

Charity No SCO 45286

**RECYCLING FIRST
ACCOUNTS AND REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**



**GLASS ACCOUNTANCY
DUDDINGSTON YARDS
EDINBURGH
EH15 3NT**

Recycling First - Charity No. SC0 45286

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
Receipts		
Grants:		
DWP Kickstart		4,074
National Lottery Community Fund		
Zero Waste Scotland		
Scottish Churches		-
East Lothian Council	42,500	30,000
	<u>42,500</u>	<u>34,074</u>
Sales	52,569	55,523
Bank Interest	1,164	323
Other Income:		
Delivery charge	1,968	1,450
Donations	100	150
ELC Waste Services	2,602	586
Tonnage Payment FRP	-	-
	<u>4,670</u>	<u>2,186</u>
Total Receipts	<u>100,904</u>	<u>92,106</u>
Payments		
Salaries	35,089	38,919
Volunteer Expenses	2,629	1,250
Clothing	458	
Rent & Rates	12,627	12,735
Repairs and Maintenance	412	-
Insurance	2,178	1,836
Heating, Lighting and Cleaning	6,465	4,616
Motor and Travel Expenses	13,692	15,094
Printing, Postages and Stationery	920	947
Telephone	955	877
Subscriptions and Publications	2,731	1,575
Professional Fees		-
Office Equipment expensed	1,492	-
Depreciation		-
Room Hire	43	-
Bank charges		-
Waste disposal	1,050	478
Total Payments	<u>80,741</u>	<u>78,325</u>
Surplus/deficit for year	<u>20,162</u>	<u>13,780</u>
Surplus brought forward	86,798	73,018
Surplus Carried Forward	<u>106,961</u>	<u>86,798</u>

Recycling First - Charity No. SC0 45286

Statement Of Balances as at 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
Fixed Assets	-	-
Current Assets		
Petty Cash	-	-
Bank Accounts	106,961	86,799
	<u>106,961</u>	<u>86,799</u>

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements are prepared on an Receipts and Payments basis to comply with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. In preparing the Financial Statements the Charity follows best practice as laid down in the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) issued in February 2005, and accounting standards applicable to the Companies Act 1985 & 2006.

(b) Incoming Resources

Incoming Resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity becomes entitled to the resources.

Grants and donations are only included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

(c) Payments

All expenditure is accounted for on a Receipts and Payments basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

(d) Unrestricted Funds

These funds are expendable at the discretion of the Management Committee in furtherance of the Objects of the Charity.

(e) Designated Funds

None of the funds held at the end of the financial period were restricted and are therefore held as unrestricted and may be used at the discretion of the Management Committee in furtherance of the Objectives of the Charity.

2) FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation of Fixed Assets is calculated at a fixed percentage to write off the cost on a reducing balance basis:

Plant & Machinery 25% reducing balance.

Motor Vehicles 25% reducing balance.

	Plant & Machinery	Motor Vehicle	Totals
Costs:			
At 01 April 2023	£ 9,514	£ 8,251	£ 17,765
Additions	£ -	£ -	£ -
Disposals	£ -	£ -	£ -
At 31 March 2024	£ 9,514	£ 8,251	£ 17,765
Depreciation:			
At 01 April 2023	£ 9,514	£ 8,251	£ 17,765
Charge for year	£ -	£ -	£ -
Disposals	£ -	£ -	£ -
At 31 March 2024	£ 9,514	£ 8,251	£ 17,765
Net Book Value:			
At 01 April 2023	£ -	£ -	£ -
At 31 March 2024	£ -	£ -	£ -

3) RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted income b/fwd	86,798	73,018
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	20,162	13,780
Unrestricted income funds carried forward	<u>106,961</u>	<u>86,798</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Recycling First Charity No SC0 45286

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are enclosed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44 (1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

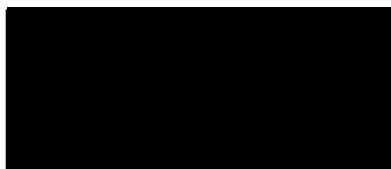
Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respects the requirements:
 - . to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulation, and
 - . to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- 2 have not been met, or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Glass Accountancy
Duddingston Yards
Edinburgh
EH15 3NT

24 May 2024

Recycling First

Report of the Management Committee for the year ended 31st March 2024

The Management Committee presents its report along with the Financial Statement of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Recycling First is a SCIO and is registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation with OSCR (Charity No: SC045286).

Recycling First is located at [REDACTED] The objects of the organisation, as recorded in the constitution, are to help meet the needs of low income households lacking basic furniture and effects; to satisfy the wishes of people who wish to see their surpluses put to good use; to reduce the volume of domestic waste by recycling usable goods; and to promote the advantages of recycling furniture, furnishings and appliances and to work with and support furniture recycling projects in other areas.

During the year to 31st March 2024, we continued to operate according to our constitution.

The accounts for the year to 31st March 2024 are attached and form part of this report. This report was approved by the Trustees.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Signed:

Name:

[REDACTED]

Date: 28/05/2024

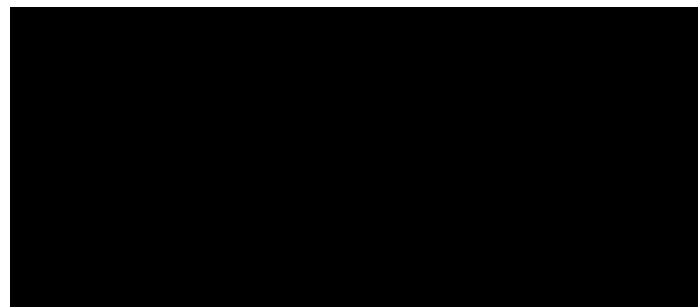


RECYCLING FIRST

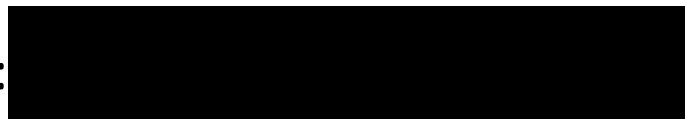
Furniture and White Goods Re - Use Charity

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2023—MARCH 2024



Email:



Website: www.recyclingfirstel.org

Contact Number:



Registered SCIO Number : SCO45286

What People say about Recycling First

I was allocated a slot for a house clearance. They arrived on time and had been very busy that day. I offered coffee, tea and biscuits but they didn't accept preferring to get on with the job. The job was done smoothly, and they were professional and very respectful. I can't recommend this charity enough. A big Thanks to all involved
Best Wishes

Just a note to say thank you very much for all your help with bedding and sheets, You are angels that have helped a family in great need.

I chose to volunteer at Recycling First for its stand on helping the local disadvantaged group"

They came this morning, very respectful and professional, they collected the furniture and were very careful moving the stuff, would recommend.

Great Quality, Great Service!!!
Thoroughly Recommended

"Very well appreciated, it helps us buy things that we can't afford in the high street stores. Thank you to Recycling First

Super great service, Driver and team very friendly and polite, will use the charity again.

Very rich choice of items, in great condition, amazing and cheerful staff very helpful and understanding.

Great wee place always enjoy having a look around, we usually come across something that we are looking for our house, the guys are always happy to help.

Amazing place loads of great furniture to choose from and lovely professional help. Fast delivery, affordable prices, and reliable service overall. To be honest I can't fault the place or people working there from the moment we walked into the place to delivery. Definitely recommend to everyone and definitely will be back.

Good selection of pre-loved furniture and the people that work there are friendly and helpful.


. What a great place amazing customer service and Quality products at very reasonable prices

CHAIRMANS REPORT, 2023-24

This past year, Recycling First has made a profound difference in our community. Through the dedication of our two staff members and ten passionate volunteers, we've been able to assist hundreds of families in need across East Lothian. This achievement is a testament to the power of reuse and the strength of our community spirit.

As we look to the future, our goals remain clear and focused. We are committed to continuing our vital service to the East Lothian area, ensuring that those in need have access to essential items. Furthermore, we're excited about strengthening our collaborations with East Lothian Council and Social Services, which will allow us to reach even more individuals and families who can benefit from our support.

I invite us all to reflect on the impact we've made, the lives we've touched, and the potential we must do even more. Our small but mighty team has shown what's possible when we come together with a shared purpose.



Chairman
Recycling First

PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT, 2023-24

As we reflect on the past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible contributions of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and Trustees at Recycling First. Their unwavering commitment and hard work have been instrumental in driving our mission forward.

I extend heartfelt thanks to the local and national groups whose generous help have supported our initiatives, enabling us to make a meaningful impact in our community.

Our staff members have once again demonstrated remarkable generosity by stepping up and supporting Recycling First and each other in various roles, especially during challenging times such as holidays or when colleagues face health issues. Their flexibility and teamwork are the cornerstone of our success.

Our growing team of volunteers and placements have been invaluable in supporting Recycling First and our staff. From contributing their time and talents in the new furniture repair workshop to assisting with PAT testing and van operations, their dedication is truly commendable.


Throughout the year, we have strengthened our partnerships with numerous agencies to extend a helping hand to those in need, particularly families with young children and individuals transitioning to new homes lacking essential furniture. By offering quality second-hand items for sale at affordable prices, we have not only prevented wastage but also empowered our community members.

I am deeply grateful to the hardworking staff, volunteers, and Trustees whom I have the privilege to work alongside. Their unwavering support has been a source of inspiration for me personally. Together, we form a cohesive team driven by a shared vision of supporting those in need and fulfilling our commitments to the community we serve.

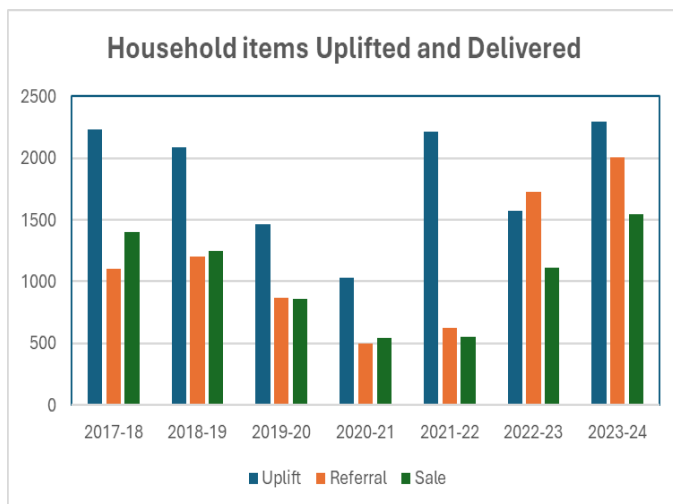
As we look ahead, I anticipate another year filled with challenges, but I am confident that with our collective efforts, we will continue to provide a warm and comfortable environment for those seeking our assistance. Our shared dedication and passion will guide us in making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our journey. Your contributions have made a lasting impact, and I am excited about the future we will create together.

Warm regards,


Project Manager
Recycling First

2023- 2024 Key numbers and activity



We Supported

405

households who needed help

10 Volunteers contributed an estimated

3.020 hours to support Recycling First

Tonnage Donations

75 tonnes of furniture donated. This makes a total of **592 tonnes** donated in the last **8** years

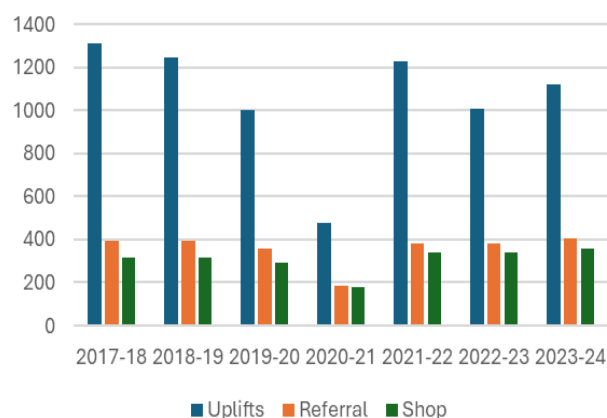
Tonnage Sales

31 tonnes of furniture sold, Just under **278 tonnes** of furniture sold in the last **8** years.

