



RECYCLING FIRST

Furniture and White Goods Re - Use Charity

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2022—MARCH 2023

Unit 12A
Macmerry Ind Est
Macmerry
EH33 1RD

Email: recyclingfirstel@gmail.com

Website: www.recyclingfirstel.org

Contact Number: 01875 615797

Registered SCIO Number : SC045286

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.

Just had an uplift of some furniture, they came at the time quoted were polite and courteous. Glad things are going to be used again.

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

was handing in some surplus kitchen stuff. Very helpful volunteer assisted me. All who were there were pleasant.

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

Staff are very helpful and the quality of stock is surprisingly good. Keep it up!" "Great place to visit" and "Amazing place

"When the children need furniture, I know I can come here without saving to buy new expensive stuff "

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.

. Bargains Galore! And very tolerant staff

CHAIRMANS REPORT, 2022-23

Allow me to start by extending a pre-Annual General Meeting greeting. You may have observed that we have made alterations to the time and venue for this year's gathering. This decision stems from the exceptionally low turnout we experienced last year, both among the general public, councillors and trustees. Fortunately, we managed to assemble enough individuals to conduct a legally valid meeting. It is crucial that we achieve full attendance.

As a charitable organisation, we heavily rely not only on our dedicated manager but also on the invaluable contribution of our volunteers. Without their dedication and effort, our mission would be impossible to sustain. While this may sound drastic, it holds true for many charities.

We owe a profound debt of gratitude not only to our project manager, Tom Logan, but also to our New driver Tom Harkins and all the volunteers who invest significant time and energy to ensure Recycling First remains a viable and impactful charity. With this in mind, I personally extend my heartfelt thanks to all those involved in our organization.

I'm well aware that some trustees and volunteers are engaged in other projects, and experiences gained there are channelled into our own project. To each and every one of you I offer my sincerest appreciation

David Dickson
Chairman
Recycling First

PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT, 2022-23

We started 2022-23 without a van driver, after our previous driver moved on to better pastures, I then doubled up as the Van driver until we advertised and interviewed for a New Driver Supervisor. We welcomed Tom Harkins as our new Part time Driver Supervisor. This period reflects on our statistic which in some cases were lower than previous year.

Once again, the level of challenge faced in 2022-2023 was extraordinary as was the response from each staff member at Recycling First. We applaud not only the commitment and professionalism of our staff, trainees, and volunteers. but also, their sheer stamina! Our staff fully understand that every delivery they make is moving people out of furniture poverty and that is what drives them to give their best every single day. We also know that our workforce cannot continue to work as hard as they have been and we are working hard towards becoming an even better workplace where people can do a fair day's work, learn, develop, and play a part in shaping the future of Recycling First.

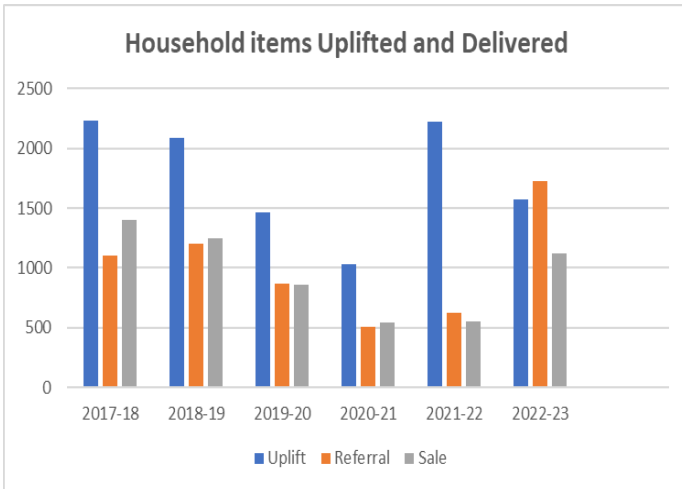
We continued to raise awareness of furniture poverty, educated people about the potential solutions and, ultimately, worked towards ensuring that everyone has access to the essential furniture and goods they need to lead a secure life Each year we aim to give a comprehensive view of all our achievements in the year and also to acknowledge any areas that haven't quite gone to plan.

We strive to fully demonstrate the impacts of our operations, both intended and unintended, and to highlight our targets for creating more impact in the following year. After listening to feedback from our trustees, we continue on our journey towards trying to provide a more succinct report which examines our performance, and to use this information to improve and create more impact in the future. This renewed insight has informed and improved our decision making and social value measurement processes, all with the view to continue on the road to end furniture poverty.

Our Recycling First team, as always, were brave, creative, passionate, and professional and continued to deliver a fantastic service. It was another successful year which is as a result of the brilliant and dedicated team we have at Recycling First.

TWK Logan
Project Manager
Recycling First

2022- 2023 Key numbers and activity



We Supported

395

households who needed help

14 Volunteers contributed an estimated

2,424 hours to support

Recycling First

Tonnage Donations

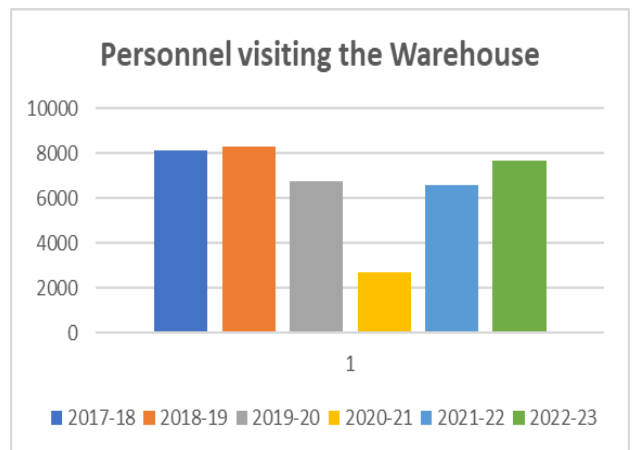
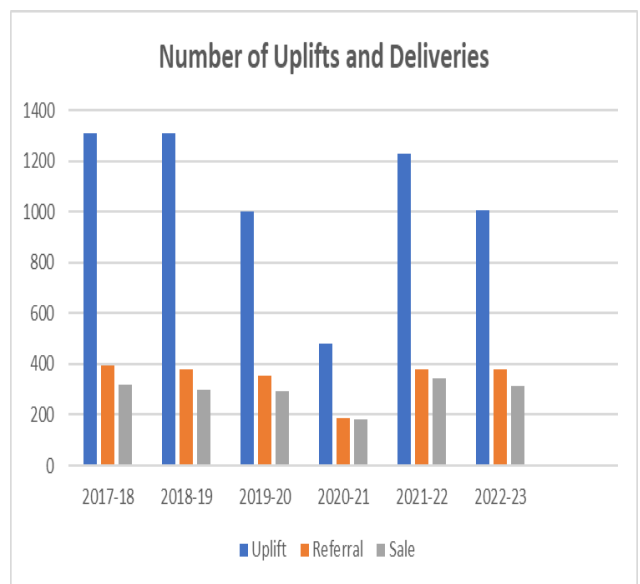
61 tonnes of furniture donated. This makes a total of **516 tonnes** donated in the last **7** years

Tonnage Sales

32 tonnes of furniture sold, Just under **247 tonnes** of furniture sold in the last **7** years.

Tonnage Referrals

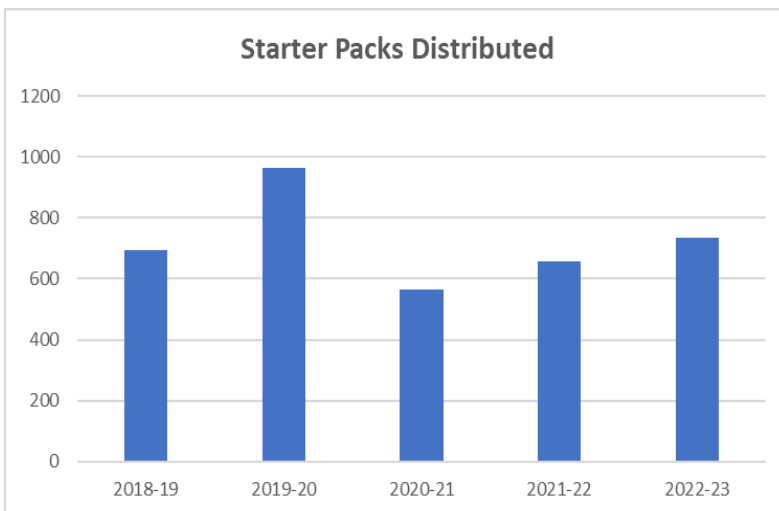
43 tonnes of furniture handed out on referrals, making a total of over **234 tonnes** reused over **7** years.



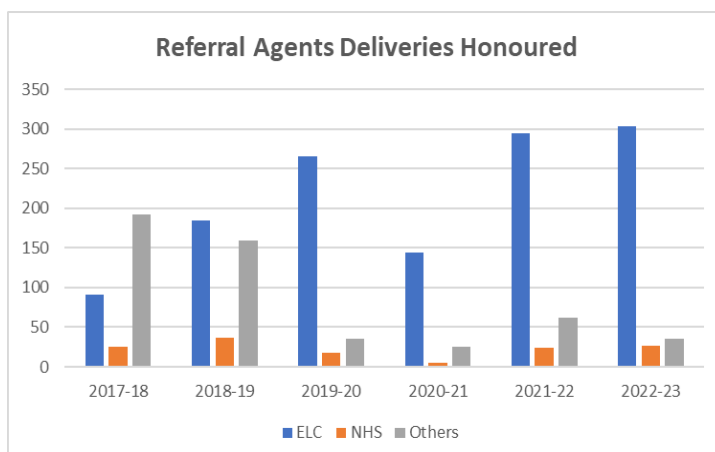
	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	%
Households Participated	1.290 Households participated	1.008 Households participated	- 12 %
Items Donated	2.218 items donated	1.874 items donated	- 11 %
Tonnage Donated	72 tons items donated	61 tons items donated	- 8.5 %
Household Referred	379 Referrals honoured	395 Referrals honoured	+ 4 %
Items Re - Used	1.949 items re-used	2.846 items re-used	+ 37 %
Tonnage Re - Used	72 tons were re-used	75 tons were re-used	+ 4 %

Starter Packs

Recycling First along with Fresh Start Edinburgh successfully secured another 3 Year funding from East Lothian Council to supply Starter Packs to families who have been referred by our referring agents.



735 Starter Packs were distributed to **160** families. This makes a total of **3.618** packs supporting **800** families over the last **5** years .



Our Volunteers

Recycling First greatly appreciate the time and support our amazing volunteers give to us and we thanked them regularly during the year with a Gift and Christmas Lunch at Christmas.

It was still another successful year for engaging volunteers and with them gaining new work-based skills. We offered a wide range of volunteering opportunities to 14 individuals from warehouse duties, customer services to Van assistants, administration to electrical and more, with one leaving us after securing paid employment.

“RECYCLING FIRST Was started by volunteers and without them, we wouldn’t even be here today”



Work programmes and placements

Recycling First have been involved with provision of work placements through the regional agencies chosen by government to deliver training and prepare people for work. This meant individuals undertook sessions with us in a variety of roles, and for varying lengths of time ranging from 4 weeks to 6 months. This enabled the individuals to learn new skills and gain qualifications and a reference for the future, as well as helping the charity deliver its services to the local community.

We also have volunteers working with us who may be placed by East Lothian Community payback scheme and other statutory agencies where the benefits of regular work activity are good for the charity and the community as well as the individual.

Information about how and why we operate

Recycling First is a non-profit organisation, which provides furniture and other household items for the unemployed and people on low incomes by collecting and refurbishing furniture donated by the general public. It provides volunteering opportunities to people in the community, as well as training and work opportunities for the unemployed, disabled and work placements..

Background Recycling First was established in 1996 and became a registered charity in 2014, changing its name in 2006 to Recycling First.

Aims

- To relieve poverty by providing furniture and household appliances to people in need, and especially those who are or have been homeless or are on low income and to their dependents, and who have been referred by statutory or voluntary agencies, and also by provision of other services to such people to relieve their needs.
- To provide training and employment opportunities for people in need.
- To protect and safeguard the environment for the public benefit, particularly through the promotion of reuse and recycling furniture, household appliances and provision of other recycling facilities.
- Relief of unemployment for the benefit of the public in such ways as may be thought fit, including the provision of training, employment, work experience and volunteering opportunities.

Revolve Accredited

Recycling First is a Revolve accredited organisation. Revolve is Scotland's national reuse quality standard which means that when you buy from us you can be sure of the quality we offer throughout in all aspects of our operations.

Toiletries Amnesty

Recycling First joined Toiletries Amnesty who are a social, ethical and environmental organisation that makes access to hygiene essentials easy for those in need, while stopping masses of surplus products from going to waste.

Starter Packs

Recycling First and Fresh Start are in their 5th Year funding from ELC to supply starter packs to disadvantage groups such as those on low income. Within East Lothian.

We have a number of starter packs available to help set up clients new home or to help sustain their tenancy if they are experiencing financial difficulties.

Our standard essential packs consist of bedding, curtains, towels, crockery, pots and pans, small electrical items, cleaning materials, and toiletries.

Recycling First Outlook for 2023-24

Recycling First will continue to improve our customer service within our Warehouse through the provision of furniture to Local Authorities. Our aim is to remain the leading provider of furniture to furnished tenancy providers whilst continuing to develop our customer base by exploring new markets in the social housing sector.

We will strive to improve our sales through our retail outlet, in order to improve the quantity and quality of 'pre-loved' goods being made available free to disadvantaged groups such as those on low incomes. We will continue to develop our work forging relationships with more referral agencies, increasing the number of donations we make to those in most need.

Our Achievements 2022 - 2023

We collected
1.874
Items from local residents



2.846
Items were selected for
Re - Use

Achieving
Recertification 20/12/23



First Choice for Second Hand



Over
75
Tonnes of electrical &
Household items Diverted
from Landfill



7.694 People used our
Charity Warehouse to
access affordable
Household Items



The Value of
Furniture provided to
those Referred to us for
help was
£53.542



We received
648 requests for help
Benefitting **395** families

1.008 Uplifts were
carried out.



We supplied **735**
Starter Packs
to **160** families



RECYCLING FIRST

Recycling First is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity number SC 045286

Register Address:

Unit 12a Macmerry Ind Est, Macmerry EH33 1RD

Phone: 01875 615797. Email: recyclingfirstel@gmail.com Website: www.recyclingfirstel.org

Chairman

Mr David Dickson

Trustees serving in 2022 - 23

James Bruce

William Buckley

William Davidson

Paula Edmond

Candace Higgins

Barbara McDonald

Pamela McKinley

Independent Examiner of Accounts:

Stuart Glass of Glass Accountancy Ltd

Recycling First gratefully acknowledges the support of:

