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**To:** [DECC GPP](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [Research Officer](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to draft GPP strategy and action plan  
**Date:** Friday 17 November 2023 14:19:26  
**Attachments:** [Rediscovery Centre response Draft Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan Public Consultation Nov23 \(3\).pdf](#)

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Dear GPP team

Please see attached our submission to the draft GPP strategy.

We would welcome any feedback or an opportunity to discuss further, should it be useful.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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## **Draft Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan Public Consultation Questions Template for Responses**

### **Introduction**

We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback to this important consultation.

The Rediscovery Centre is the National Centre for a Circular Economy in Ireland. Since 2004, the Centre has been leading Ireland's transition to a circular economy and low-carbon, sustainable future. Based in Europe's first circular economy demonstration centre in Ballymun, the Rediscovery Centre acts as an innovation hub, delivering education, providing research and enabling policy and collaboration to support citizen engagement.

The work is supported by key strategic partners including the Government of Ireland, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Dublin City Council (DCC). The Centre is a coordinating member of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, founding member of the Community Resources Network and an active member of the European RREUSE network, the Irish Waste Advisory Group and the Irish Environmental Network.

We are responding to this consultation based on our experience at European and national level in advocacy and research as well as our expertise as practitioners and suppliers of circular goods and services.

### **Question 1: Do you think the approach as detailed in the draft Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan will significantly increase Green Public Procurement across the Public Sector?**

Response: No

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** The GPP strategy should align with the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy and the anticipated National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy by 1) setting specific targets for the procurement of used goods, 2) setting specific targets for waste prevention, 3) setting specific targets for repair, 4) setting specific timeline for adopting and achieving targets.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 1:** The uptake of green and circular requirements in public procurement criteria in Ireland has, to date, been inadequate for the purposes of supporting a more sustainable and circular economy. This is evidenced by the EPA's 2021 GPP Monitoring and Reporting study, which found that, in comparison with 2020, public spending on contracts with green criteria and over €25,000 in magnitude had decreased. This reduction also occurred in spite of a growing toolkit of guidelines, training, case studies and the CRNI virtual trade fair.

As highlighted by the EPA, this is **a significant missed opportunity for Government Departments** to support and develop a market for circularity through the purchase of more resource efficient and less polluting goods, services and works. Stronger measures must be taken to reverse this trend. Specific targets for public procurement of circular products and materials is **the first step** in creating a market that companies and social enterprises will respond to and help to accelerate Ireland's transition to a circular economy.

While we welcome the strengthening of GPP obligations in the public sector through the GPP strategy and action plan goals and actions, these actions do not go far enough to drive a significant increase in GPP across the public sector. This is because the actions only require the "inclusion of criteria" and are not underpinned by numerical targets.

The GPP strategy should align with the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy of 2020. This action plan included commitments to expand the role of the *public sector and public bodies... in reuse via Green Public Procurement and Circular Public Procurement [by] setting a minimum target for procurement of used goods*. Advanced drafts of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy include national reuse targets. Therefore, this GPP strategy should, at minimum, include policy commitments that reinforce a target led approach.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** The GPP strategy and particularly Action 3 should extend to tenders below the EU procurement threshold of €50,000. Contracting authorities should be encouraged to divide tenders into smaller lots or to facilitate consortium approaches (see Annex A).

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 2:** The circular economy is still an emerging activity in Ireland. As such, the majority of enterprises supplying circular goods and services tend to operate at a small to medium scale<sup>1</sup>. Indeed, many of these goods and services are

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<sup>1</sup> Gibson, C. et al, *Qualifying and Quantifying the Reuse Sector in Ireland*, EPA Research report no. 405

delivered by social enterprises or charitable organisations. There are a number of case studies that illustrate projects and opportunities at this scale (see Annex A and B). Enabling more procurement at this scale would:

- Grow the market for circular goods and services
- reduce risk to contracting authorities by providing opportunities to engage on smaller projects
- generate interest and highlight the wide range of opportunities for GPP at this scale across organisations.

It is important that this new GPP strategy and action plan both recognize and support activity at a smaller scale to foster growth of GPP and also growth of the sector as a whole.

## Question 2: Are there any other key aspects or actions that could be effective in implementing Green Public Procurement and that you think should be considered for inclusion in the Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan?

