular jobs or training opportunities

39 are developing new circular partnerships and collaborations

12 are defining new circular aims and objectives for their organisation

> Combining electronic reuse with social impact by donating refurbished devices, providing affordable tech, and developing data tracking for diverted e-waste and CO_2 savings.
>
> **Highlands Innovation CIC**

> We are opening a 22,000 sq. ft new reuse centre
>
> **Moray Waste Busters Ltd**

> We are reinvesting in our facilities at Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative with a major renewals project to expand our storage capacity by 80% and make much needed improvements to our staff & volunteer facilities. We are embarking on an ambitious project to collect contaminated seaweed waste for processing into viable fertiliser.
>
> **The GRAB Trust**

WHAT OUR MEMBERS DO

Scotland's Diverse Circular Charities and Social Enterprises

From community repair projects and sharing libraries to reuse shops, food projects, bike reuse and furniture reuse, our members are creating practical circular solutions in communities across Scotland.



Reuse

Includes Reuse Retail Shops, Redistribution/Starter Pack Projects and Community Swapping Projects



Sharing

Community sharing libraries such as tool libraries and libraries of things



Repair

Includes repair cafes and community repair services



Food & Composting

Including community growing and composting, community fridges and food redistribution services



Community Education



Bike Reuse



Recycling



Consortium Member

Figures reflect that members may provide more than one kind of reuse activity.

OUR MEMBERS' IMPACT

Our Members' Collective Impact Across Community, Environment and Economy

272
member organisations

125,183
tonnes CO_2 savings
Protecting the planet, bringing us closer to Net Zero.

25,366
tonnes materials reused

2,562
staff supported
Employment opportunities supporting people and families in every local authority in Scotland.

9,116
volunteers
People contributing time, skills and experience to organisations that strengthen social and environmental outcomes.

£151,687,141
combined member turnover
Economic activity generated by reuse organisations with their communities' best interests at heart.

30,561
tonnes diverted from landfill
Keeping valuable materials in use rather than becoming waste, while making affordable goods available to people across Scotland.

THIS IMPACT IS BEING FELT IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS SCOTLAND

WHAT OUR MEMBERS VALUE MOST ABOUT THEIR CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND MEMBERSHIP



> The sense of belonging to a reuse sector professional body with the confidence in compliance and solidarity of purpose this brings.
>
> **Community Gift Exchange**

> Feeling connected more widely to other members and also to a positive solution to several of the major issues affecting Scotland e.g. cost of living crisis, climate emergency, mental health crisis, skills and jobs. It is nice to feel that we are part of the solution and that there is hope across Scotland.
>
> **Transition Stirling**

> Access to current information and funding opportunities.
>
> **Cue Props CIC**



> It's great belonging to a network where you can find up-to-date policy and funding information as well as having national representation of organisations like ourselves and advocating for smaller organisations.
>
> **Merry-Go-Round**

> I value being able to speak to staff who are approachable and willing to help you and feel you are supported at all times.
>
> **All Together Edinburgh**

> We value the ease in which we can connect with other groups, whether they're local to us or further afield, we've made some great contacts.
>
> **Climate Action Strathaven**

MAKING WAVES IN REUSE AND RECYCLING WITH FORGE & EQUIP

CASE STUDY

FORGE & EQUIP



> “Circular Communities Scotland’s work is closely aligned with what we’re trying to achieve at Forge & Equip - moving away from a throwaway culture and demonstrating the value that can be found in materials, skills and resources that might otherwise be overlooked.

Daniel Melo da Silva
founder of Forge & Equip CIC

CASE STUDY

FORGE & EQUIP

What do you get when you combine a pile of reclaimed steel, 83 hours of skilled fabrication and a little imagination? In East Lothian, the answer is a 3-metre-high, 6.2-metre-long fish that's helping festival-goers think differently about waste.

