Commercial and industrial materials:

Packaging, paint, insulation and more

Donating & Sourcing Goods

Research has shown that in Europe, approximately 40% of new products placed on the market leave the economy as waste in the same year. If we continue to use resources at the current rate, by 2050 we will need the equivalent of more than two planets to sustain us.

In Ireland, approx. 60% of the products we throw away are sent for energy recovery or are landfilled, with just 40% being recycled. It is estimated that only around 1% are currently reused.

Many of the products that are discarded can be easily reused, but are often prevented from this due to concerns around liability, cost, or simply a lack of awareness of the options.

Goods for Reuse

Many businesses may not be aware that a diverse range of clean used goods can be donated for reuse. Reuse organisations including the SMILE resource exchange and ReCreate can accept a wide range of commercial and industrial materials from food grade IBCs to packaging and foam, textiles, paper and foil, boxes, conveyor belts and much more.

For many businesses, product liability and risk – as well as financial return - are important concerns when considering donations for reuse.

From extensive industry experience, CRNI members are well equipped to address these concerns in collaboration with donors.

Goods for Recycling

For those items that cannot be reused, CRNI members are continually identifying new opportunities for recycling.

For example, the SMILE exchange recently identified a new outlet for recycling label backing, a common problem waste in many companies. Ecomattress (Dublin) and Boomerang enterprises (Cork) are the only companies in Ireland offering mattress recycling services. RecycleIT also offers WEEE recycling services. Many of these companies, as social enterprises, contribute both to the environmental and social policy agendas.

Sourcing Goods

In addition to donations, businesses can make significant savings by sourcing goods in a B2B exchange. The SMILE network facilitates these exchanges by providing an online exchange for simple products or technical advice on a one to one basis to ensure that the products are a good match for the receiving company.

Some examples of exchanges are provide below.

Example of materials reused

Food Grade IBCs

Abrasive Belts

Cardboard Boxes

Tiles, paint, spools, tubing

Case Studies:

Ocon Chemicals contacted the SMILE team to find an outlet for good quality **office furniture** (over 100 pieces in total) that was no longer needed, including office desks, chairs, filing cabinets, drawers, TV, computer equipment and more. Within a short space of time, over 40 enquiries were received from SMILE exchange members. The furniture was donated to the Northside for Business Enterprise Development Centre, which saved over €10,000 on purchasing and moved on their project by over 6 months as a result.

Tech Group Europe contacted the SMILE team when the cost of storage for 13 tonnes of high quality **virgin plastic** material became unfeasible. Guinan Group were made aware of the material becoming available and acquired it for some of its customers for reuse. In total, €2,000 cost savings were made on storage. Guinan were able to acquire the goods at a competitive rate, reducing capital spend and providing customers with a high quality product to the value of €13,000.

The Loughnanes Joinery manufacturing process produces large volumes of small **timber off cuts**, which are set aside in half tonne bags to be stored and reused. The Joinery was connected to NCR projects by SMILE as they were interested in reusing the off cuts in concrete foundations in the construction industry. The off cuts are used to keep steel off the ground before concrete is poured in order to comply with construction regulations. NCR Projects have since received 7.5 tonnes of timber, saving over €1,500 while Loughnanes have saved on both waste disposal charges and storage space.

Rebox Recycling re-manufacture **cardboard boxes and layer pads** into custom made boxes for their customers. The SMILE team connected them with Glenpatrick Spring Water which has large quantities of both cardboard boxes and layer pads. Through this partnership, approximately 42 tonnes of cardboard will be reused on an annual basis, saving €4,250 to Rebox (compared with buying boxes as new) and generating €11,050 revenue. Glenpatrick Spring Water has also made significant savings on their disposal costs.

Adhesive Research generates end of line or offcuts of polyethylene and acrylic adhesive foil rolls, each weighing between 50 and 80kg. These were being disposed of to landfill, until SMILE identified a match with CRNI member ReCreate, which is now taking approx. 7 tonnes per year. The material is very popular with ReCreate members, due to its versatility, shininess and uses in arts & crafts.

Bewleys often has surplus packaging that contains outdated branding or that for other reasons is redundant. They now supply ReCreate with a wide range of streams including, for example, **paper cups, hessian sacks, branded foil** and other branded items such as **tea boxes**, all of which are highly valued by ReCreate's 1,600 members for use in arts & crafts.

NYPRO and MIND generate a range of **polypropylene pellets** that are used as a base product for plastic moulds. Excess or unwanted pellets are now provided to ReCreate and are one of their most popular products due to their varied colours and textures, being used for 3D sculptures, musical instruments, snow globes and sensory boxes. They are especially suited to young children with special needs, who find the pellets valuable due to their tactile nature.

About Us:

Community Reuse Network

Community Reuse Network Ireland is the all-Ireland representative body for community based reuse and waste prevention organisations.

Our vision is for an Ireland where the word 'waste' doesn't exist and where our entire community benefits from the social, environmental and economic value of all reusable resources. We contribute to delivering this vision by communicating and realising the potential of reuse and recycling, developing a market for reused goods, creating an infrastructure and securing legislative change to ensure greater reuse, and creating a quality brand that promotes ethical processes and products.

For more information, contact us at info@crni.ie or +353 87 9781185.

SMILE Resource Exchange

SMILE Resource Exchange is a free service for businesses that encourages the exchanging of resources between its members in order to save money, reduce waste going to landfill and to develop new business opportunities. Potential synergies are identified through an online platform www.smileexchange.ie or through facilitated technical assistance.

For more information, contact us at info@smileexchange.ie or +353 2620520.

ReCreate

ReCreate is a social enterprise making art materials and educational supplies affordable and accessible by salvaging clean, reusable materials from business and distributing to members. The project is based around the concept known as Creative Reuse which encourages the public to reuse materials that would normally be thrown away in all kinds of creative and inventive ways.

For more information, contact us at info@recreate.ie or +353 1 4568798.

Ecomattress

Eco Mattress is a Social Enterprise recycling mattresses while providing valuable hands on work experience to people on back to work training programs. This involves a deconstruction process to separate out the components contained in mattresses and bed bases, producing steel springs, foam, cloth and wood for recycling.

For more information, contact us at ecomattressrecycling@gmail.com or +353 1 8603619.

Boomerang Enterprises

Boomerang Enterprises is a social enterprise recycling project based in Ballyvolane, Cork. It recovers post-consumer mattresses and beds from retailers, accommodation providers and Civic Amenity Sites which are deconstructed and segregated into component materials for recycling and re-use.

For more information, contact us at ecomattressrecycling@gmail.com or +353 1 8603619.

RecycleIT

Recycle IT is a Community Electronic Recycling Social Enterprise providing a neighbourhood, community and business collection and drop off service for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). Recycle IT aims to create training and employment opportunities through the management of this waste stream.

For more information, contact us at info@recycleit.ie or +353 1 4578321.