Response: Yes

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** Actions should be included in the GPP Strategy and Action Plan that show a commitment to market engagement by supporting suppliers including small scale suppliers through “meet the buyer events”, “market soundings” and other measures.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 3:** A focus on market engagement and building relationships between suppliers and buyers will be necessary to facilitate realistic solutions that are readily available, foster competition, innovation and growth, and identify risks and issues involved. The *Circular Procurement Transformation Guidance* from the ProCirc Interreg project<sup>2</sup> sets out valuable guidance for market engagement. As above, any such engagement should also take into account smaller scale suppliers of goods and services.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** Through the GPP strategy, the Virtual Green and Social Procurement Trade Fair and further market engagement actions should continue to be supported.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 4:** As highlighted in the strategy, CRNI has established a platform<sup>3</sup> that allows for virtual perusal of a trade fair by contracting

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<sup>2</sup> Download [https://northsearegion.eu/media/22600/procirc\\_cpt-guidance\\_web.pdf](https://northsearegion.eu/media/22600/procirc_cpt-guidance_web.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [Greenandsocial.virtualeventspace.io](https://greenandsocial.virtualeventspace.io)

authorities. The purpose of this trade fair is to showcase and raise awareness about the very broad range of circular and social goods and services available to contracting authorities, and the suppliers of those goods and services (including the Rediscovery Centre) which are generally not at the scale to participate in tenders >€50,000 threshold. The platform is a very important tool for both raising awareness of the opportunities for procurement at all levels as well as providing inspiration on the types of procurement that are possible (from reused furniture and paint to renting water refill stations at sports events). It is currently funded by the Regional Waste Management Plan Lead Authorities.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:** To enable such goods and services to meet the requirements of contracting authorities, techniques should be adopted that facilitate a growth trajectory, as described in the *Circular Procurement Transformation Guidance* from the ProCirc Interreg project<sup>4</sup>.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 5:** In addition to supporting the market, contracting authorities should be encouraged to support growth of the market. As highlighted, many circular economy goods and services are still at small scale or emerging. For example, deliverables that are not possible at the start of the agreement may be set out at a later date during the contract duration. This would underpin growth and innovation from the market.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:** The continued roll out on an all island basis of ReMark, as the national quality mark for reuse, should be supported. This should be referred to in the GPP strategy as a key measure to drive the confidence in and uptake of used goods by contracting authorities.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 6:** Research carried out by CRNI<sup>5</sup> has shown that certification marks like ReMark can be used to support green and circular public procurement. For example, the innovative Circular Communities Scotland Reuse Consortium works with enterprises signed up to Zero Waste Scotland's Revolve standard to provide quality assured reuse of furniture and household goods from local providers.

Through EPA and DECC funding, CRNI has developed and rolled out Ireland's reuse accreditation scheme ReMark. This certification mark can be used to help forge relationships with Local Authorities in Ireland in gaining access to goods from Civic Amenity Sites such as paint, or to provide assurance to EPR schemes that support reuse or

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<sup>4</sup> Download [https://northsearegion.eu/media/22600/procirc\\_cpt-guidance\\_web.pdf](https://northsearegion.eu/media/22600/procirc_cpt-guidance_web.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> ReMark, Ireland's reuse quality mark of excellence', Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme, Prepared for the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications: *publication pending*

preparation for reuse. It is an important mechanism to remove the quality barrier to social enterprises and nonprofits competing for green public procurement contracts. This quality mark has also been recognised in the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy 2022 - 2023.

### Question 3: In terms of the sectoral/product targets included in the draft Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan, do you have any views in relation to the targets, the ambition level, and a timeframe for target achievement?

Response:

#### Built Environment

**RECOMMENDATION 7:** To foster a market for reused products in the construction sector a separate target should be established to be integrated into construction projects, at minimum in line with national reuse targets.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 7:** The targets for reused and recycled materials for construction should not be combined. Reused materials have a much higher impact on reducing GHG emissions than recycled materials, but are much more labour intensive and costly to extract from buildings during demolition and deconstruction processes. There are already a range of goods and services available for reuse in construction through tools such as CMeX, paint reuse organisations<sup>6</sup>, organisations like Habitat for Humanity with ReStore DIY outlets and existing salvage yards. Furthermore, efforts are being made to replicate good practice. For example, the Paint Reuse Network has developed guidelines for public authorities to tender for remixed paint (see Annex C).

#### Food Procurement and Action to Prevent Food Waste

**RECOMMENDATION 8:** Measures delivered by contractors should meet a numerical reduction target that aligns with the overall food waste reduction target e.g. based on the same baseline, a 50% reduction should be achieved by 2030.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 8:** The GPP strategy presents an opportunity to meet objectives set out in *Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap 2023-2025*. While Sectoral Target 3 does require 100% of new contract arrangements to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste, specific numerical targets are absent.

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<sup>6</sup> See [paintreuse.network](https://paintreuse.network)

This absence results in a lack of clarity on the quantity of new measures required to achieve the overall target of a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030.

**RECOMMENDATION 9:** This GPP strategy is an opportunity to concretely take action on support food surplus redistribution, for example, by placing requirements on the supply chain as a mandatory requirement.