Created by social enterprise Forge & Equip CIC in collaboration with environmental charity Balanced Horizon, the giant fish made a splash at this year's Fringe by the Sea. Constructed almost entirely from reclaimed steel, it was designed not only as a striking piece of public art, but as an interactive recycling point, inviting visitors to 'feed' it their empty aluminium cans.

For Forge & Equip, the project was an opportunity to demonstrate the potential of materials that might otherwise have been discarded - creating something useful and engaging with a strong, environmental narrative.

Daniel Melo da Silva, founder of Forge & Equip CIC said:

We love creating projects that bring people together while giving new life to materials that would otherwise go to waste. This fish shows what can be achieved with imagination, practical skills and collaboration.

That philosophy is at the heart of Forge & Equip's wider work. The East Lothian social enterprise combines commercial welding and metal fabrication with supportive training opportunities for people facing barriers to employment. Through its Route to Employment programme, practical workshop activities help people develop technical and transferable skills, build confidence and move towards volunteering, qualifications and employment.

For Daniel and the team, creativity is an important part of that process. Working with your hands offers a different way to learn and express yourself, building confidence and supporting wellbeing. Thanks to their practical and creative ethos, around 220kg of aluminium cans were subsequently collected for recycling through the fish at the festival.

The project's visibility has generated enquiries about similar sculptures for schools and other settings, while the concept is being explored for future community and environmental projects. The fish – affectionately known as Cod Stewart – is also set to continue its journey, with further stops planned.

For Forge & Equip, the project shows that circularity can be about much more than what happens at the end of a product's life. It can mean looking differently at resources from the outset and finding exciting artistic opportunities in what already exists.

The Big Fish is a colourful example of what happens when those ideas are put into practice: waste becomes a resource, a commercial project supports a social mission, and an ordinary festival recycling point is transformed into somewhere to become part of something bigger.



MAKING REPAIRING MAINSTREAM WITH ILM HIGHLAND

CASE STUDY



“

Rescued & Ready encapsulates the potential of repair and reuse to be fully embedded in our society – from items being collected in partnership with Councils, to being sold on and shared at reuse focused shopping venues, whilst employment and skills training support economic and social growth. It would be fantastic to see this replicated across the country.

Georgie Samuel
Local Authority Partnership Development Officer

CASE STUDY

Is reuse and repair simply about keeping items out of waste streams? ILM Highland is proving otherwise and showing the circular economy's true potential through its Rescued & Ready project.

Hosted in Scotland's first 'Reuse Village' in Inverness, and supported by Highland Council Recycling Centres - Rescued & Ready combines repair, reuse, skills development and employment opportunities, to create affordable household items and social, economic outcomes to one of Scotland's most unique localities.

Launched in June 2026, Rescued & Ready picks up small domestic electrical items from dedicated reuse containers at local recycling centres, that might otherwise have been discarded. Suitable items are assessed and repaired by an employed engineer. By the 4th of September this year, 258 items had been repaired or reused through the project.

Part of Inverness's Reuse Village, the project is part of a wider experience for local shoppers, with a variety of reuse organisations offering refurbished goods to communities. Two new jobs have been created through Rescued & Ready, with a further two roles created through ILM Highland's involvement in the Reuse Village.

Behind the scenes, the project is also creating opportunities for people to learn the valuable skills needed for repairing. Alongside the repair and retail activity, Rescued & Ready runs hands-on workshops where people can learn about common faults, electrical safety, tool use, PAT testing and practical repairs. No previous experience is required, making the sessions accessible to everyone who might be interested.

For participants, the outcome might be a new technical skill. It might be the confidence to try something unfamiliar, experience to add to a CV, or simply the satisfaction of successfully fixing something themselves. For others, the workshops could become a first step towards volunteering, work experience, qualifications or employment.



Councillor Graham MacKenzie, Chair of The Highland Council's Communities and Place Committee, said:

> *ILM Highland has an outstanding track record of delivering both environmental and social benefits for communities across the Highlands. Their Rescued & Ready project is an excellent example of how reuse and repair can reduce waste, extend the life of valuable electrical items, and make affordable products available to local households.*

For ILM Highland, this is also about preparing for the future. The organisation's longer-term ambition is to become a training facility and centre of excellence for repair, reuse and refurbishment in the Highlands – helping develop the next generation of skilled workers and ensuring valuable practical knowledge is not lost.

MAKING TRANSFORMATIONAL PATHWAYS WITH MUSIC BROTH

CASE STUDY

MUSIC BROTH







MUSIC BROTH

CASE STUDY

The transformational power of music, circularity and opportunity come together at Scotland's loudest library, Music Broth.

A sharing library with over 4,000 musical instruments and pieces of equipment, from guitars and keyboards to drum kits, amps and PAs - Music Broth's circular model means instruments are rescued, repaired and shared through an affordable community library.

Access to instruments gives people a way to learn, connect and engage in music-making that might otherwise be out of reach. These opportunities allow people to develop practical and technical skills, build confidence, explore creativity, gain experience and move towards employment, teaching or further learning.

Music Broth's career and education pathways occur organically, and there's no one route through the organisation. Someone might start by repairing an instrument, volunteering at an event, borrowing equipment or attending a workshop. They might develop technical skills, discover a talent for teaching or gain the confidence to pursue their own creative practice. Sometimes that leads to employment; sometimes it simply provides the experience or encouragement needed to take the next step.

For one volunteer, that journey began with an interest in guitar repair. Over time, he developed skills in amp testing and technical equipment, growing in confidence to support members and newer volunteers. Music Broth recently supported him to undertake PAT testing training, while he continued volunteering alongside moving into part-time employment at a local library after a significant period away from work.

For another trainee, the pathway combined technical and creative skills. Joining Music Broth from Krakow University, she helped make more than 60 violins serviceable for community use, while also developing and leading creative workshops, including improvisation groups using instruments from the library.

Another musician arrived with an idea for electronic music workshops designed to make musical technology more accessible for women, non-binary and gender-expansive people. With space and encouragement from Music Broth, she developed her teaching practice and creative methods, later securing employment with Music Broth and other music organisations in Glasgow.

A young volunteer developed repair, administration and public-facing skills before securing work at a music college, and six months later began teaching singing there – a progression she directly connected to the confidence and experience gained at Music Broth. These experiences demonstrate the breadth of what can grow from a circular community model.

As one volunteer put it:

> *"I felt really valued as a volunteer for my skills through the leadership I worked with. I felt trusted from day one."*

These experiences all share a similar story. When interest, accessibility and support meet, opportunities can be created that suit an individual's journey. These examples show how natural and impactful social outcomes can be when they come from an organisation that has circular and environmental principles – showing that giving instruments another life can also give people the opportunity to find their next step.

MAKING SHARING STYLISH WITH SCOTTISH LIBRARY AND INFORMATION COUNCIL

CASE STUDY



> The ongoing support of Circular Communities Scotland has been invaluable to SLIC throughout our Lend and Mend journey. At the very start they were able to connect us with Edinburgh Tool Library for peer support. This proved to be extremely helpful in the set-up of the Lend and Mend Hubs, as has our ongoing Share and Repair Network membership.

Marion Kunderan
Principal Officer, SLIC

CASE STUDY

We all know our local library as a place to borrow books, but the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) is exploring what else communities can borrow, make, repair and learn in these spaces, with surprising, creative and award-winning results.

SLIC's Lend & Mend Hubs are a network of community services helping people keep items in use for longer and access resources that can help ease the pressure of the cost-of-living crisis.

The Hubs also provide a space where people can learn practical skills and put them to the test. They've become a place for different generations to share knowledge, with volunteers supporting activities and passing on skills.



At the AK Bell Library in Perth, this approach has opened up possibilities far beyond traditional library services. One of the most creative examples came through the Culture Perth & Kinross Youth Collective, which regularly uses the local library network as a place to meet. As part of a three-year Living Communities Heritage Pathways project, funded by the Gannochy Trust, members spent a year exploring youth culture, fashion and the circular economy.

