Support to reuse and recycle

Introduction

Waste accounts for 4% of Scotland's total greenhouse gas emissions; a significant amount of the emissions from waste sites is from methane as the waste decomposes – methane is 86 times more potent than CO_2 over a 20 year period.
Recycling rates in West Dunbartonshire are low – at just 36%, which generates the equivalent of just under 10,000 tonnes of CO_2 per year (SEPA, 2021).

Transitioning to Circular Economy practices and increasing the efficiency of resource use will significantly support the goal of achieving net zero by 2045.

In a circular economy:
Products and materials are shared, maintained, reused, refurbished, recycled, and composted. Waste is kept to a minimum.
In other words, we find smarter, more efficient ways to do business and produce goods without constantly relying on resources that will eventually run out.

A circular economy helps tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution.

Ideas towards a circular economy

1. Share, Maintain, and Prolong
Community members borrow and maintain shared items, learning repair and care skills.
Library of Things
Borrow household items like carpet cleaners, tents, or sewing machines.
Tool Library
Access DIY tools with optional training and workshop space.
Refill shop
Reduce plastic waste and promote conscious consumption.

2. Reuse and Redistribute
 Items are passed on to others when no longer needed.
Clothes Bank / Swap & Repair Spaces
Donate, exchange, or repair clothing and electricals instead of sending it to landfill.
Food Bank / Community Larder
Distribute surplus food to those who need it. Combine with workshops or cafes.

3. Refurbish and Remanufacture

Items are upgraded or rebuilt by experts.

Repair Café / Upcycling Shops

Bring broken household items to fix with volunteer experts – keep things working longer!

4. Recycle

When items reach end-of-life, materials are recovered and reused.

Support community efforts to separate waste properly for recycling or composting.

Need Help Getting Started?

We can help you:

- Develop your idea
- Link with funding opportunities
- Connect with like-minded and experienced groups
- Connect with organisations who can provide technical support and expertise