

RWN's CycleUp wins top sustainability award

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2024 RDS Sustainability Awards
Sustain Rural Social Impact- Winner -Cycle Up Roscommon
Maria Hourigan, Nora Fahy, Martina Hourigan and Jennifer Payne.
Pic Orla Murray

CycleUp, an initiative from Roscommon Women's Network was among the winners at the recent RDS Sustainability Awards, taking home the Rural Social Impact Award.

The RDS recently hosted the 'Finding Common Ground' festival, a festival on biodiversity and sustainability and as part of the festival the RDS Sustainability Awards also took place, which celebrate the work of individuals, farm families and organisations who are enhancing the economic, environmental, and social development of Irish agriculture and rural communities, also took place.

In 2018 a diverse group from the Roscommon Women's Network (RWN) charity shop decided to do something about the amount of wasted clothes that could not be sold. RWN arranged training for upcycling of textiles and thanks to the motivation and commitment from the participants CycleUp is now a unique circular economy social enterprise that benefits the environment and the rural economy.

CycleUp textiles combines creativity with a positive social and environmental impact. They produce a wide range of 100% handmade and designed luxury tote bags and sustainable gifts using only materials that can no longer be used for their primary purpose and would otherwise end up in landfill.

The Sustainable Rural Social Impact Award celebrates not for profit or voluntary rural groups and organisations that are promoting or supporting the sustainable economic and/or societal development of their local community.