Sustainability Passport

A Guide to a more sustainable life

Embark on your Sustainability Passport journey today.

Open to Individuals, Communities, Businesses and Social Enterprises.

Step 1:

Select a route.

Route 1 Water and Energy

Route 2 Reuse and Recycle

Route 3 Responsible Consumption

Route 4 Biodiversity and Gardening

Route 5 Equality and Inclusion

Step 2:

Identify what actions you will carry out, using the online Guides provided.

For example, if your chosen route is Reuse and Recycle, then you could take simple actions such as fixing or upcycling broken items, separating all food waste into brown bins or compost, and availing of local recycling facilities to reduce landfill.

Step 3:

Upload and share your chosen actions online to gain certification.

Sign Up Now

www.changemakers.ie/sp

Route 2 - Reuse and Recycle

What is it?

1. It is the process of reusing or converting waste materials into new materials and objects.
2. Whilst recycling breaks down products into their raw materials to be made into a new product, reusing repurposes old products, without breaking them down, to make them useful again.
3. Reusing reduces the need for recycling, is more sustainable and therefore better for the environment, so should be prioritised over recycling where possible.
4. Waste disposal, such as landfill, can have harmful impacts on people and the environment but can be prevented when we reuse and recycle materials.
5. How we manage waste is regulated by national and EU policy and legislation implemented largely by the Environmental Protection Agency and our local authority.
6. Circular economy is a term that means we allow products to stay in circulation for longer through reuse, repair and innovation. It prevents the creation of waste.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND

To find out more about the Sustainable Development Goals linked to Reuse and Recycle visit the United Nations website. **sdgs.un.org**

Did You Know...

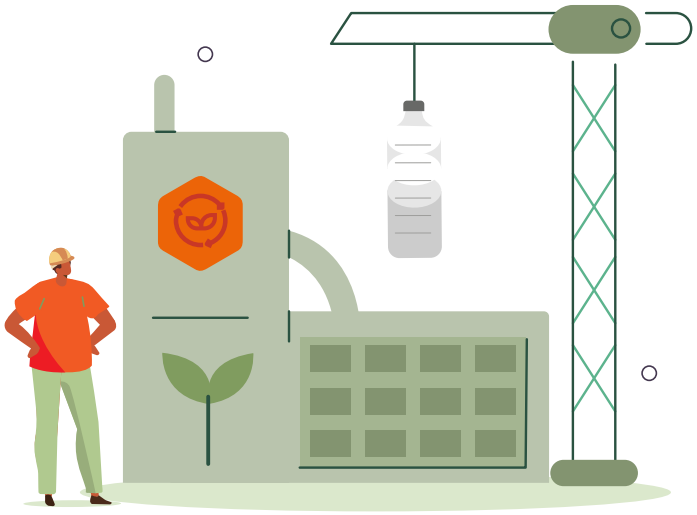
Ireland produces the highest volume of plastic waste per person in the EU, while having the fourth worst recycling rate for the material **(Eurostat).**

It takes up to 500 years for plastic to decompose **(Statista).**

Almost 70% of plastic in Ireland is burned instead of recycled **(EPA).**

Over a ton of our natural resources are saved for every ton of glass recycled **(GPI).**

Recycling electronic and electrical equipment allows materials to be reused, and re-using materials helps create new jobs in the circular economy **(Weee Ireland).**



What Actions Can I Take?

As an Individual

1. Reuse, Repair, Upcycle and Recycle, in that order, where possible.
2. Download and follow the **12 Step Environment Pocket Guide** from Donegal County Council.
3. Avail of and promote local sustainable waste management services, such as local recycling centres and community initiatives **(Donegal Recycle Centres).**
4. Get involved and volunteer with local waste management projects/groups.
5. Tell your local elected officials to adopt a strong circular economy bill.

How this helps

- ✔ Extends the life of products and prevents waste ending up in landfill and polluting the environment.
- ✔ Supports local facilities that practice sustainable and responsible waste management.
- ✔ Contributes to the collective effort to reduce waste in your community and protect your local environment.
- ✔ Ensures government deliver on their circular economy action plan.

As a Community

1. Commit to being a **zero-waste community group** and develop a strategy incorporating all your activities.
2. Link with your **Local Authority Prevention Network** and promote reusing, repairing, upcycling and recycling by hosting local events/workshops/ awareness raising campaigns.
3. Set-up local re-use/ recycle initiatives - repair shops/cafes, community composting, recovery centres for clothing, furniture, paint etc.

How this helps

- ✔ Reduces waste, supports a circular economy and sets a good example of responsible waste management practice.
- ✔ Informs, motivates and supports local communities in adopting a zero-waste lifestyle.
- ✔ Provides options for your community to re-use, repair and upcycle materials and saves them money.

What Actions Can I Take?

As a Business/ Social Enterprise

1. Audit your waste management policies and practices and adopt zero-waste strategies.
2. Educate employees on sustainable waste management practices via training and awareness raising campaigns and ttake part in local initiatives and citizen science projects such as the Global Action Plan **Climate Competition**.
3. Promote, support and link in with local sustainable waste management initiatives in your community.

How this helps

- ✔ Reduces waste and demonstrates good practice and environmental responsibility.
- ✔ Promotes and enables a zero-waste ethos among staff, enables sustainable waste management practices inside and outside the workplace and motivates action.
- ✔ Builds positive relationships and demonstrates your support to community efforts and can save your business on waste collection costs.

All information updated July 2024

Sign Up Now

Follow the link to register and gain access to resources and information about the programme.

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Change Makers

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IDP Inishowen Development Partnership
Irish Aid Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland
CONCERN worldwide
Trócaire TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD
Self Help Africa
etb Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Dhún na nGall Donegal Education and Training Board