Using library, museum and archive collections for inspiration, they researched 100 years of youth styles before designing their own garments. With support from local charity and Lend & Mend collaborator Social Flock, they sourced pre-loved clothing and fabrics, then used the Hub to alter, repair and transform them.

The result was A Century of Youth, a student-led fashion show held at the AK Bell Library in November 2025. The young people took ownership of the entire event, transforming the library into a runway, creating changing areas and using the building's stairs and lighting rigs to stage the show.

The Lend & Mend Hub became the backstage workshop, providing a space for last-minute alterations and finishing touches. Some young people went on to keep and wear their creations, extending their life beyond the event.

The project also created an intergenerational exchange of skills. Hub volunteers showed participants techniques including how to make patches, while the young people brought their own creativity and ideas to the space.

Alison Nolan, Chief Executive of SLIC, said:

> *The success of 'A Century of Youth' shows what can happen when libraries give communities the space, tools and confidence to turn sustainable ideas into action.*

The event went on to win Best Student-Led Event at the Scottish Event Awards, recognising the creativity and ambition of the young people involved.

OUR EVENTS

Connecting and Engaging our Network

Percentage of members who rated our events as either 'Helpful' or 'Very Helpful' in our 2026 member survey:

80% Annual Conference

92% Annual Share and Repair Gathering

73% Other Share and Repair Network Events

86% In Person Regional Forums

91% Thematic Seminars

WE PROVIDE

Member forums and networking

MEMBERS GAIN

Connections, ideas and peer support

THIS ENABLES

Collaboration, partnerships and new opportunities



"The funding seminar was very helpful and gave us several new avenues to explore. I found the policy seminar very useful, helping us to contextualise and frame our services within the policy landscape.

Remake Scotland

"The Edinburgh Members' Forum back in April was a great opportunity to meet other individuals from organisations doing similar work, make connections and provide opportunities for potential collaborations.

Home Basics
(Tweeddale)

"The thematic and funding seminars are incredibly helpful in keeping up to date with the current situation and the in-person forums are great for touching base with fellow regional members in the sector.

Moray Waste Busters

OUR MEMBER SERVICES

Connecting and Engaging our Network

Percentage of members who rated our services as either 'Helpful' or 'Very Helpful' in our 2026 member survey:

- **79%** Member to Member Queries
- **72%** Access to our Policy Officer and Policy Work
- **75%** Access to our Share and Repair Network
- **70%** Access to the Reuse Consortium
- **75%** 1-1 Support
- **75%** Access to Community Learning Exchange
- **72%** Reuse Opportunity Emails

WE PROVIDE

Meaningful services designed for our members

MEMBERS GAIN

Knowledge, inspiration and skills

THIS ENABLES

Political participation, sector growth and problem resolution

> The support has been excellent. I personally prefer contact through phone calls or emails directly with a member of staff and still feel I can contact staff directly with queries or help with an issue. They are very approachable and understand the needs of our organisation.
>
> **All Together Edinburgh**

> The Community Learning Exchange is essential. We were able to take a team to visit COPE Enterprise in Shetland. This has enabled our team to create an employability project with significant social, environmental and economic benefit locally. As a social enterprise this project is a third year sustainable £110,000 turnover project, that without the CLE programme would not have happened.
>
> **The Furniture Project** (Stranraer)

> Being part of the wider network gives us a solid point of contact for sector-specific guidance. As we get our ReTech operations up and running in Inverness, having access to the Share and Repair Network resources gives us a useful reference point for connecting with other repair initiatives across Scotland.
>
> **Highlands Innovation CIC**

OUR COMMUNICATIONS

Informing and Unifying our Network

Percentage of members who rated our communications as either 'Helpful' or 'Very Helpful' in our 2026 member survey:

