

CRNI Policy Position – Review Sept 2017

Overview

The policy landscape for community reuse and recycling is continuously evolving at both EU and national level, and crosses numerous Departments including the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Social Protection; Rural and Community Development and Business, Enterprise and Innovation. For this reason CRNI's White Paper [Making Reuse and Recycling Happen](#) setting out the network's key policy positions must be continuously updated.

In September 2017, CRNI consulted with members to update the White Paper, identify emerging themes and flag top priorities for its members for the coming year.

The emerging priority actions for CRNI are set out below:

Building awareness

- **Build awareness** of member activities and opportunities for reuse
- Work with members and key stakeholders to convey the **value of the work of community reuse & recycling enterprise**

Sustainable footing

- Develop a **long term strategy** to provide a more sustainable financial footing for reuse sector
- Identify strategic opportunities to work with Local Authorities in **allocating the 15c/inhabitant** committed to waste prevention

Government leadership

- Encourage the development of a **strong supportive national strategy** for social enterprise
- Drive Government leadership through **greener public procurement** of reused and recycled goods
- Work with key stakeholders to obtain **consistent national guidelines for Civic Amenity Sites**

Demonstrate ambition

- Use **existing Regional Plan targets** to measure and drive our member's contribution to waste prevention
- Use the transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive to **drive greater ambition** for the sector

These are elaborated below, in the context of the six policy themes set out in the original paper. **Highlighted items identify the key priorities above.** Other priority policy actions from the original paper have also been adjusted, and re-prioritised, below.

Better Design: the design of goods should facilitate reuse and recycling

Recognising the limitations of the network, CRNI will aim to support other stakeholders (RREUSE) to drive the resource efficient agenda at an EU level.



Sept 2017

Our priorities in this area are to:

1. **Channel best practice** from Europe in design for reuse, repair and recycling, with a focus on goods handled by our members
2. Work with RREUSE network on encouraging **better design for reuse, repair and recycling** through the Eco-design directive, with a focus on goods handled by our members

Eliminating Waste: Ensuring everything that can be reused or recycled, is

Our priorities in this area are to:

1. **Build awareness** of member activities, the value of reused goods and opportunities to engage in reuse through general communications and marketing, promotional campaigns such as reuse month, the Quality Mark project (tackling negative consumer perceptions) and other activities.
2. Work with regional authorities and other stakeholders to obtain **consistent national guidelines for Civic Amenity Sites** ensuring:
 - all materials are viewed as potential resources
 - priority access is provided to social enterprises and similar organisations for materials for reuse / preparation for reuse in line with the Regional Waste Plans
 - infrastructure and opportunities for reuse are improved to ensure at least 10% non-residual waste can be reused or prepared for reuse in line with the Regional Waste Plans
3. Support efforts to ensure the revised Waste Framework Directive includes obligations on Extended Producer Responsibility schemes to **support preparation for reuse financially**

Changing behaviour: Engaging Government, consumers and business in reuse purchasing decisions

Our priorities in this area are to:

1. Encourage greater **support for educational / communications campaigns** targeting behavioural change at all levels and across all stakeholders
2. Drive Government leadership through strong and effective **greener public procurement** criteria for reuse & recycling by
 - Seeking greater inclusion of criteria for reused and recycled goods at national level
 - Supporting local authorities in realising their procurement commitments under the Regional Waste Plans

Growing the Reuse Sector: Enabling reuse businesses to thrive

Our priorities in this area are to:

1. Work with authorities to establish a **secure funding source** for reuse in the long term, including:
 - Developing a long term strategy to provide a more sustainable financial footing for reuse sector
 - Identifying strategic opportunities to work with Local Authorities in allocating the 15c/inhabitant committed to waste prevention
2. Encourage **better and more consistent enterprise support** to community enterprise through LEOs and other services
3. Continue to **improve data collection and publicise data** on the environmental, economic and social benefits of reuse in Ireland
4. Support targets for reuse including the existing **Regional Waste Management Plan prevention target** by highlighting its importance and demonstrating our member's contribution to it
3. Prepare for the transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive as an opportunity to drive **greater ambition for the sector**

Smart Recycling: Driving quality and ambition through community recycling

Our priorities in this area are to:

4. Support the development of a **separate permitting system** for community based recycling organisations, that facilitates the scale and nature of these operations
5. Consult with regulatory bodies to ensure the **indemnifications** required by community based recycling organisations accurately reflect the risk and level of activity of those organisations.
6. Promote **innovative and quality recycling** and highlight the value of materials recovered by community recyclers through existing awareness campaigns and general communications and marketing.
7. Encourage Government to take an **all-island approach** to the recycling market.

Thriving Communities: Optimising the potential of the social economy in reuse and recycling

Our priorities in this area are to:

1. Encourage the development of a **strong supportive national strategy** for social enterprise that
 - uses positive language and reflects the value of **value of the work of community reuse & recycling** enterprise



Sept 2017

- provides a strategic approach to **encourage growth** in this sector
- 2. Work with members and key stakeholders to highlight the **value of community reuse & recycling** enterprise including the excellent training and progression opportunities for job scheme participants
- 3. Working with Government in **improving job activation and community schemes** so they
 - Better facilitate the needs of service providers in the reuse and recycling sector
 - Actively encourage participants to engage in schemes