



Bernie Walsh (second from the left, looking at the camera) taking part in a panel at the CRNI conference last November

CRNI welcomes Bernie Walsh as new Chair of Board, commends John Scally on his work over the years

CRNI is delighted to announce that Bernie Walsh of Sunflower Recycling is the new Chair of the CRNI Board. With over 20 years' experience in the reuse sector and in social enterprise, Bernie brings a wealth of expertise to the role. Bernie is a founding member of CRNI and has played an active part in shaping the network from its inception.

Bernie commended her predecessor John Scally, for all his work with the network through the years: "John has given so much of himself, of his knowledge and his time to CRNI since it was established. I'd like to thank John for his tireless work during his time as the Chair of the CRNI Board. And we are grateful that he's just on the end of the phone if we need him for anything"

Bernie went on to set out her hopes for CRNI in the year ahead. "I think that CRNI has made a lot of progress in the few years it has been up and running. We are now seen as key stakeholders in the area of waste management practice and policy. However, many social enterprises in the reuse area in Ireland are currently struggling. Reuse now lies at the heart of government waste policy and we know how to do it. I look forward to the role as Chair of the network and to using the opportunity to stress the need for supports we need in the reuse area to keep it a viable sector and to develop its potential both for environmental and social impact."

Our Vision

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.

Gearing up for the Revival Roadshow

CRNI is thrilled to announce that we have been awarded funding under the EPA as part of the Green Business Research Programme to run a programme of reuse workshops all over Ireland. The project will see a mobile reuse space travel throughout Ireland during the summer months. We want to link in with local events and local communities who want to have some Revival Roadshow reuse workshops in their locality. Watch this space.....

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A Reuse World

Winter 2014/2015

Reuse central to draft RWMP – CRNI submission stresses need for 3 pillars approach

The recently published draft Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMP) were awaited with eager anticipation within the waste management sector as it had been many years since the last waste management plans had been produced and these were quite different to what had gone before. For a start, the number of waste planning regions has been reduced from ten to just three; Southern, East and Midlands and Connaught Ulster. More significantly though, the emphases has moved up the waste hierarchy and reuse and prevention, rather than recycling and recovery, are now considered realistic and reachable goals. In doing this, the RWMPs take their lead from the resource efficiency/circular economy model finding favour in the EU. Although the circular economy package has been scrapped (see article below), the principal remains within the RWMPs.

CRNI broadly welcomes the RWMPs and commends that reuse lies at the heart of the plans. The CRNI submission on the draft plans emphasises the need for the final RWMPs to be based on the three pillars of sustainable development, taking environmental, social and economic considerations into account. In addition, CRNI has provided concrete suggestions for ways in which the concepts of resource efficiency and circular economy can be promoted and supported.

The main points of the CRNI submission are as follows:

- that separate targets be set for reused and recycled materials as this will promote and track reuse in Ireland between now and 2020
- that a social clause be included in public tendering processes to enable social enterprises, who are the key actors in the reuse sector, to compete for these contracts
- that a percentage of materials collected in CA sites be available for reuse
- that links between the Environmental Awareness Officers and CRNI be strengthened



One Year.Old.! ReCreate Ireland celebrates its first birthday with an art workshop party

Upcoming events

March 1st & 2nd : Monster clearance sale in Busy Bees, Merchants Yard, East Wall Rd.

March 7th: Sandymount Repair Café, Christschurch Hall, Sandymount 2-5

March 11th : EPA Climate Change Series at the Mansion House, Dublin at 6.15pm. Free, click here to [register](#)

March 25th & 26th The Energy Show, RDS, for more information click [here](#)

April 17th: Deadline for submissions on Strategic National Plan for Water. For more details click [here](#)

June 26th: Recosi Electronics Reuse Conference. For registration and more information click [here](#)

Reuse Web Watch

Read this excellent **Zero Waste Ireland** [blog](#) about the CRNI conference!

Here's a cool tool to help you cut down on your use of plastic in everyday life, print this out and stick it on your fridge! – [go plastic free](#)

A Reuse Life

Record year for Camara IT reuse

12,000!! That's the incredible number of computers that Camara Education has sent to disadvantaged schools in 2014 following the shipment of 952 computers and monitors to Ethiopia this week. It represents a record figure for Camara and also means that, since its inception in 2005, the social enterprise - whose service is unique among Irish charities - has dispatched over 60,000 refurbished computers to schools in Africa, the Caribbean and Ireland. This year alone, over 210,000 children have been impacted by the gift of digital literacy.

These figures show Ireland's continued commitment to the charity cause, which allows Camara to serve the needs of students both at home and abroad. The lack of digital skills in many countries in Africa is a major barrier to breaking the cycle of poverty, and this is something which Camara is dedicated to changing. Through accessing refurbished computers, disadvantaged schools can arm their students with the 21st century skills needed to fill jobs in rapidly developing economies.

CEO John Fitzsimons spoke of his delight with the success of the last 12 months. "It has been a monumental 2014 for Camara, which has seen us hit record numbers thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses. It's proof that our model is working, and I look forward to many more children becoming digitally literate in 2015 and beyond, as we scale up our operations even more."