- **95%** E-Newsletter
- **95%** Policy and Funding Updates
- **95%** Share and Repair E-Newsletter
- **81%** Social Media
- **75%** Campaigns

WE PROVIDE

Bespoke communications and campaigns

MEMBERS GAIN

Awareness, a collective voice, promotion

THIS ENABLES

Advocacy, political and public influence, agency

> "The newsletters, policy and funding updates ensure we don't miss out on current developments and opportunities in the sector."
>
> **Moray WasteBusters**

> "It is great to get the funding digest - a quick way to find out about suitable funds. It is also good to have an organisation that represents the sector and can lead on campaigns when most organisations don't have the resources to do so - and this is a time that requires proactive representation."
>
> **Bike for Good**

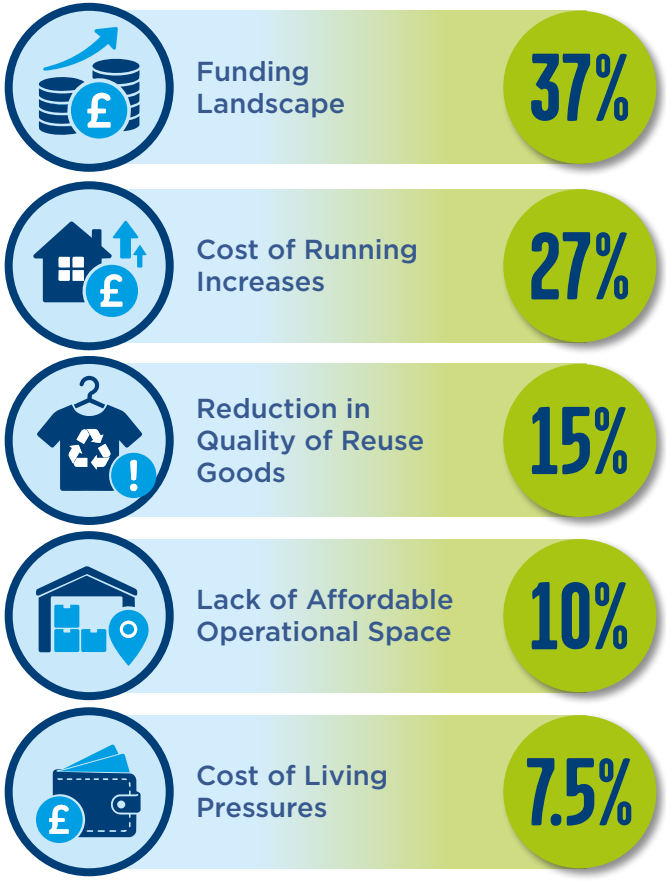
> "I find the website helpful when advising people from outside our catchment area about services that are near to them."
>
> **St. Patrick's Furniture Project**

> "The monthly newsletters are great for highlighting funding sources but also for hearing about success stories from other projects and organisations."
>
> **Linlithgow CDT Project**

THE REALITY FACING SCOTLAND'S CIRCULAR ORGANISATIONS

Our members are delivering significant social, economic and environmental value, but they are doing so in an increasingly challenging operating environment.

Percentage of members who rated these challenges as 'Most Impactful':



These challenges shape our priorities as an organisation. They inform our policy work, funding advocacy, member support and development projects.

> Finances and making ends meet are our biggest challenge just now. Our income isn't declining, but it hasn't grown to meet our rising operating costs.
>
> **Anonymous Member**

> The funding landscape is very challenging with far fewer successful applications last year than previously. We would also love to expand or relocate as our current building is sub-optimal and new landlords increase the risk of eviction. Finding a large enough space that would be affordable for us has been very challenging.
>
> **Anonymous Member**

> The charity's broadband and WIFI costs have increased by 25% this year, salary costs have increased by 6.7%, all supply costs have increased by 8%, all this is above the rate of inflation. None of these are measured as part of inflation and none are built into grants.
>
> **Anonymous Member**

Data and quotes shared on this page are separate from our larger annual member survey. Data shared here was part of a member survey which closed on the 4th of May 2026, with 103 members taking part, representing 38% of our membership.

