

NGO SECTOR



• **The Irish Women's Environmental Network** is the Irish branch of an international charity which aims to enable people to live a more sustainable lifestyle. The UK WEN website provides valuable information on reusable cloth nappies.
www.wen.org.uk



• **The Irish Charity Shops Association** is a member organisation representing 22 groups and approximately 300 charity shops throughout Ireland.
www.icsa.ie

OTHER SECTORS



• **School Book Exchange** is a free online community of members who buy and sell used college and schoolbooks from each other, all over Ireland.
www.schoolbookexchange.ie

• **The Reuse Technology Center** is a not for profit partnership dedicated to the provision of reusable computer technology to people with disabilities, disadvantaged students and economically disadvantaged persons in society
www.atireland.ie/rtcenter



• **Freecycle** and **JumbleTown** are two websites that help organise "gifting" and "receiving" groups in Ireland and so divert reusable goods from landfill.
www.freecycle.org/group/IE/Ireland
www.jumbletown.ie

Some things to think about

A baby requires about 4,500 nappies in the first two-and-a-half years of its life.

Try to practice a Reuse Ethic: Repair, Donate and buy Secondhand.

A handy way to compost all your cooked food is to make a wormery.

www.corkcoco.ie/co

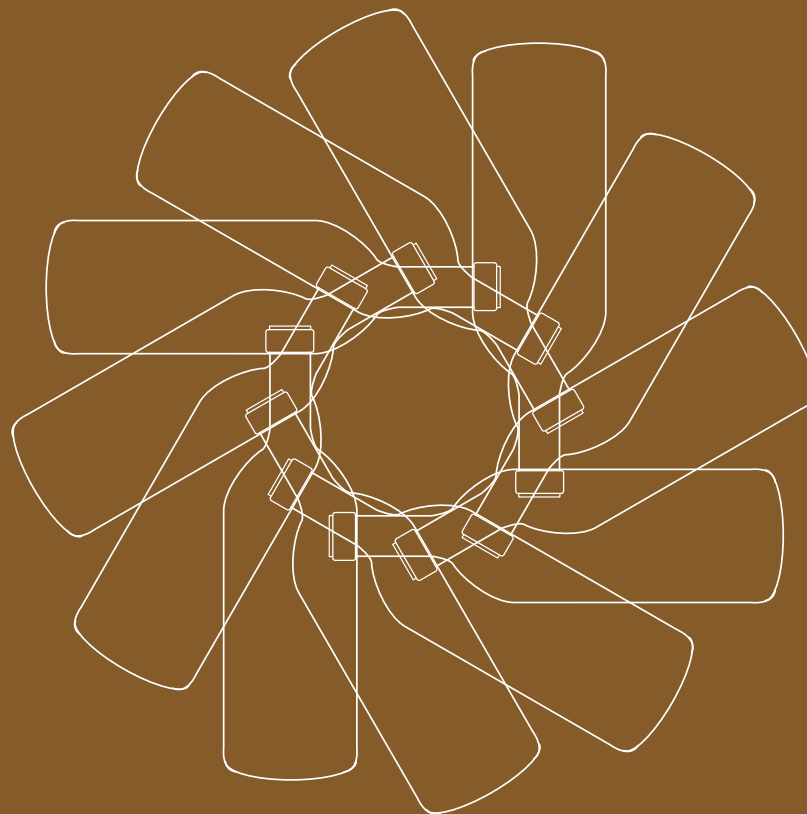
If you can spare a few hours a week, charity shops are always looking for volunteers.

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Re-Use

Reusing comes before recycling in the waste hierarchy: If you reuse something, or find someone who will, there is no waste.