This would align with the numerous commitments in the Food Waste Prevention Roadmap to support surplus food redistribution initiatives.

## Textiles

**RECOMMENDATION 10:** Procurement as a powerful tool for public spend must recognise and set goals addressing textile consumption and reuse - through a commitment to reducing spend on new textiles, and / or a commitment to procurement of reused or upcycled textiles in line with national reuse targets.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 10:** While recycled content is important, it is essential that we address the very high level of overconsumption of textiles in Ireland. Significant GHG emissions reductions can be achieved by tackling textile overconsumption and waste. There is also a large amount of work underway at national level through the Textile Advisory Group and at European level. We feel that the GPP strategy should reflect this through stronger commitments on textiles. Noting that the supply may be currently small in scale, effort should be made to support a growth trajectory and / or focus on <€50,000 tenders.

**RECOMMENDATION 11:** Include an action that recognises and prioritises social enterprises and charity retail in handling post consumer textiles.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 11:** In many other Member States, public procurement is a mechanism to support social enterprises in used textile management, for environmental as well as the employment and community value this delivers. For example, the Spanish *Law on Waste and Contaminated Soil for the Circular Economy* includes a provision that requires 50% of public tenders related to the collection, transport, and treatment of second-hand textile and furniture products be awarded to social enterprises. While the collection system differs significantly in Ireland, social enterprise and charitable organisations are very significant contributors to the local reuse of textiles. Currently the public sector awards tenders for second hand textile collection (through clothes banks at recycling centres) based on cost without any consideration for social criteria (e.g. supporting charity retail).

Social enterprises and charity retailers are best placed to facilitate the local reuse of textiles. Therefore, social or proximity clauses should be included in tenders for clothes bank placement to maximise the local reuse potential.

### Paper Products and Printing Services

While the goal to prevent the consumption of paper is necessary, we also note that the focus on digitalisation must also be managed with caution.

The Rediscovery Centre through an EU LIFE funded DIRECT digital transformation project carried out research into our digital footprint. This highlighted the impact of electricity consumption associated with internet usage - 2% of global emissions, equivalent to the amount of carbon used by the global aviation industry. This is compounded by the growing digital footprint of websites and accessibility of the internet. This means that the internet could potentially grow to account for 3.5% of all global carbon emissions in the next 10 years.

The project facilitated the development of a new low carbon website ([www.rediscoverycentre.ie](http://www.rediscoverycentre.ie)) whose footprint is 80% lower than the average website. What this highlights is that digitalisation has a carbon impact, and that the switch from paper to digital data storage must balance this impact carefully.

### Question 4: Are there any other sectoral/product targets related to Green Public Procurement that you think should be considered for inclusion in the Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan?

Response:

**RECOMMENDATION 12:** Include in this GPP strategy existing and identified opportunities to expand support for social enterprises already operating in this space. In parallel, it is essential that specific dates are set for advancing the proposed sustainable procurement strategy as soon as possible, as opposed to “a future date”.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION 12:** Ireland is one of the few Member States that does not have any policy or strategy promoting social procurement. Across other Member States, there are a growing number of excellent case studies of supporting the social economy in reuse and repair<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> See

<https://rreuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/rreuse-position-paper-on-public-procurement.pdf>



Given the prevalence (see above) of social actors in the circular economy, and the potential triple bottom line benefits of social enterprise impact, this again represents a significant missed opportunity.

Some options recommended by RREUSE for growing social procurement in the area of GPP include:

- A focus on Best Price-Quality Ratio award criteria (BPQR and formally called MEAT) in crucial sectors for an inclusive green transition, which, in addition to taking into account financial aspects, also considers in social and environmental criteria.
- The use of reserved contracts for social economy operators, as illustrated in the Spanish example for textiles
- Facilitation of consortium approaches and division of complex contracts into smaller lots (see also Annex 1).

## Annex A: NWCPO Case Study

### Furniture Consortium: CRNI

- Procurement Agency: NWCPO
- Purchasing: Office furniture
- Scale: <€25,000 – consortium approach
- Timeframe: 12 months
- Criteria / clauses: Delivery, assembly, installation of 100% reused and upcycled furniture



*Awarded Green Procurement of the Year Award at 2020 National Procurement Awards.*



#### Social

- €20,000 spent on social enterprises
- Supporting jobs & skills for those distant from labour market



#### Environmental

- 97 x 2nd-hand items of furniture
- 2.6 tonnes CO2 avoided



#### Economic

- Cost similar but higher quality
- 2 x businesses avoided furniture disposal cost

See full report here:

[https://crni.ie/content/uploads/2020/11/PTI-Awards\\_Circular-and-Social-Public-Procurement-Project-NWCPO.pdf](https://crni.ie/content/uploads/2020/11/PTI-Awards_Circular-and-Social-Public-Procurement-Project-NWCPO.pdf)

## Annex B: Paint Reuse Case Study

Since 2004, the Rediscovery Centre has been leading Ireland's transition to a circular economy and a low-carbon, sustainable future. Based in Europe's first circular economy demonstration centre in Ballymun, the Centre carries out a number of functions including:

1. Delivering education;
2. Conducting research;
3. Demonstrating circular economy business models;
4. Advocating for policy change in support of a circular economy.