Focus on SMILE Resource Exchange

SMILE Resource Exchange recently launched as a nationwide resource exchange service for business, so let's take a closer look at this CRNI member. SMILE Resource Exchange is an innovative industrial symbiosis programme established in Cork in 2011. Simply put, industrial symbiosis means that it facilitates exchanges of materials that one business may deem waste but another will see as a valuable resource. SMILE is a free service that helps business to divert waste, save money and be more sustainable as well as opening up new business opportunities.

So how well does it work? Well, the figures speak for themselves. In the three years since its inception, SMILE has racked up some impressive stats! In that time, 52,000 tonnes of materials have been reused and diverted from landfill. This is the result of over 3,400 synergies involving 2,400 resources. This adds up to a total of over 4 million euro savings for the businesses involved.

Now with over 1000 members, the exchange programme has added a technical support service with environmental consultants available to advise companies on reuse solutions for their 'waste' materials. Project Manager, Michelle Green says that the growth of the exchange resource over the past three years is indicative of "a conscious move in Irish business towards greater resource efficiency". IKEA is one of the latest businesses to sign up to the service, but Michelle insists that SMILE is relevant for all types and sizes of companies. Signing up to SMILE can be done through the website <http://www.smileexchange.ie>.

CRNI News Round-up

Winter 2014/2015

The **CRNI conference** which was held at Farmleigh House on November 24th was very successful. A broad range of people from reuse organisations, local authorities, government departments, community organisations and environmental NGOs attended. The speakers were extremely good and interesting and the discussion panels were lively and passionate. The first session concentrated on reuse policy, Dr. Jonathan Derham (EPA) gave the key note address and he was followed by Pauline McDonagh (Southern Waste Region Office) and Michal Len (RREUSE –European reuse network). The second session was concerned with reuse practice. The speakers for this session were Izzie Johnston (Zero Waste Scotland), Sue Christie (formerly of Northern Ireland Environmental Link), Giorgio Rosso (LoWaste Project) and our own Bernie Walsh (Sunflower Recycling).

CRNI is delighted to have received research funding for a project under the EPA Green Business programme. Following on from the Revival by CRNI pop-up shop, CRNI will be running a series of reuse workshops from a mobile workshop unit, all over Ireland in this new project called the Revival Roadshow. The idea is to make have the project travel to the four corners of Ireland. If you are would like us to visit your area with our mobile reuse workshop unit, please get in touch with Joanne at communityreusenetwork@gmail.com and we'll do our best to fit you in. Either way, do keep a good look out for us!

CRNI has been invited on to the National Waste Prevention Committee (NWPC). The committee is comprised of representatives from a broad swathe of stakeholders including the Department of the Environment, EPA Resource Unit, Local Authorities, waste industry, the HSE, the university sector and the not-for-profit sector. The committee feeds information into policy implementation processes and CRNI is looking forward to working with the committee to promote reuse. Forging links with the network of Local Authority Environmental Awareness Officers (EAO) around the country is essential to the work of CRNI. We are delighted to be making a presentation to the EAO network meeting in the DELGC in the Customs House next Tuesday, 3rd March.

News from our members

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Monster March Sale at Busy Bees

BusyBees Furniture Recycling is moving temporarily to the Sunflower Recycling premises. Busy Bees, which sells both upcycled and second-hand furniture, are slashing their prices this weekend at their workshop in Merchant's Yard, East Wall Rd, Dublin 3. They have some great things in their workshop and everything will be on sale with prices starting from just **€10**. The quicker you get down there the better the bargains!

Eco-mattresses

We've always known that Eco Mattress Recycling was a top project, but now they've proved it by picking up a top prize at the IPB Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Awards. Despite being up and running for less than two years, Eco Mattress Recycling won the Eco Initiative Category (in cities) Award.

Birthday Bash at ReCreate Ireland

ReCreate Ireland celebrated its first birthday with a big birthday bash at its 'warehouse of wonders' in Ballymount recently. There many children attending were treated to heaps of sweets before taking part in an epic art workshop.

We infographics

SMILE resource exchange have produced a really nice (and very informative) [infographic](#) of their work and its impact. Click through for a look, really worth seeing 😊

Rediscovery Centre recruiting for WISER project

And speaking of projects.... The **Rediscovery Centre (RDC)** is recruiting for two positions to work on the very exciting WISER Life+ project which will see the development of a new reuse hub and educational centre in Ballymun. The RDC is looking for a Project Financial Administrator and a Project Administrator. Both positions are 2 year contracts. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone interested in working in reuse and on a great project. Closing date for both positions is March 6th. For more details see <http://www.ecocareers.ie/>

Projects and Reuse Revolutions!

ReCreate Ireland has begun its ReCreate Revolution project to send art materials toolkits and bring art workshops around Ireland. The project is funded under the EPA Research Programme. The ever-innovative Lynn from **The Upcycle Movement** has also been successful in receiving funding under the EPA Research Programme to develop her Textile Ted project.