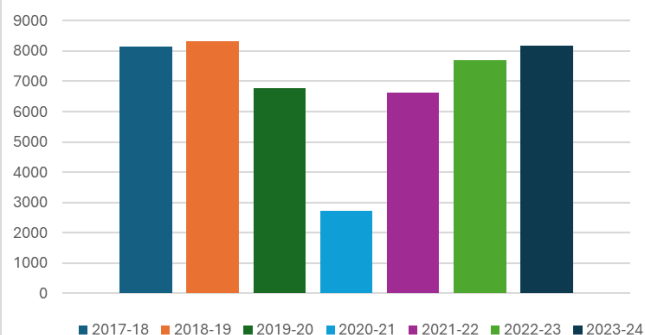
Tonnage Referrals

51 tonnes of furniture handed out on referrals, making a total of over **278 tonnes** reused over **8** years.

Number of Uplifts and Deliveries



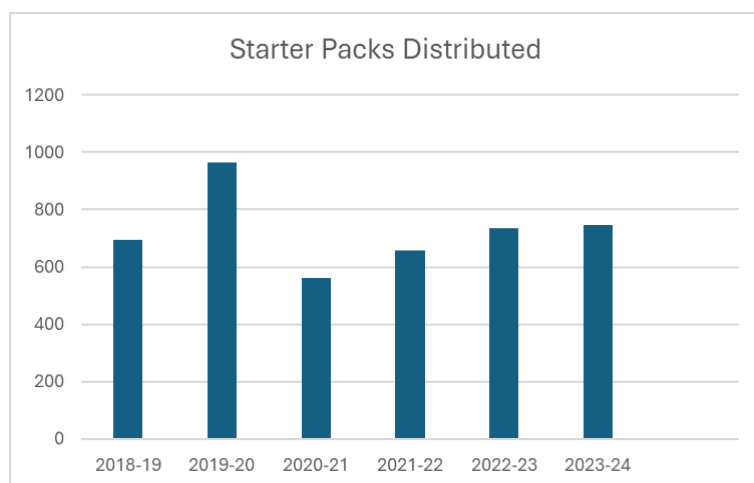
Personnel visiting the Warehouse



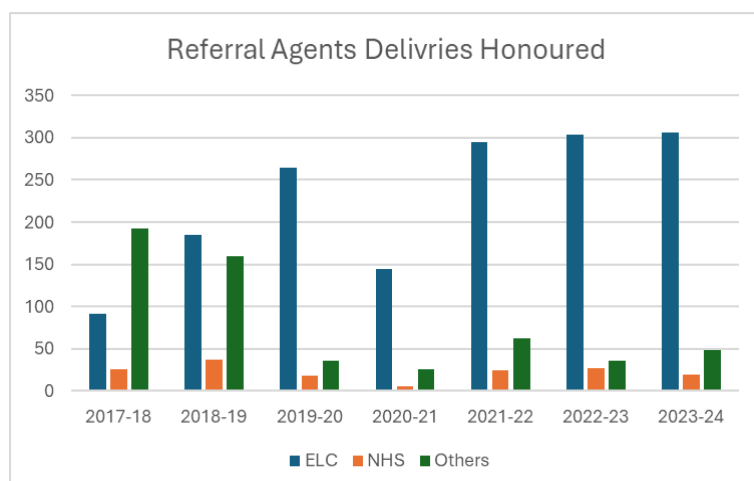
	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	%
Households Participated	1.008 Households participated	1.120 Households participated	+ 11 %
Items Donated	1.874 items donated	2.299 items donated	+ 22.6 %
Tonnage Donated	61 tons items donated	75 tons items donated	+ 21 %
Referrals Honoured	395 Referrals honoured	420 Referrals honoured	+ 6.5 %
Items Re - Used	2.846 items re-used	3.300 items re-used	+ 16 %
Tonnage Re - Used	75 tons were re-used	82 tons were re-used	+ 9.3 %