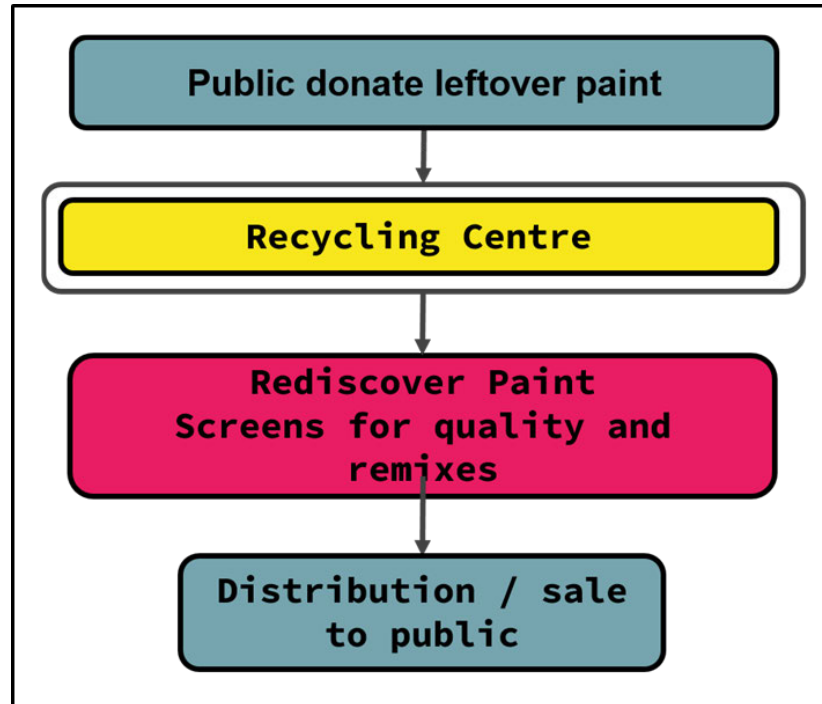
Fingal County Council represents the other partner on this project and is one of the four local authorities in County Dublin. Fingal County Council is responsible for providing local public services in relation to housing, roads, recreation and amenities, planning, libraries, environmental protection, fire services and register of electors. As the fastest growing area in Ireland Fingal County Council is dedicated to sustainable development in the provision of services.

### **Project Background**

Disposing of household paint waste is a significant environmental problem in Ireland. Preliminary results from research that is currently ongoing at the Rediscovery Centre indicates that up to 4,000 tonnes of paint and paint-related waste are exported from Ireland to other European countries each year for incineration as hazardous waste.

The procurement of reused paint by Local Authorities from social enterprises is one way to help solve this problem. The Local Authorities through links in their communities can also complete the circle by making the paint product available to members of the public for Reuse.

'Rediscover Paint' is one of four social enterprises housed within the Rediscovery Centre, the others being 'Rediscover Furniture', 'Rediscover Fashion', and 'Rediscover Cycling'. Rediscover Paint operates a business model whereby leftover paint is collected from Local Authority recycling centres, it is screened for quality, remixed, re-potted, and resold to the public at an affordable price (see Figure 1). These actions work toward national sustainability policy objectives of reducing carbon emissions, as well as supporting the circular economy, which seeks to keep products in economic circulation for as long as possible and minimize the generation of waste.



*Figure 1: Paint Reuse Operational Model*

Rediscover Paint and Fingal County Council initially began collaborating to facilitate access for Rediscover Paint to recycling centres in the Fingal area. Building on the success of this approach, the Environmental Awareness Officer at Fingal County Council recognized the opportunity for green procurement of an environmentally friendly paint product that would benefit community groups, residents' associations, schools and community centres served by Fingal County Council and reduce overall emissions of manufacturing new paint and exporting waste paint for treatment and disposal.

To this end, a public tender was issued for the provision of reconditioned paint from Recycling Centres to Fingal County Council for use in public spaces by communities such as housing estate walls and entrances, murals, housing, offices and community centres etc. The tender would also cover the costs of delivery, so that community groups could focus their time on painting. The timeframe given for the delivery of this paint was a period of 1 year.

