



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

Community Reuse & Repair

June 2024 – February 2025

Community Reuse & Repair Project

Background

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) is committed to achieving the targets of zero waste and zero net carbon by 2040. This involves changing behaviours and attitudes and encouraging residents to take actions to help us achieve our goals.

As we enter unprecedented levels of consumerism, with endless stream of new fast-fashion, electronics, and appliances on offer, it's important to recognise the toll this endless cycle of buying and disposing has on our environment. When we choose to mend a broken item instead of replacing it, we reduce the amount of waste we produce, lowering our overall carbon footprint and decreasing the demand for raw materials and energy, thereby slowing the negative impact of consumerism on our planet.

Opting to repair over purchasing new is often more cost-effective meaning it also helps people save money, can create job opportunities in repair industries, and foster a culture of skill sharing and connection through local repair schemes. It can also help bridge the digital divide by making technology more accessible to those unable to afford the latest gadgets.

The Project

For this project MRWA is looking to recruit a partnering individual(s) or organisation (s) to develop and host a not-for-profit repair and reuse scheme within Liverpool City Region. Utilising concepts such as skill sharing, repair cafes and Shed models, the scheme should promote the extension of products lifespan within their community with aims of producing a long standing and well-established repair space. While MRWA does have specific interest in the repair and subsequent reduction of electronic and textile waste, this scheme will be open to repair and reuse in all forms regardless of any priority material focus.

Funding will be open to both new and existing projects, but those who are preestablished will be required to evidence ways in which they will develop or advance their existing projects/schemes within their application to ensure that we build on what Liverpool City Region already has to offer.

The partner(s) will be fully responsible for all aspects of the scheme, including

- Procuring of suitable location
- Establishing staff/volunteers,
- Developing a primary focus or area of work
- Hosting sessions/events/workshops as appropriate
- Any necessary risk assessments and insurance,
- Promotion of the scheme
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Continued legacy and development to maintain the space/scheme longterm

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Project Aims:

The aim of this project is to showcase the benefits of adopting a repair culture through support and education, promoting a shift in behaviour around unnecessary waste practices and reducing the carbon footprint associated with new products.

Sustainable Development Goals

MRWA has prioritised five of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals with regards to its impact from operations and activities. The prioritised goals are,

3. Good health and well-being.
4. Quality Education.
11. Sustainable cities and communities.
12. Responsible consumption and production.
13. Climate Action.

This project will support all five goals. It will educate, inform, and raise awareness of the benefits of repair and reuse in communities through skill sharing. Such projects can contribute to people's self-esteem, relieve their isolation, and instigate community cohesion. It will promote a shift in the waste hierarchy from throw away culture to reuse, influence sustainable communities, and reduce emissions associated with new product development which contribute to climate change. Participants will change behaviour and be more responsible about their consumerism and the waste they produce.

What will your organisation's participation involve?

If you would like to be involved in this project, you will work closely with the MRWA's Strategy & Development team to develop and deliver Community Reuse and Repair. We are looking to commission a forward thinking, efficient and sustainable organisation to launch and manage this scheme. With the intention of gathering evidence about the behaviour of participants with regards to repair, its usefulness, and its benefits to determine if additional projects could be beneficial. While the base may be in one area of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) residents from all six districts should be eligible to access the project.

Taking part

Taking part will involve the following:

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Engage with residents and community groups – The partner will communicate and engage with residents and local communities and encourage people to access the repair scheme as suitable.

Health & Safety - You will maintain excellent health and safety standards throughout the project. You will manage the project on our behalf and mitigate risk.

Help increase repair in the region by- Utilising your experience to promote repair of electronics, textiles, or furniture in your area. Educating others where suitable to complete tasks themselves.

Recognising support and equipment needs- You will assess current need in your area and design a scheme to best suit these, listing the equipment and tools needed to support the planned endeavour.

Consider sustainability – Throughout the project you should consider sustainability implications and ensure the project is keeping waste production to a minimum.

Consider longevity – While this fund is available to support with set up costs, consider how the project can continue after the funded period. What maintenance costs would exist? Is this a long-term provision or a limited offer?

Devise a promotional and engagement plan - Develop a communications and logistics plan to promote the scheme, generate volunteers/participants, and share success stories. Encourage participants to provide photos, videos, and testimonies for MRWA to make social media connections.

Produce summary behavioural analysis report – Collect relevant data and feedback from participants around the scheme, whether good or bad, and produce an evaluation of the scheme and lessons learnt. Identify any evidence of changes in behaviour, both disposal and buying.

Project outcomes

We're looking for the following outcomes from this project:

- Development and delivery of a community-based repair scheme
- Development and distribution of all necessary resources and promotional materials, with support of MRWA.
- Engagement with community organisations and participants across as many of the six areas of the Liverpool City Region as possible (Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley, Halton, Wirral and St Helens).
- An expected repair of approximately 150 items (roughly 25 items per month over 6 months) these figures can be reviewed and adjusted based on the successful tender quotations and estimates.
- Health and safety risk assessments where relevant.
- Support and monitoring of the project and its participants throughout, including evidence and tracking of repair numbers, feedback etc
- Evaluation/end of project report

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Due to the nature of this project MRWA will be offering potential applicants with an opportunity to meet with us prior to applying to discuss project proposals and outcomes.

How your organisation can benefit from taking part in the project

Help instigate behaviour change – Our long-term goal is to achieve zero waste and carbon by 2040. You can help us shift from a linear to a circular economy, reduce waste and carbon and address the global challenges we face today and, in the future, including poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation. To do this successfully, you will work in partnership and directly engage residents across the LCR.

Embed waste prevention, reduction and reuse thinking within your organisation – Expand your organisations knowledge of the challenges faced by people locally and internationally with regards to sustainable lifestyles.

Provide opportunities for residents to understand and develop repair skills and a continued use mindset – Upskill your community and help residents to change their behaviour and attitudes towards how they view products and waste, understand the consequences of lifestyle choices and how their actions can support change.

Develop new partnerships and networking links – build up relationships with community groups and other interested organisations.

Provide social value for the LCR communities – there is significant social value in community repair and reuse. The impact of waste collection, disposal and climate change are all costs that are not usually considered when identifying support for all types of community projects. This is changing as more local authorities recognise the importance of social value and are factoring the benefits into public spending.

Funding linked to the Project

We have a total of £15,000 funding available for this project.

This funding should be inclusive of all materials, production, delivery, and admin associated with the project. Potential partners will be asked to estimate how many repairs they will support with a target of approximately 150 throughout the project.

We will evaluate each project application individually and will appoint the right organisation to deliver the best overall outcome for the LCR.

When will the project be delivered?

This project will begin June/July 2024 and end February 2025. A detailed timeline of activities is provided below:

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Community Reuse & Repair - Tender 2024-25**

Activity Detail:	Dates:
Project tender goes live	14 th June 2024
Meeting requests window closes	8 th July 2024
Project tender closes	14 th July 2024
Tender applications evaluated	w/c 15 th July 2024
Organisation selected	19 th July 2024
Due diligence	Following acceptance
Project initiation meeting	w/c 22 nd July 2024
Final reports received	February 2025

Evaluating applications

We will score applications received based on

- 50% Meeting project objectives
- 40% Finance
- 10% Evaluation

How to apply

To apply, please download and complete the proposal form and send to laura.gilmore@merseysidewda.gov.uk by 5pm Sunday 14th July 2024. If you have any questions or would like to co-ordinate a discussion prior to applications, please contact laura.gilmore@merseysidewda.gov.uk.