Starter Packs

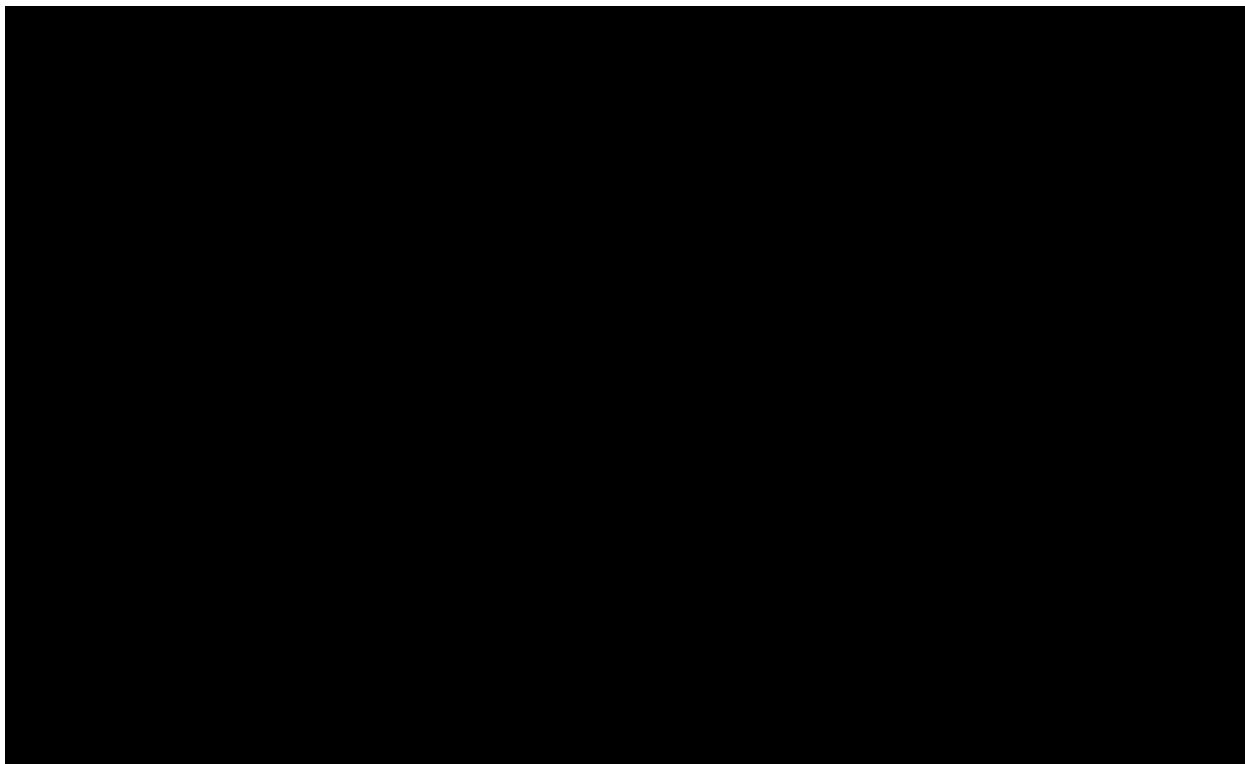
Over the last 6 years of funding Recycling First along with Fresh Start Edinburgh have successfully supplied 4.364 packs to 963 families within East Lothian.



746 Starter Packs were distributed to **163** families. This makes a total of **4.364** packs supporting **963** families over the last **6** years .