OUR POLICY WORK

Representing and Advocating for our Network

43% of members surveyed plan to engage directly with MSPs this year

23% of members surveyed would like to engage with their MSPs and would like Circular Communities Scotland's support

50%+ of members surveyed requested to be part of the process to review our 2026 policy asks



Want to speak to us about our policy work? Meet our Circular Economy Policy Officer Becky

GET REUSE RIGHT

Discover the policy actions we believe the Scottish Government should take to Get Reuse Right for Scotland's circular charities and social enterprises.

EQUIP the community reuse sector to be more resilient

EMBED community reuse as a local, easy and affordable choice

PRIORITISE reuse over recycling

If put into action, our policy asks would help to tackle the challenges our members are facing.

View our 2026 GET REUSE RIGHT policy actions

Some of the MSP and Circular Communities Scotland member visits we've helped facilitate this year:

Helped facilitate visit by **Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs** to Ullapool Unpacked, *July*

Organised and attended visit for **Sanne Dijkstra-Downie MSP** to Fresh Start, Edinburgh, *August*

Organised and attended visit for **Colin Beattie MSP** to Midlothian Advice and Resource Centre, which led to him **submitting this motion**, *September*

Organised visit for **Mark Ruskell MSP** to Multibank, Fife, *August*

Data and quotes shared on this page are separate from our larger annual member survey. Data shared here was part of a member survey which closed on the 4th of May 2026, with 103 members taking part, representing 38% of our membership.

OUR REUSE CONSORTIUM

Catch up with Alysha, our Reuse Consortium Officer



In your own words, how has your project 'made more possible' for our members this year?

It was great to support PUSH Perth in their first year of Consortium trading. Stella's Voice and Cunninghame Furniture Recycling Company, as well as other Consortium members with mattress recycling projects, guided PUSH to successfully launch their own. With these connections and access to the Consortium system, PUSH was able to turn their strong relationship with Perth and Kinross Council into an official procurement arrangement. Since they started trading earlier this year, PUSH has provided 217 mattresses to the Council, providing an additional income stream and opportunities for training.

If you could create any change in the sector to better support your project members, what change would you choose and why?

I would like to see procurement teams prioritising reuse. Purchasing reused goods from social enterprises is a great way to support community wealth building, on top of all the environmental benefits.

What was your most meaningful moment in your projects work this year?

Meeting the incredible staff and volunteers working at Consortium member organisations was a definite highlight. People are so passionate about the difference they're making in their communities.

What does next year hold for your Circular Communities Scotland project?

The Consortium will continue to focus on supporting members as best we can in the context of challenges facing the sector. We hope to encourage buying second-hand from our members, raising awareness of our project as a straightforward way for procurement teams to demonstrate social and environmental benefits.

We're celebrating 10 years of the Reuse Consortium in 2026

REUSE CONSORTIUM
CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND

The Reuse Consortium's Impact April 2025 – March 2026

PEOPLE

3,414 low-income households supported

7,740 items of furniture reused

PLANET

318,739 kg of waste diverted from landfill

844.64 tonnes of CO_2 saved

PLACE

23 local jobs maintained

£1,044,102 value of purchases from local social enterprises

POUNDS

£110,594 approximate budget saving over buying new

OUR SHARE & REPAIR NETWORK





Catch up with Jane, our Share & Repair Network Coordinator

In your own words, how has your project 'made more possible' for our members this year?

The **2026 Share & Repair Gathering** was an incredibly positive and energising event – providing opportunities for members to connect, be inspired, learn from each other and ultimately do more great work for their communities.

Lindsey Campbell, Linlithgow Community Development Trust said:

> *I made pages of notes for future ideas– it's just great getting in the same room together with all these inspirational people.*

Our report reviewing sharing library membership fees was a practical response to support sharing projects navigate the challenges of setting or raising prices as they strive to be financially sustainable.