The Paint Programme Manager at Rediscover Paint and Rediscovery Centre Programme Director submitted a quote for the tender and was successful. As the initiative became more popular, two further tenders were issued by Fingal County Council for reconditioned paint for distribution to communities.

## **Execution & Challenges**

The contract specifically provided for Rediscover Paint to provide €3,000 worth of paint to community groups and housing estates in the Fingal area. Rediscover Paint executed the requirements of this tender through the business model that was already in place. Specifically, paint was collected from recycling centres, remixed and redistributed for Reuse.

Fingal County Council then promoted the paint as available free for Community Groups in Fingal, primarily through links into communities in Fingal, contacts in Tidy Towns groups, and with groups working on anti-graffiti projects. Community groups and residents associations were informed about the availability of reused paint. Promotion was carried out on Fingal social media and via the Public Participation Network (PPN) and by emailing key community contacts. Groups were asked to contact the Rediscovery Centre for free reused Paint for use in community areas.

Upon receiving such orders, technical staff at Rediscover Paint would mix the requested colours, repot the paint, and deliver the paint to the group in question.

The tender for reused paint ran from January to October of 2022, but Rediscover Paint had already reached the €3000 quota by early September due to popular demand.

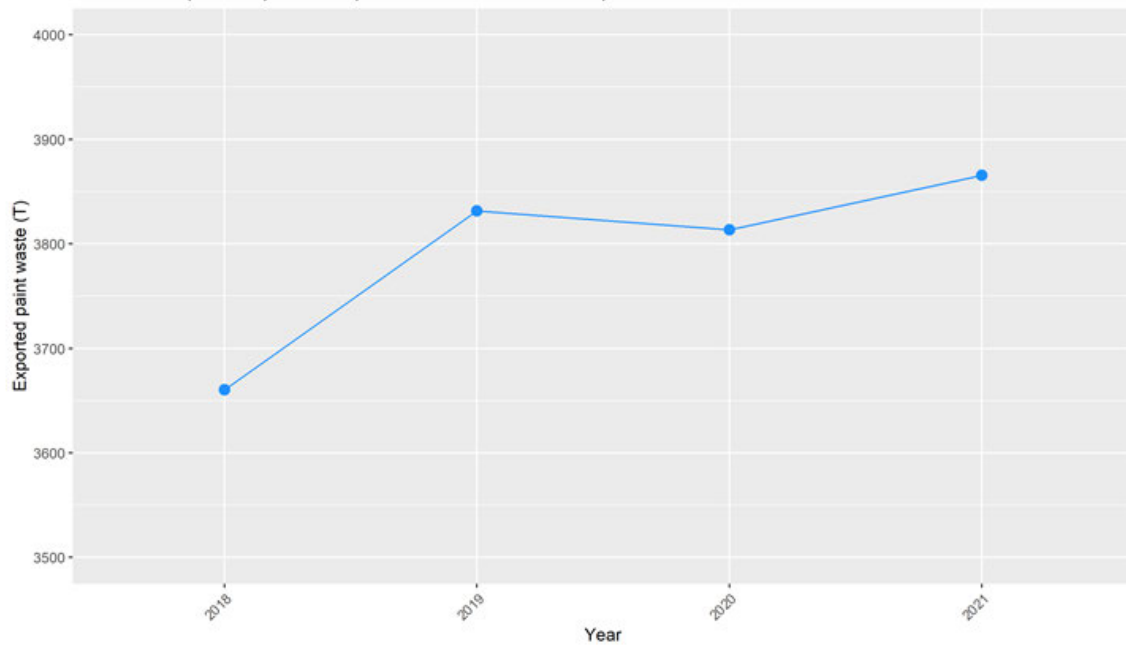
Collecting the paint was identified as a barrier so the delivery of paint to Community Groups was included as part of the tender. Groups merely had to contact the Rediscovery Centre to order the paint and it arrived at their door. Rediscover Paint kept track of the orders delivered and invoiced Fingal County Council periodically.

## **Sustainability**

The key sustainability element in this procurement project relates to the model through which the paint is sourced. As stated above, up to 4,000 tonnes of paint and paint related waste are exported for incineration every year (see Figure 2). The Rediscover Paint business model involves the collection of paint that would otherwise be destined for incineration. This paint is set aside by trained Civic Amenity site staff, before it is screened for quality, transported to the workshop, remixed, re-potted, resold, and reused.

The collection of paint is only half of the equation in this business model. It is absolutely crucial to develop markets for this paint product so that paint waste can be reduced

throughout the Island of Ireland. As such, the Fingal County Council Reused Paint Tender is a valuable working example of public procurement of environmentally sustainable goods.



