

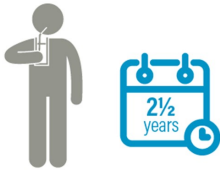
## The impact of textile waste

- Making a pair of jeans produces as much greenhouse gases as driving a car more than 80 miles.
- Discarded clothing made of non-biodegradable fabrics can sit in landfills for up to 200 years.

It Takes 2,700 Liters of Water to Make One Cotton Shirt

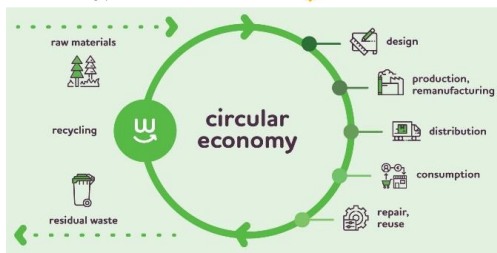


Enough Water for One Person to Drink for 2½ Years



Source: National Geographic

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE



The RWN Project Co. Roscommon Green Grassroots Activation Network is supported by the Roscommon County Council and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

The RWN CycleUp Group of Tutors is supported by the Roscommon County Council Creative Ireland Programme, an all-of-Government five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy.



CycleUp products and Upcycling training are part of the WECAN Project funded by the EPA's Green Enterprise programme, an initiative of the National Waste Prevention Programme and run by Roscommon Women's Network – NCCWN



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roscommon  
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network

national collective of  
community based  
women's  
networks

roscommon  
women's  
network

CYCLE  
Up  
textiles





## CycleUp Textile Upcycling Training

As part of RWN's Environmental Strategy, CycleUp are raising awareness of the effects of textile waste on the environment and are reducing the amount of unsold textiles that are generated by our charity shop by training participants to upcycle these items into different products for sale! In doing so, participants master new sewing, pattern making and cutting skills as well as learning about what can be done to make an impact on levels of textile waste with our expert trainers.

- Basic Machine Sewing
- What Upcycling is
- Identifying Fabrics for Reuse
- Cutting Techniques
- Creating Templates
- Making an item from start to finish



## The CycleUp Textiles Brand

The 'CycleUp' textiles brand and logo was developed in conjunction with the first pilot group of participants to market their upcycled products. The CycleUp Group make upcycled fashion, giftware and homeware items with our collection currently on sale in retail outlets, the RWN Charity Shop, Craft and Farmer's Markets and from our online shop <https://rwn.ie/store/>. We also take commissions from organisations to produce environmentally friendly items such as souvenirs, aprons and bags. Clients include AONTAS, The International Marine Conservation Conference, Roscommon County Council, The Courtyard Market in Boyle, Willow Outdoor Playschool and Kilmovee Heritage Centre.



## Our Story

**CycleUp** started out life in 2018 when the RWN charity shop volunteers decided to do something about the amount of clothes that were not selling in the RWN Charity shop. As part of their research, they visited the Rediscovery Centre, Dublin, (National Centre for the Circular Economy) in February 2018. Seeing their upcycling workshop in action inspired and motivated the volunteers to source an industrial weighing scale and start recording the amount of clothing donations to the

shop as well as the amount of textiles that didn't sell in the charity shop.

In response RWN decided to arrange for training in textile upcycling in Castlerea as a solution to the issue of unwanted textiles. When the first eight weeks training finished there was a strong motivation and commitment from the participants to continue learning and to put their learning to practical use so RWN secured funding from Patagonia to run a pilot to examine the viability of textile upcycling as a social enterprise.

A part-time coordinator supported the women to organise advanced training for the group and basic training for new participants. This initiative supported the group to develop training modules, design products, learn about quality control, investigate markets, deliver workshops and to network locally and nationally. St Angela's College NUIG came on board to evaluate the pilot and in November 2019 on the back of the successful pilot, RWN secured funding from EPA Green Enterprise Fund for The Women's Environmental Community Activation Network (WECAN) project to engage a full-time project manager starting in January 2021 for a year to develop **CycleUp** into a Social Environmental Enterprise. This funding allowed the social enterprise to promote and market upcycled products to increase sales, expand the training reach throughout the region and beyond and spread the message of the circular economy through networking and outreach workshops.

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See our website  
[rwn.ie/projects/womens-environmental-community-activation-network/](https://rwn.ie/projects/womens-environmental-community-activation-network/)

and Facebook page  
[facebook.com/cycleup/](https://facebook.com/cycleup/)