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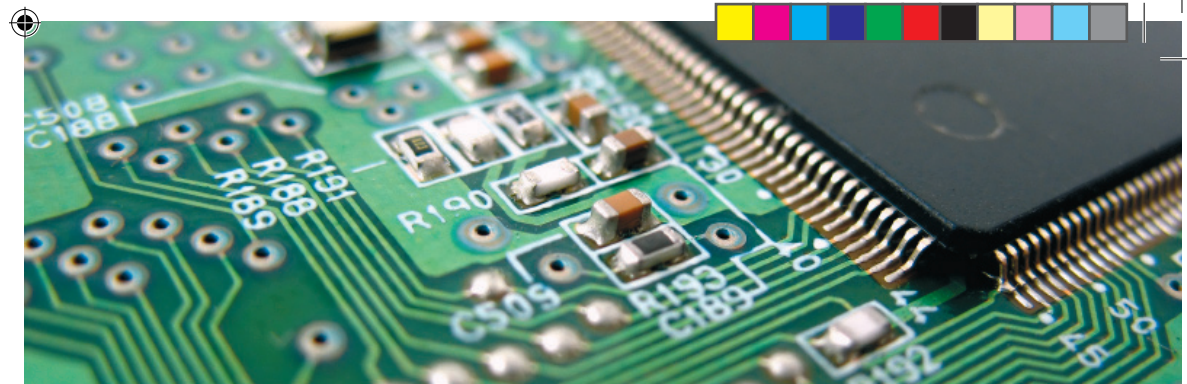
Wilful Waste Brings Woeful Want.

Not so long ago when you brought a bottle back to a shop you got a cash refund for it. The bottle then went back to the factory and was used again and again and again. Nowadays it's not easy to re-use things. It seems that everything we buy is designed to be used just once. Reuse initiatives can have a significant social impact by sharing materials in a local economy and could have the potential to divert thousands of tons of waste from landfill every year. But the number and scale of reuse projects must increase if the Reuse principle is to have any substantial effect on Ireland's waste burden. Reusing materials requires you to be creative. Thinking up ways to find a second, or third use for something that doesn't require recycling isn't so easy in this "throw away world".

At the simplest level reusing means writing on both sides of a sheet of paper (before recycling it, of course). Finding a new life for old materials can be as easy or as complex as you like. It could be fixing a button on your shirt or bringing your clothes to a charity shop.

It could be fitting out your house with "vintage" furnishing or repairing a classic pin ball machine you pick up at a second hand market.

The internet offers great potential to assist people in swapping materials. Websites such as www.jumbletown.ie help Givers pass on unwanted items to Takers. The site simply brings Givers and Takers together to help people free up valuable space in their home or workplace. These sites seek



to promote the practice of "life-cycling", which postpones an item's entry into costly recycling and landfill.

Via the site people can advertise something they want to give away online and someone else can take it.

Waste Has A Hidden Side!

An "ecological rucksack" is the amount of hidden waste that is generated when making a product. For example, to make a computer generates an extra 1500 kg of waste you don't see. To make a laptop generates 400 kg and a mobile phone 75 kg of extra waste.

According to the Worldwatch Institute, the semiconductor industry is one of the most chemically intensive there is. A factory making semiconductors may use between 500 and 1000 chemicals.

In order to make just one 2-gram 32MB DRAM chip requires an extra 1600 grams of secondary fossil fuel, 72 grams of chemical inputs, 32,000 grams of water and 700 grams of elemental gases (mainly Nitrogen).

Re-use Your Food And Compost

Making and using compost is the cornerstone of good gardening. Some people think that making compost is difficult but all you need to do is mix the right ingredients and let nature do the rest.

However a little know-how will help you make better compost more efficiently. Anything that was once living will compost: but some items are best avoided. Meat, dairy and cooked food can attract vermin and should not be home-composted. Some things, like grass mowings and soft

In 2006 the landfilling of biodegradable waste increased by 9% to 1,422,432 tonnes. There is now a significant risk that Ireland will fail to meet its targets set down by the EU for reducing biodegradable waste. We must all do our bit.

young weeds rot quickly. They work as 'activators', getting the composting started, but on their own will decay to a smelly mess.

Older and tougher plant material is slower to rot but gives body to the finished compost - and usually makes up the bulk of a compost heap. Woody items decay very slowly; they are best chopped or shredded first.
<http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk>