



Recycling, Clothing & Repair A Guide For Councils



At a glance

Town and Community Councils in Wales help boost recycling and reuse in their areas. By working with local people, schools, charities and groups, they can run projects and set up easy-to-use collection points. Supporting things like repair events, upcycling and awareness campaigns helps cut waste, reuse materials for longer and promote more sustainable living.

Making a Difference Locally

- Build sustainability into how the council buy goods and services
- Cut down single-use plastics at council events
- Include waste reduction in local plans
- Work closely with your local council on waste collection
- Commit to "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"



Community initiatives like Food FareShare help reduce food waste while supporting residents in need.



By providing a space where people can borrow tools, kitchen equipment, and other rarely used items, councils help prevent unnecessary purchases and extend product life.

Plastic Free Communities

WRAP Cymru

Cymru Can

Future Generations Commissioner 2030 strategy for change in Wales.

Why it Matters

This work matters for Wales's future, especially with the cost of living. Town and community councils make decisions that shape local areas for years. By managing land, buildings and services well, they can cut waste, save money and help keep costs down for residents. It also supports the Well-being of Future Generations Act by bringing people together, and helping people save money. Councils can help create communities that are better for the environment, better for people and more affordable to live in.

Repair Reduce Recycle



Host **repair cafés** in community halls (with volunteers fixing bikes, electronics, clothes).

Partner with local colleges/skills groups to **run DIY and repair workshops**.

Share guides and resources on simple household fixes.



Encourage **sharing libraries** (books, toys, tools, kitchen equipment).

Organise **community swap events** (clothes, school uniforms, sports kit).

Promote energy efficiency advice to cut household bills.



Provide clear info on **local recycling services** (including hard-to-recycle items).

Support **community composting schemes** for food and garden waste.

Encourage **creative reuse projects** (upcycled furniture, arts projects).



Digital Reuse

Laptops, tablets and mobile phones are often replaced while they are still usable.



Set up drop-off points for old laptops, tablets, and phones



Work with charities or repair programs to fix and wipe devices safely



Give refurbished tech to residents, students, and job seekers



Spread the word about recycling e-waste when items can't be reused

Reusing devices reduces waste, tackles digital exclusion, and improves local access to technology.

Useful Information



Men's Sheds bring people together to make, repair and repurpose,

Repair Cafe Wales support the setting up and running of repair cafes.

Warm Wales offer Energy Advice and Affordable Warmth support

Refill Wales campaign to reduce single-use plastic by promoting water bottle refills

Climate Action Wales provide practical advice on repairing, reusing, and refilling as greener choices

Fareshare Cymru collect surplus food and share it with charities and community groups across Wales

Benthyg Cymru are developing accessible and inclusive Libraries of Things with communities around Wales

Keep Wales Tidy provide practical support and resources to run local clean-up or recycling efforts

Powers & Legislation

Powers & justifications can differ, councils should consider their specific circumstances.

For advice & guidance, councils may wish to contact their One Voice Wales Development Officer.

admin@onevoicewales.wales

Existing Services & Projects



Cwmaman Town Council partner with Cwm Environmental ETO Hub providing refurbished second hand furniture & electronic goods at affordable prices.

Flint Town Council repair cafe is a monthly pop-up event where volunteers fix household items for free in order to reduce waste, teach skills and bring the community together

Cwmbran Community Council and Blaenavon Town Council offer a community kit room, encouraging the swapping of sports clothing and equipment to help provide appropriate clothing and footwear and reduce participation barriers.

Barmouth Town Council fund a shop in the town to provide the **Tanio Bermo project**. Working with Menter Mon they are upskilling the community to reuse and recycle.



Caernarfon Town Council runs a high street shop selling affordable second-hand children's clothes, prams, and toys. Their **o Law i Law** project encourages donations, cutting waste and promoting sustainability.

Funding Information



Landfills Disposal Tax Communities Scheme

Awards for All

Sea Changers

Electricals Recycling Fund grant



One Voice Wales offer a training module on 'Making effective grant applications'

Want to Find Out More?

For more information on the One Voice Wales Cost-of-Living Crisis project contact the team at:



CoLC@onevoicewales.wales



<https://bit.ly/3KYHftK>



[One Voice Wales Website](#)