



# North Lanarkshire Community Climate Action Project: **Reuse, Upcycling and Community Sharing Guide**

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# Introduction to Climate Action Guides

Most people are now aware of our climate and nature emergencies (see below for more information). The scale and causes of our climate and linked nature challenges can seem overwhelming and their causes distant from us. We might feel unsure about what we can do as individuals or with others in our families, communities or workplaces.

Fortunately, there are many things we can do to help reduce our individual and collective negative impact on the climate and nature and contribute to solutions that will also improve our physical and mental health, social, economic and environmental fairness and inclusion.

This Guide – which is one of a series - provides brief, accessible, information on how people and communities in North Lanarkshire could contribute to community action to support community sharing and upcycling of materials and goods to help minimise unnecessary use of precious resources, reduce waste and save money.

This guide is complemented by Climate Action guides on the following topics which are intended to help people in Lanarkshire take action to be part of the solution to our climate and nature challenges.



Active Travel and Community Transport



Community Food Growing



Community-led Greening and Conservation



Community-owned Renewable Energy



Green Home Energy

All these guides are available online in a format that can also be readily printed as needed. You can access the guides from the [North Lanarkshire Action on Climate Together website](#).

The Guides are part of a [North Lanarkshire Community Climate Action Project](#), co-ordinated by [Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire](#) as part of our contribution the Action on Climate Together North Lanarkshire and the Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership. These guides are also supported by Community Climate Action Champions who can support community workshops and conversations and a Climate Action Pledge which supports community and voluntary sector organisations.

## What are the Climate and Nature Emergencies?

The world is facing a climate emergency due to human's use of fossil fuels such as oil and gas to provide energy. Human activity is also destroying and polluting the natural world - water, air, plants and animals – on which human and all other life depends.

As a result everywhere in the world is now experiencing adverse climate changes, such as rising temperatures and

increased flooding and harm to our natural world such as deforestation; air and water pollution; loss of plants and animals. These challenges are adversely affecting all of us. Fortunately, awareness of these problems and action to solve them is increasing. These guides are intended to help people in Lanarkshire take action to be part of the solution to our climate and nature challenges.

# Introduction to Community Sharing and Upcycling

The production of all the goods and products that we use individually and collectively uses a lot of raw materials such as water and minerals. The extraction and transport of these materials and the production process also uses energy – all of which have significant impacts on the natural environment. Also, where fossil fuels are used, this contributes significantly to carbon emissions and therefore climate change.

Our individual and collective recycling of paper, plastics and glass helps to reduce carbon emissions and protect our natural world. Another important contribution we can all make to achieve these goals is to reduce the amount of products we use and reuse products when-ever we can. This is the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle approach, which not only protects our natural environment and reduces negative impacts on the climate, but also saves us money. So it really is a “win-win” approach!



The Reduce, Reuse and Recycle approach also needs to be supported by high quality product design and manufacturing, which together creates a “circular economy” with minimal waste and less use of energy and materials.

Most of us are already actively contributing to the reduce, reuse and recycle approach through, for example:

- ➔ recycling our waste at home through council-supported recycling schemes
- ➔ donating unwanted items to charity shops for resale at lower cost
- ➔ gifting unwanted items to others through community clothing banks or through online communities such as **Freecycle**
- ➔ selling spare items, through friends and family or others through advertising, for example in local papers or online through sites such as **Gumtree** or **eBay**
- ➔ repairing broken items rather than buying a new replacement
- ➔ using second-hand items from one or more of the above sources

It is vital that we all continue to support the above activities and encourage others to do so. However, we can also do even more to support the reduce, reuse and recycle approach through community sharing and upcycling schemes.



## Introduction to Community Sharing and Upcycling

Community sharing and upcycling schemes can help us collectively do more to protect the natural world and help tackle climate change and will also save money and build community connections.