Trish Salt, Inverness Tool Library said:

> *It's an amazing piece of work and will help us when we discuss our financial strategy.*

Overall it's exciting to see the sector continue to grow – and we now have repair projects in all but 6 of Scotland's local authority areas. I'm looking forward to us being able to continue to support this pattern of growth.

If you could create any change in the sector to better support your project members, what change would you choose and why?

The sector is so reliant on the dedication of volunteers, but recruiting, managing, supporting and training them to run safe projects is a significant job. Simply in terms of return on investment, funding volunteer management roles would be a strategically sensible way to support the sector.

What was your most meaningful moment in your projects work this year?

For me personally it was having the opportunity to speak in front of the First Minister at Dunkeld & Birnam Repair Café's Repairfest event. It was great to be able to present the case for the significance of the community repair movement and the impact it can make in the move towards a circular economy.

What does next year hold for your Circular Communities Scotland project?

More growth, more listening to and visiting members, and continuing to develop partnerships with the other UK nations and international partners so that we can identify and share innovation and best practice approaches to development. I'm also looking forward to continuing to work with our Policy Officer Becky Kenton-Lake to ensure sharing and repairing are on the policy agenda.

OUR LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORK

Catch up with Georgie, our Local Authority Partnership Development Officer



In your own words, how has your project 'made more possible' for our members this year?

Our partnership work 'makes more possible' by raising the profile of our members to councils, enabling them to help Local Authorities reach their social and environmental ambitions.

There's great enthusiasm from Local Authorities and our members to build relationships. Our members are ideally placed to demonstrate how reuse benefits its communities – something Local Authorities are keen to support and replicate. Together, we've made real change, like with the South Lanarkshire Bike Reuse project.

Greig Hawke, Development Officer, Climate Action Hub Lanarkshire said:

> *Circular Communities Scotland provided invaluable support in getting our South Lanarkshire Bike Reuse project off the ground. From initial conversations to liaising with partners and collaborators, they offered expert advice and valuable insights into existing recycle/reuse schemes, collaborative projects and how to navigate formalities such as Service Level Agreements and Memorandums between partners and various local authority departments.*

If you could create any change in the sector to better support your project members, what change would you choose and why?

I'd love to see Local Authorities bringing a more strategic approach to reuse, considering how we can expand circularity beyond the waste department and into housing, economic development, education and so much more. Reuse targets would also help focus work on this important area.

What was your most meaningful moment in your projects work this year?

It has been so rewarding to get the right people in the room, literally and virtually, to progress mutually beneficial projects. From Stirling to Aberdeen to Hamilton, our members and councils have been so engaged in coming together to increase circularity in their region and it feels deeply meaningful and exciting.

What does next year hold for your Circular Communities Scotland project?

We'll continue to consider partnership working with both a geographical focus, and on specific product streams like electricals and mattresses.

> Having the opportunity to discuss potential opportunities directly with Georgie has helped us better understand the local authority landscape, keep informed about emerging opportunities and open doors that we may not otherwise have been aware of. It has also strengthened our relationship with Stirling Council.
>
> **Donna Wood**
> Opportunities Manager
> Transition Stirling
> Member

THANK YOU

Thank you to our members for providing their data to help us build this impact report, and for their hard work and dedication bringing circular projects and meaningful social outcomes to their communities.

Thank you to this year's case studies, Music Broth, Scottish Library and Information Council, ILM Highland and Forge & Equip for their time sharing their stories with us and for representing our network.

Thank you to our staff for their ongoing commitment to our members and contributions to this year's report, and to our Board, for their guidance and support in 2026.

Circular Communities Scotland

If you'd like to know more about our work supporting and representing reuse charities and social enterprises across Scotland, visit our website **www.circularcommunities.scot**

Contact us

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Circular Communities Scotland is grateful to Zero Waste Scotland and Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for the continued funding of our work.