*Figure 2: Paint and Paint-Related Waste Exports 2018-2021 (tonnes)*

In terms of the precise numbers, 1,646 litres of reused paint was procured through this tender in 2022. The project thereby saved nearly 4 tonnes of embedded CO<sub>2</sub> and delivered a valuable product to 22 community groups. In terms of national and international policy objectives, two points are particularly relevant:

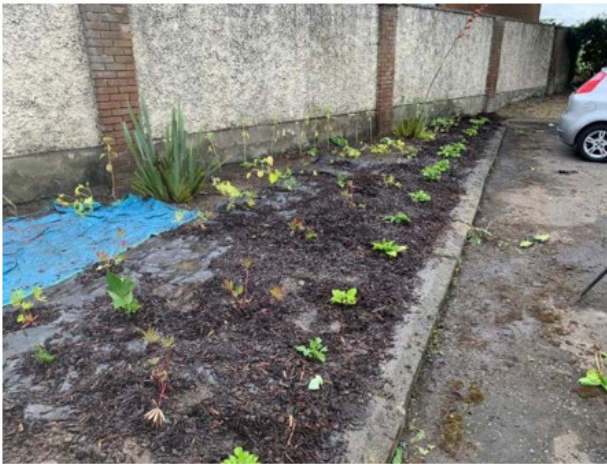
First, Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2022 established a national target of reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels. The project presented in this application aligns with this objective by maximizing paint use, thereby reducing the necessity for additional production and associated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Second, Ireland's National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2023 (currently in draft form) sets the target of achieving 10 kg of reuse per person per annum. This project helps to contribute to this objective through the reuse of paint.

## **Outcomes & Results:**

In addition to the sustainability benefits highlighted in the previous section, there are four additional outcomes from this project that are worth noting.

First, this procurement project provided reused paint to 22 community groups in 2022 in the Fingal Local Authority area including residents' associations, community centres, and schools. One group that gave their consent to share their information was Mourné View Residents' Association in Skerries County Dublin. This group received over 70 litres of exterior white and grey reused paint to revamp public walls in their housing estate. The paint donation supported the ongoing work of the voluntary group, which manages the upkeep of the estate by painting walls, landscaping, and community clean up days. Photos below show the before and after of painting undertaken in 2022.



*Before*



*After*

Second, this project provided benefits to both Rediscover Paint and Fingal County Council. For Rediscover Paint this project represented important revenue through which to support the social enterprise, which delivers training and employment opportunities as part of its operations. For Fingal County Council, the project represented an innovative approach to carrying out green procurement.

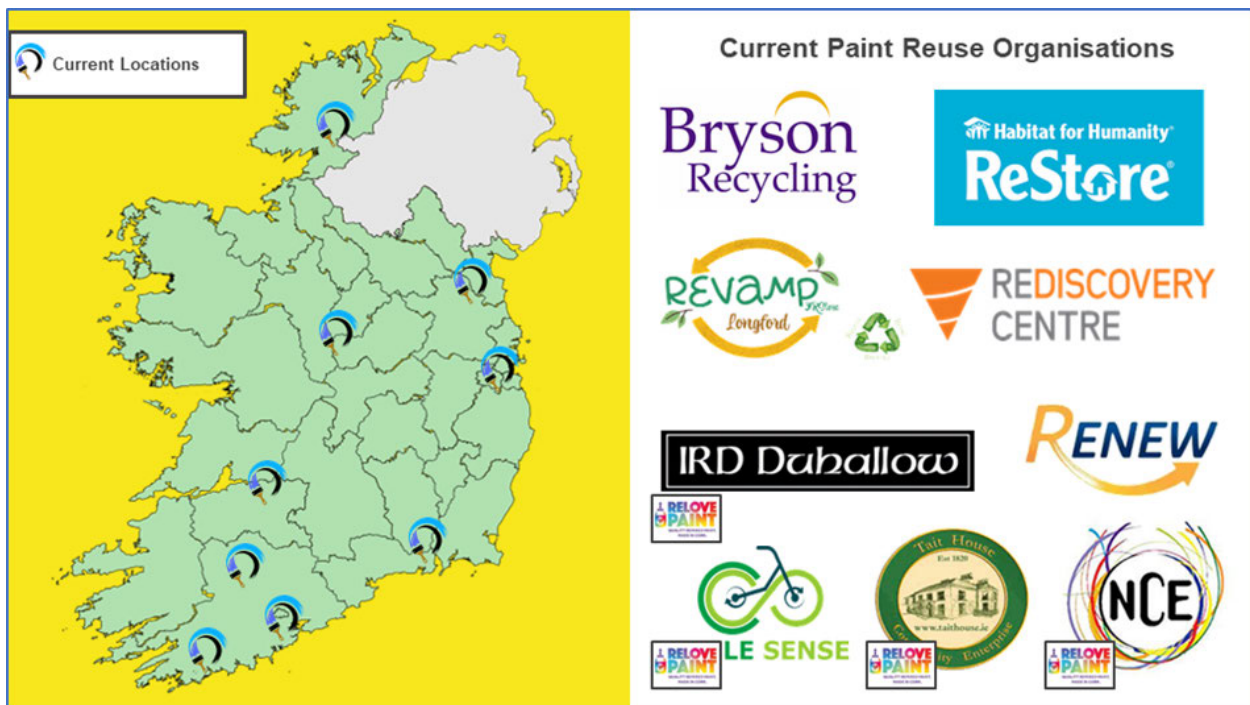
Thirdly, due to the demand for paint from the communities, a second tender from Fingal County Council for €1,000 was issued in October of 2022. Rediscover Paint won this tender, having met the quota for the first tender with over a month to spare. Due to popular demand, a third tender for €6,000 from Fingal County Council was issued in 2023. Again, Rediscover Paint won this tender and is currently delivering on the quota. The total quantity of reuse paint supplied by Rediscover Paint over the course of these three tenders to date is 2,164 litres.

Finally, a guideline for public procurement of reused paint has been developed and circulated to other Local Authorities by the Paint Reuse Network, which is supported by Ireland’s three Waste Management Planning Offices.

### Summary

In total, Rediscover Paint diverted 14,395 kilograms of paint from waste in 2022. During this same period, Rediscover Paint redistributed 11,482 kilograms of this paint through sales to the public and donations to community groups, avoiding approximately 27 tonnes of CO2 through displacing new paint<sup>[1]</sup>.

Rediscover Paint has supported the expansion of paint reuse throughout Ireland through the Paint Reuse Network. At present nine paint reuse organisations in the network work with 22 civic amenity sites (see Figure 3). As noted above, the procurement project has significant potential for replication replicated across these other local authority areas - an action being actively encouraged by Rediscover Paint through the development of guidelines for Local Authorities on developing procurement projects for reused paint.



**Figure 3: Paint Reuse Network**

[1] Taken as an aggregate calculation of 2.41 kg of CO2 eq / kg of paint

<http://www.rediscoverycentre.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/EPA-RDC-Metrics-Final.pdf>





## Annex C: Paint Reuse Network Guidelines for Public Sector

A guide for Local Authorities seeking to procure reused paint in support of schools, communities, and voluntary groups

### **The challenge:**

Paint waste remains a significant environmental problem in Ireland. In 2016 – the most recent year for which data is available – 2,000 tonnes of paint were exported from Ireland for incineration at a public cost of €600,000. The procurement of reused paint by Local Authorities from the social enterprises that comprise the Paint Reuse Network is one way to help solve this problem.

### **The Paint Reuse Network:**

The Paint Reuse Network is a partnership between the Rediscovery Centre and Ireland's Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, which aims to reduce paint waste in Ireland, and maximise the use of paint that is in circulation. As part of this network, nine social enterprises collect leftover paint from Civic Amenity sites, remix it to a high standard, and resell it at affordable prices (typically between €10 and €15 per 5.6 litre bucket).

At present, social enterprises carry out this work in Dublin, Limerick, Waterford, Longford, Cork, Skibbereen, Duhallow, Drogheda, and throughout Co. Donegal, as shown in the map below.

### **Paint Reuse Network members and locations**

The opportunity:

The paint reuse business model presents an opportunity for Local Authorities to procure paint at a cost-effective price. Paint from these organisations retails at between €10-€15 per 5.6 litre bucket, the revenue from which helps to support community employment and training. This approach also aligns with the following three national policy objectives,

- Action 148 of the [Climate Action Plan \(2019\)](#), which mandates the inclusion of green criteria in all procurements using public funds;

- [Circular 20/2019](#) from the Dept. of Public Reform and Expenditure, which seeks to promote the wider use of environmental and social considerations in public procurement; and,
- The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (under consultation), which proposes a national target of 10 kilograms of reuse per capita per annum.

The Paint Reuse Network therefore provides Local Authorities with a method for dealing with surplus paint while also supporting Ireland's transition to a circular economy and the objectives of social enterprises around the country.

### **Remixing Paint at the Rediscovery Centre**

Working examples:

Relevant examples of this principle have already been implemented in two local authorities.

#### Fingal County Council

Fingal County Council have successfully procured reused paint for a number of years from Rediscover Paint in Ballymun, a founding member of the Paint Reuse Network. In 2022 Rediscover Paint won the tender to provide €3,000 worth of reused paint to community groups and housing estates in the Fingal area. In total 1,646 litres of paint was delivered to 22 community groups. Paint was thereby diverted from incineration, saving nearly 4 tonnes of embodied CO<sub>2</sub>.