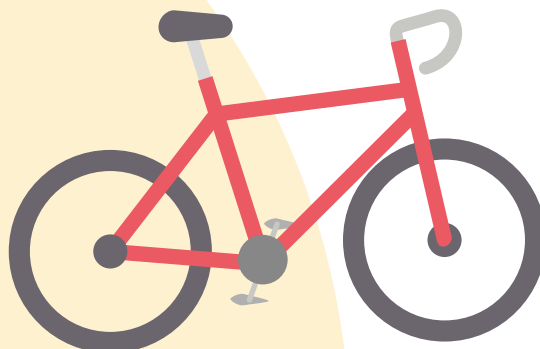
Community-sharing schemes support people to share various resources with each other, such as tools, computer equipment or bikes or garden space. For example, a community tool-sharing scheme lends people tools they might only need once or twice a year, rather than purchasing the tools themselves. This saves each person money; reduces the number of tools that need to be manufactured and sold; and reduces the amount of waste generated when tools eventually become obsolete or broken.

Community-upcycling schemes support community repair or re-purposing of materials and goods. For example:

- turning old clothing into items such as reusable shopping bags
- repairing broken furniture or equipment
- re-purposing materials into something different, such as unused wood into garden planters

In addition to the environmental and economic benefits, these schemes also build social connections supporting good mental health and reducing isolation and loneliness.

Community sharing and upcycling schemes are an effective way of bringing people together to create positive change and build a better future for everyone.



# Examples of Community Sharing and Upcycling

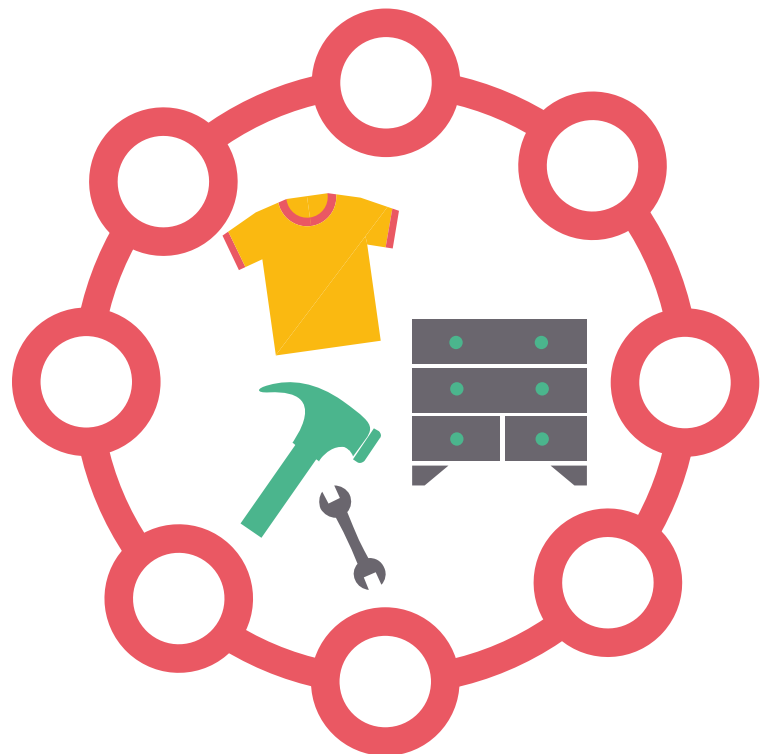
There are already a number of community sharing and upcycling schemes in North Lanarkshire including:

- ➔ Charity shops and- for more information see [ALISS](#)
- ➔ Baby supplies through [Bear Necessities](#)
- ➔ [Uniform banks in Airdrie, Coatbridge, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth](#)
- ➔ Participation in a [sports-kit recycling](#) scheme for young people

There are also many interesting and successful examples in other parts of Scotland that North Lanarkshire residents can learn from to help them set up similar initiatives in North Lanarkshire and we share a few examples below.

- ➔ [Crieff Community "Library of Things"](#) members can borrow a wide range of items including DIY and gardening tools, craft materials, play items, decorating aids, guitars and more.
- ➔ [Glasgow Tool Library](#): shares tools and skills.
- ➔ [Glasgow Wood Recycling](#): is a volunteer initiative that diverts unwanted timber from landfill and uses this to make furniture, gardening items, gifts and more for selling.

