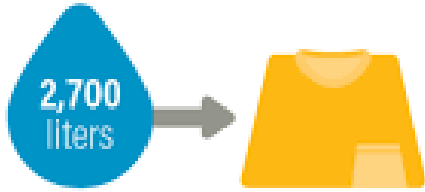


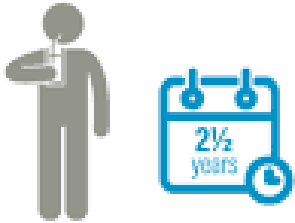
The Impact of Textile Waste

Making a pair of jeans produces as much greenhouse gases as driving a car more than 80 miles.

Discarded clothing made of nonbiodegradable fabrics can sit in landfills for up to 200 years.

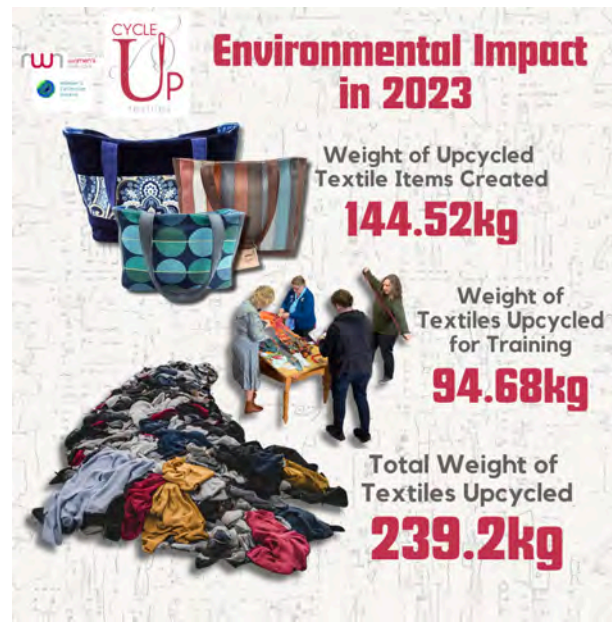


Enough Water for One Person to Drink for 2½ Years



Source: National Geographic

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE



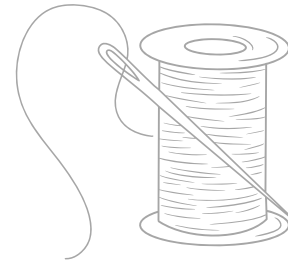
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rwn roscommon women's network

CYCLE Up
textiles



Empowering individuals through upcycling education and skills development.

CycleUp products are a more sustainable approach to textiles, combining creativity with a positive social and environmental impact.



This project is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal through the Community Services Programme



RWN CycleUp Textiles Skills & Product Innovation Project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-2027



The work of RWN CycleUp Textiles is supported by

Upcycling Textiles Training & Workshops

RWN CycleUp Textiles' main objective is to empower individuals through upcycling education and skills development while addressing the issue of textile waste.

Through its work and its community development approach, CycleUp supports the hardest to reach women and families to engage and participate.

CycleUp is raising awareness of the effects of textile waste on the environment and is 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.



The CycleUp Textiles Brand & Products

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 **cycleup.ie**

We also take commissions from organisations to produce environmentally friendly giftware such as souvenirs, aprons and bags. Clients include Kepak, Sofa Source, AONTAS, The International Marine Conservation Conference, Roscommon County Council, The Courtyard Market in Boyle, Willow Outdoor Playschool, Lanesbrew Coffee and Kilmovee Heritage Centre.

The Story of CycleUp Textiles

CycleUp started out life in 2018 when the RWN charity shop volunteers decided to do something about the amount of unsold textiles in the RWN Charity shop.

In response, RWN decided to arrange for an Upcycling Textiles Pilot Training in Castlerea in 2019 as a solution to the issue of unwanted textiles. When the first ten weeks of training was completed, there was a strong motivation and commitment from the participants to put this learning to practical use

On the back of the successful pilot, RWN secured funding from EPA Green Enterprise Fund for The Women's Environmental Community Activation Network (WECAN) in January 2021 for a year to develop CycleUp into a Social Environmental Enterprise. This funding allowed us to promote and market upcycled products to increase sales, expand the training reach and spread the message of the circular economy through networking and outreach workshops. That year, RWN CycleUp was delighted to win the National AONTAS award for Sustainable Development through Education.

Since then RWN CycleUp has secured funding from Rethink Ireland, The Ireland Funds and CEIGS which has allowed the Social Enterprise to develop and grow. In December 2023, the Dept. Rural and Community Development awarded Community Services Project funding for a full-time Manager and 4 part-time Product Creators. The RWN CycleUp Textiles team were worthy winners of the 2024 RDS Sustainable Rural Social Impact Award and were delighted that the CycleUp Skills & Product Innovation Project will be co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-2027.