Included in Annex 1 below is the specific wording from the Fingal tender, which could be replicated by other Local Authorities. Note that the burden of producing and delivering the paint as well as liaising with community groups is on the supplier. Several examples of groups that were provided with paint as part of Fingal County Council's initiative are detailed in Annex 2.

#### Cork County and City Council

Another instructive example has been implemented by Cork County and City Councils. These Local Authorities made €3,000 available to [Northside Community Enterprises](#) (NCE) for the purpose of providing reused paint to schools and community groups. Through this initiative NCE delivered up to 112 litres of paint to 38 different groups, with 12 of those groups returning to purchase additional paint. This initiative also allowed NCE to complete some relatively large paint orders, thereby advancing the expertise and experience of its staff. Photos from some of the projects that received paint are included in Annex 3 below.

### **Next steps:**

Local authorities wishing to embark on a similar tendering process may consult the Paint Reuse Network, which can be reached at [research@rediscoverycentre.ie](mailto:research@rediscoverycentre.ie), by contacting [REDACTED] of Fingal County Council at [REDACTED] by contacting Cork City Council at [EnvironmentCCP@corkcity.ie](mailto:EnvironmentCCP@corkcity.ie) or Cork County Council at [EAO@corkcoco.ie](mailto:EAO@corkcoco.ie).

### **Annex 1**

Tender Re: Supply of paint for Reuse to [Local Authority]

- Supplier will process interior and exterior paint of various colours up to a value of €3000 and make it available / deliver it to Community Groups, Community Centres, Schools and Organisations in [Local Authority] area.
- Supplier will ensure that all Health and Safety legislation is adhered to, for staff dealing with this product. Supplier shall ensure that all insurance is in place for all duties within this arrangement.
- Supplier will collect unused/leftover paint and treat the product to create high quality paint for reuse. Supplier will handle all queries and correspondence from community groups regarding the volumes and deliveries and maintain this information in accordance with GDPR Data Protection guidelines.
- Supplier will provide an image with text for using on social media for this collaborative initiative. The aim of this project is to demonstrate Reuse.

### **Annex 2**

Mourne View Estate Residents' Association, Skerries

This residents' association received over 70 litres of exterior white and grey reused paint to revamp public walls in their housing estate. The paint donation supported the ongoing work of the voluntary group, which manages the upkeep of the estate by painting walls, landscaping, and community clean up days. Photos below show the before and after of

painting undertaken in 2022.



**Before**



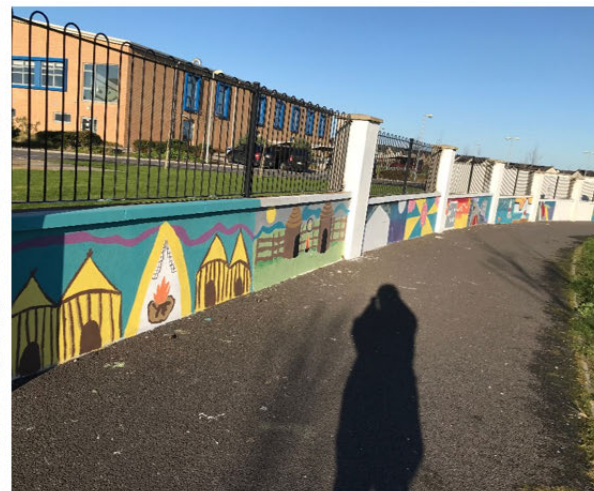
**After**

### Balbriggan Tidy Towns

Balbriggan Community Murals – as part of Balbriggan Tidy Towns – and Taylor’s Hill Residents’ Association received paint through the Fingal tender and proceeded to paint the walls of a hitherto neglected lane-way. Many different groups including crèches, schools, scout groups, youth groups, and seniors helped to paint the lane-way, and were encouraged be creative in the process. The laneway was completely transformed into a vibrant and colourful space. Moreover, many different community groups were brought together as part of the painting process and are still involved in the maintenance of the walls.



**Before**



**After**

## Annex 3

### Cork County and City Council ReLove Paint Community Giveaway

Photos below show some of the results of the paint giveaway to community groups in Cork County and City. The initiative was supported by the Community, Culture, and Placemaking Directorate in partnership with ReLove Paint and Northside Community Enterprises.

The first photo shows some of the paint mixed by staff of Northside Community Enterprises. The second photo is of the assembly hall in Castlemartyr Primary School. The school was provided with paint for the mural pictured. The third photo shows the sports hall in Doneraile Secondary School, which was repainted through the initiative.



Paint prepared by Northside Community Enterprises in Cork City



Mural painted in Castlemartyr Primary School



Doneraile Secondary School