- ➔ [A repair café in Cumbernauld](#)
- ➔ A furniture repair initiative in Cumbernauld - [Recap](#) - which repairs donated items and then sells repaired items at low cost
- ➔ A [North Lanarkshire Bicycle Repair initiative](#) where bikes left at council recycling centres are passed onto Recycled Bikes Scotland for repair and then donated to local children and families



## Sources of Further Information and Support

[Community Resources Network Scotland](#)

[How to Waste Less Scotland](#)

[Lanarkshire Climate Hub](#)

[Net Zero Nation](#)

[Repair Café International](#)

[Revolve](#)

[Scottish Communities Climate Action Network - resources](#)

[Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire](#)

*For support in setting up or running a community organisation, charity or social enterprise*

*For volunteering support*

[Zero Waste Scotland - Repair cafés](#)

[Zero Waste Scotland](#)

# Community Sharing and Upcycling Workshop

## Purpose:

To bring local community groups and residents together to explore ways of strengthening community sharing and upcycling in their area.

## Organised and facilitated by:

by one or more local community group/s

- If you would like help from one of our North Lanarkshire "Climate Action Champions" – please contact [info@vanl.co.uk](mailto:info@vanl.co.uk)
- You might also want to involve someone with appropriate technical knowledge and skills – see information and resources section above

## Suggested materials and resources:

- Flip-chart paper and stand; pens, markers; blue tack etc.
- A computer with internet connection
- A list of existing community sharing or upcycling initiatives



**Time:** Approx. 2 - 3 hours. Including a 15 min. break with refreshments.



**Participants:** Anyone who wants to participate but best to try to keep numbers to a manageable size of between 5-25.



**Format:** Ideally an in-person event in a community venue but could be done online if this is necessary.



**Note-taking/flip-charting of key points and ideas:** By facilitator or others

## Welcome, Introductions and Envisioning



 Approx. 30 mins

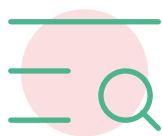
**Facilitator to introduce themselves and welcome all to the workshop inviting them to introduce themselves and:**

- To share what brings them here
- What vision they have for strengthening community sharing and upcycling in their community
- What experience, skills or resources they can bring

**Facilitator to reflect back to the group any common visions/ideas that seem to have emerged and seek feedback from the group.**

# Community Sharing and Upcycling Workshop

## Reviewing and Mapping



 Approx. 45 mins

The facilitator will support the group to undertake the following activities.

### Explore Options for Strengthening Local Community Sharing and Upcycling

With reference to existing local examples, or examples from other areas, discuss how to strengthen community sharing and/or upcycling in your community. For example:

- Community awareness and sharing meetings to explore residents ideas on what could be shared and upcycled locally and their interest in being involved
- Promotion of local charity shops to encourage more donations by residents
- An online community sharing group where residents can gift unwanted items to others who live locally
- Community clothing swap events
- Promotion of tool donations to set up a community tool library
- A repair café for item such as electronics, bicycles, or clothing
- A skills-sharing circle to develop people's repair skills

### Mapping Allies and Resources

Identify potential allies and resources in the community and who will approach them to build support, including:

- Existing community sharing or upcycling schemes
- Charity shops
- Local businesses
- Other community groups of all types, e.g. youth groups; regeneration projects;
- Local councillors, MSPs, MPs

**Don't forget to have a 15 min break either at this point or a bit earlier.**

## Action Planning



 Approx. 30 mins

Now that the participants have explored their vision, options and resources, the facilitator will help them agree what they want to do in their community to strengthen community sharing and upcycling.



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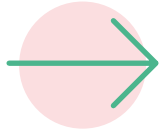
# Community Sharing and Upcycling Workshop


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## Next Steps and Closing

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 Approx. 15 mins

- Facilitator to help the group decide how their agreed actions will be taken forward - e.g. another meeting; when; who will organise this.
- Facilitator to ask the group to reflect on how the workshop went and ask each participant to share one thing they will be taking away from the session.
- Thanks, and close