

Reuse & Repair

Why it matters

Making what we buy last longer, or reusing something rather than buying something new, helps reduce our environmental impact, and fight climate change.

That's because all the things we buy, be it technology, home furnishings, equipment or clothing, use natural resources and require processes that create harmful climate change emissions.

Often the things we buy end up going in the bin after one or only a few uses. Around the world, and here in Scotland too, the idea that we need a Circular Economy is gaining pace. The Scottish Government has introduced a Circular Economy Act in 2024, which sets out to reduce the use of goods and materials, increase the reuse of products, increase recycling, and reduce the creation of waste.

In the words of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, which campaigns on reuse of resources: "In our current economy, we take materials from the Earth, make products from them, and eventually throw them away as waste - the process is linear. In a circular economy, by contrast, we stop waste being produced in the first place".

The Circular Economy explained

Living Sustainably

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and the choices we make every day play a crucial role in reducing our impact on the planet.

By consuming and wasting less, we can all embrace a more sustainable lifestyle.



SWA has teamed up with **Miriam Adcock at Zero Waste Scotland**, who has shared her top tips for making small changes that can make a big difference.

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What can I do?

Can you give your broken item a second life by repairing it? Do you need to buy something new in the first place? There are repair projects, cafés and tool and sharing libraries in many locations across Scotland where you can get help to repair things or borrow items for free or a small donation.

Repair cafés

Repair cafés are community events where you can bring your broken items and get help with fixing them and learn how to fix it yourself in the process. All repaired items are checked for safety before you take them home.

What's a Repair Café? (Facebook)

Tool Libraries

In these libraries you can borrow tools when you need them and return them so that they can be used by someone else when you're done. It's a great way to save money, as well as avoiding to buy something that is very resource-intensive to produce that you will not use very often.

The tool library will then repair the item if needed and PAT test it for safety, ready to be borrowed and saved from going to waste.

Circular Community Scotland has created a map where you can find the nearest repair project or tool library to you, such as the **General Store Selkirk 'repairmongers'**

There are also other types of libraries popping up, such as the **Adventure Library in Oban** and **The Library of Things in Stirling** where you can borrow things like sports and outdoor equipment.