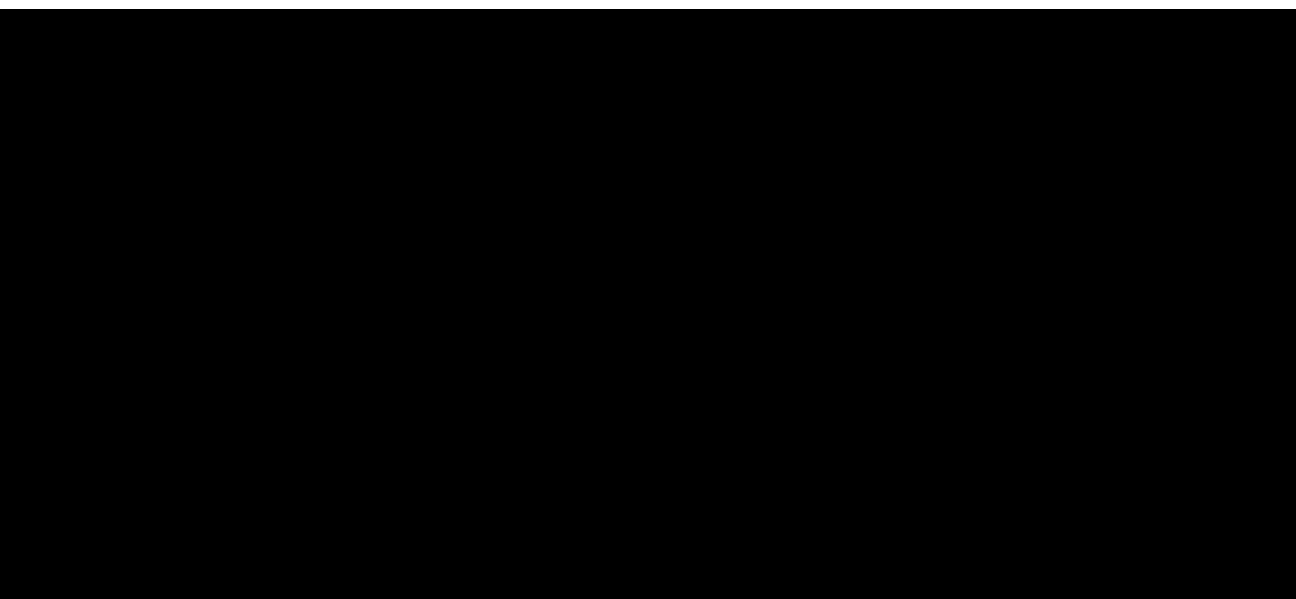
Our Volunteers



Recycling First has had a successful year, thanks to the dedication of our amazing volunteers. We express our gratitude through gifts and a Christmas lunch. This year, 12 individuals engaged in various roles, from warehouse duties to administration, with one securing paid employment.

We provide work placements through regional agencies, allowing individuals to gain skills and qualifications over 4 to 6 months. This not only benefits the volunteers but also supports our charity in serving the community.

We bid farewell to [REDACTED] who worked with us for over 8 years before securing a job with NHS Lothian. We also welcomed [REDACTED], who is assisting with administrative tasks.



Information about how and why we operate

Recycling First is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting individuals in need, particularly those who are unemployed, on low incomes, or homeless. Established in 1996 and registered as a SCIO in 2014, it focuses on collecting and refurbishing donated furniture and household items. The organisation also offers volunteering, training, and work opportunities, aiming to relieve poverty and promote environmental sustainability through reuse and recycling.

Aims of Recycling First

1. **Poverty Relief:** Providing essential furniture and household appliances to those in need, especially the homeless or low-income families.
2. **Training and Employment:** Offering training and job opportunities to support individuals in gaining skills and employment.
3. **Environmental Protection:** Promoting recycling and reuse of furniture and household items to benefit the environment.
4. **Unemployment Relief:** Addressing unemployment through training, work experience, and volunteering.

Personal Experience

A refugee from Ukraine shared their experience with Recycling First, highlighting how the organisation helped them furnish their new home after fleeing the war. They received essential items like a bed, side table, work desk, and kitchenware, emphasizing the importance of such support during a challenging time.

