

Impact on residents by delivering a service that maximises reuse and recycling of bulky waste, local authorities can also provide a better service to residents but this will need to be carefully communicated.

Economic benefits. There are economic benefits to local authorities, communities and individuals as a result of increased reuse and recycling. For a local authority these benefits are: reduced costs of, and LATS liabilities for, disposal; potential sales income to contribute to collection costs; reduced costs for services delivered by social service and housing departments by providing practical social benefits in the community; and greater efficiencies from cross department working, such as funding reuse activities through more than one department, splitting the cost between waste and other departments.

These can be achieved by: promoting reuse activities not carried out by the council, such as the use of online exchange websites or charity shops; contracting a more efficient collection service with an organisation that can, potentially, add value and provide a better service at a lower cost; and maximising reuse and recycling to generate income from the sale of goods or materials. There are also economic benefits through strengthening the local economy, which can help to alleviate poverty, promote financial inclusion, and sustain tenancies of those currently housed.

Social-economic benefits of reuse. Reuse is labour intensive as it involves collection, sorting, testing, refurbishment and reselling which is important considering the EU is experiencing an average unemployment rate

of nearly 11%. Social enterprises working in the field of reuse provide opportunities for those distanced from the labour market to gain key skills such as driving commercial vehicles, carpentry, electrical engineering or marketing. Some even embark on intricate trash design or eco-fashion activities<sup>8</sup>. Regarding economic benefits, it costs France 20,000 EUR to support an unemployed person. By funding integration contracts in the field of textile collection, reuse and recycling, the state only pays half this and ends up saving 2 Euros for every Euro spent. At the same time it improves the skill set of its workers and boosts green jobs. In the UK, WRAP estimated that reuse of a selection of waste streams brings benefits of £720 Million of savings to the economy. Concerning job potential, UNIDO and Microsoft found that computer reuse creates 296 jobs for every 10,000 tons of material disposed of each year. In addition, Irish enterprise Rehab Recycle, calculated that between 2010, business to business IT reuse generated 10 times more jobs than the equivalent tonne of recycled materials. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity estimate also that for every 1,000 tonnes of electronics, 15 jobs can be made in recycling whilst up to 200 jobs exist if refurbished and repaired.

Reuse Alliance represents over one hundred reuse organizations that employ 250,000 people. Our community diverts 9.1 million pounds of waste from landfills every day.

## NATIONAL REUSE DAY

October 20th has been recognized by many cities as National Reuse Day - a day to celebrate reuse as a central tenet of sustainability.



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