

The story of
CYCLEUP TEXTILES

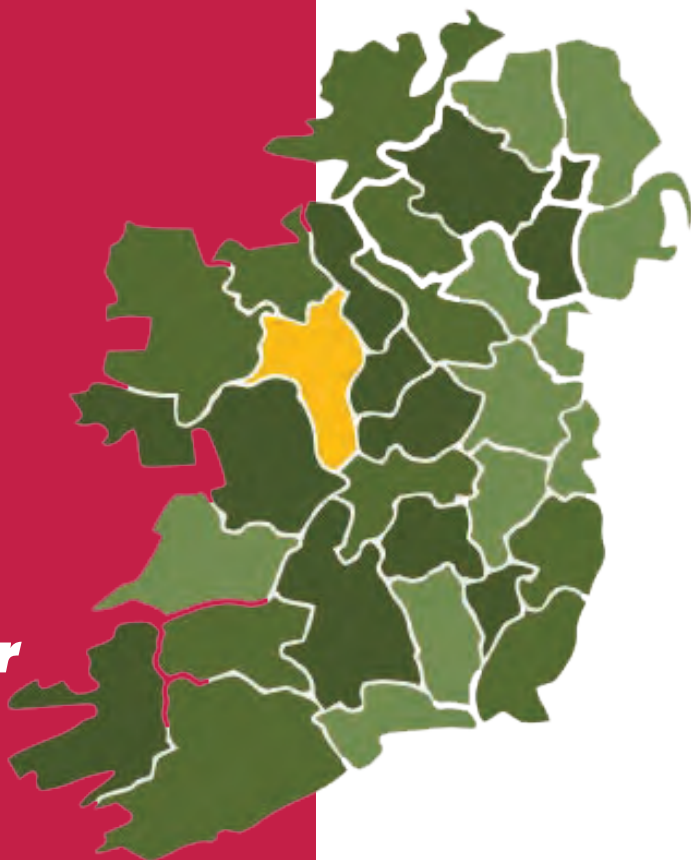


In the Beginning

Roscommon Women's Network (RWN) is a multi-faceted initiative to support women and their families throughout Roscommon County. The organisation has been in operation for nearly 25 years and is an important member of Ireland's National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks.

Founded in 1997, RWN began to give women a place to be together. Had a bad day? Friends at RWN were there to provide a warm welcome and a listening ear. As described by Nora Fahy, RWN Project Manager, the organisation became 'a place to make a fresh start for many women'.

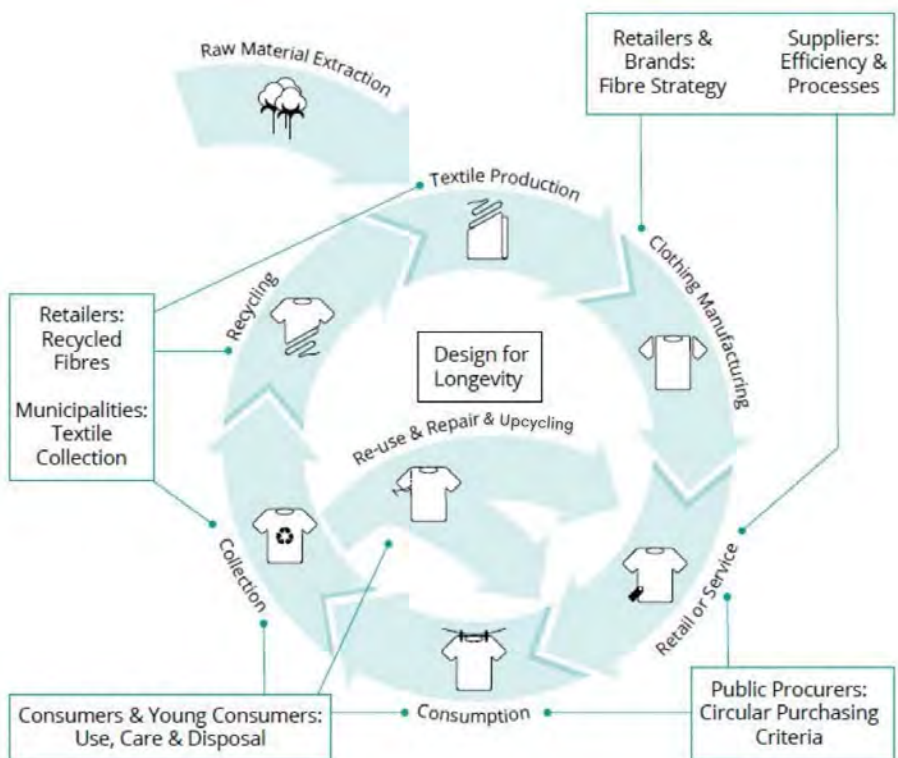
Today, roughly 800 women per year use RWN drop-in facilities and associated services and RWN reaches out around the county to approximately another 200 women per year.



Upcycling

Cultivating its emergent role in communities around Roscommon, RWN sought self sufficiency. With this in mind, RWN opened a local charity shop relying almost exclusively on volunteers. Local shoppers could drop by anytime and purchase well-loved donated garments, giving the items new life. Profits from the shop were enough to keep RWN's doors open, changing many lives along the way. But something else was happening. Despite the great success of the charity shop, too many garments still went unused. The women of RWN knew something had to be done. And, thus began the CycleUp program. With support from Patagonia, Galway and Roscommon

Education Training Board (GRETB) and Roscommon County Council through Local Agenda 21 Partnership Fund and Creative Ireland, RWN piloted a program in which women volunteers deconstructed existing garments back into fabric, used patterns to cut and sew new items like gifts and souvenirs and then sold those items on. Upcycling took off and RWN had a novel, new product line.



European Clothing Action Plan

Roscommon Women Care About the Environment

Around the same time, RWN was developing its Strategic Plan 2019-2024. RWN is committed to serving the women of Roscommon and, as such, undertook qualitative research with its participants and other women in the area to better understand women's needs and concerns. Top priority? The environment. The changing climate has influenced the way of life for many throughout the county, for example the cutting of local peat bogs is now limited by the government. And, women in Roscommon wanted to know more - to better understand environmental issues and how to take action to protect the environment.

CycleUp provides just that opportunity. Women who participate in CycleUp can undertake environmental education and take tangible steps to protect natural resources.



Economic Participation

A safe place to gather

Relationships

Access to social services

Skills training

Volunteer opportunities

A way to take action to protect the environment

Not only does CycleUp help women to participate in environmental protection, it also provides skills training which women can use to gain flexible paid employment in a rural county. From one another and from master trainers, CycleUp women learn sewing and mending skills that they can take with them throughout their lives.

Training

CycleUp trained upcycling tutors, design and deliver practical, informative and fun Upcycling Textiles Workshops for Community groups, Workplaces and Schools where participants learn to make a simple but useful item from unwanted textiles in an informal social setting while learning about what can be done to reduce the impact of textile waste on the environment. Call 094 9621690 or email cycleup@rwn.ie to find out how to book a workshop at your location or at our CycleUp Centre in Athleague, Co. Roscommon.



Connected

An online CycleUp Store has been established on the RWN website and a marketing campaign to promote our recent giftware, fashion and homeware products through social media is ongoing. Check out our CycleUp Store, our CycleUp Instagram and CycleUp Facebook Page to see our range of products. We also take commissions from organisations to produce environmentally friendly items such as souvenirs, aprons and bags. Previous clients include Kepak, AONTAS, The International Marine Conservation Conference, Roscommon County Council, The Courtyard Market in Boyle, Willow Outdoor Playschool and Kilmovee Heritage Centre. Call 094 9621690 or email cycleup@rwn.ie to discuss your idea for a commission.

Show that you care about the environment by making a purchase that supports the circular economy

WELCOME TO THE CYCLEUP STORE!

Featured Products

CYCLE UP
textiles

e-store now open

Shop by Click and Collect or Delivery!
rwn.ie/store/

SCAN ME

Logos for partners: epa, Roscommon County Council, AONTAS, Kepak, patagonia, ROS CON, gretb

The Future

CycleUp is ready and eager to expand. RWN hopes to inspire other community organisations and social enterprises to take up environmental and sewing education to provide opportunities for women in other communities.

Partnership

CycleUp is a story of transformation, collaboration and friendship. The Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun, a hub for the circular economy in Ireland, remains a source of inspiration and guidance. RWN witnessed the power of upcycling, the creative energies of its membership and tapped into new supports around Ireland and further afield.

The Irish Government, the Environmental Protection Agency, Roscommon County Council, the Galway and Roscommon ETB, fellow NGOs, Patagonia and local businesses have provided immeasurable support to CycleUp.

Roscommon Women's Network CycleUp Textile Project



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