Community Payback

Recycling First has a strong partnership with the probation service, focusing on helping individuals through community payback programs. They emphasize seeing each participant's potential rather than their past mistakes. This year, 14 individuals completed a total of 1,752 community payback hours with the organisation, engaging in meaningful work that aligns with their skills.

Payback to fulltime Work

One notable success story is [REDACTED] who completed his court-ordered hours and chose to continue volunteering. Through training and personal development support, he regained his confidence and shifted from community service to a positive role within Recycling First. This illustrates the organisation's commitment to fostering growth and opportunities for individuals seeking to turn their lives around.

It's great to learn about Recycling First's initiatives and partnerships to support the community and promote sustainability. Here is a summary of the key points mentioned in the provided text:

1.Revolve Accreditation:

Recycling First is a Revolve accredited organisation, which is Scotland's national reuse quality standard. This accreditation ensures quality in all aspects of operations, providing customers with confidence in the products and services offered by Recycling First.

2. Toiletries Amnesty:

Recycling First joined Toiletries Amnesty, an organisation that focuses on social, ethical, and environmental initiatives. Their goal is to provide access to hygiene essentials for those in need while preventing surplus products from going to waste.

3. Starter Packs:

Recycling First collaborates with Fresh Start to provide starter packs to disadvantaged groups, particularly those on low incomes in East Lothian. These packs include essential household items like bedding, curtains, towels, crockery, pots and pans, small electrical items, cleaning materials, and toiletries to help individuals set up new homes or sustain their tenancy during financial difficulties.

4. Outlook for 2024-25:

Recycling First aims to enhance customer service in their warehouse by supplying furniture to local authorities and furnished tenancy providers. They also plan to expand their customer base by exploring new markets in the social housing sector. Additionally, they aim to boost sales in their retail outlet to increase the availability of pre-loved goods for disadvantaged groups. Recycling First will continue to build relationships with referral agencies and increase donations to those in need.

These initiatives reflect Recycling First's commitment to sustainability, community support, and providing essential resources to those facing challenges.

Our Achievements 2023 - 2024

We collected
2.299
Items from local residents



3.300
Items were selected for
Re - Use



First Choice for Second Hand



Over
82
Tonnes of electrical &
Household items Diverted
from Landfill



8.173 People used our
Charity Warehouse to
access affordable
Household Items



The Value of
Furniture provided to
those Referred to us for
help was
£62.811

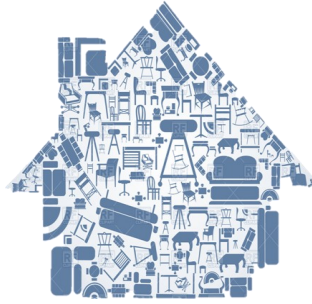


We received
714 requests for help
Benefitting **420** families

1.120 Uplifts were
carried out.



We supplied **746**
Starter Packs
to **163** families



RECYCLING FIRST

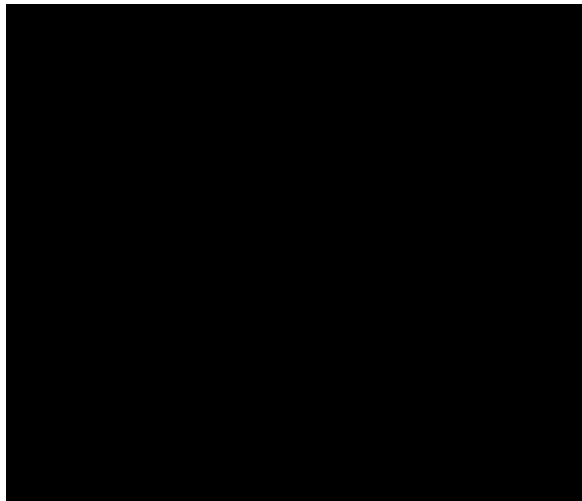
Recycling First is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, SCO45286

Registered Address:



Website: www.recyclingfirstel.org

Chairman



Independent Examiner of Accounts:



Glass Accountancy Ltd

Recycling First gratefully acknowledges the support of:

