

R4GM Community Fund Review
Waste & Recycling Committee
22nd January 2025

Key Successes

Manchester Library of Things, Levenshulme

- Run by volunteers
- Residents pay a small fee to borrow an item for 7 days
- Items have been donated by the community or bought second hand
- Things like drills, pizza ovens, wheelbarrow, binoculars etc
- Reduces waste by sharing quality items in the community
- Reduce unnecessary ownership therefore reducing the need to buy new items that may only be used once or twice.
- Community ownership

MCRLOT

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MANCHESTER LIBRARY OF THINGS

Your local community shed: full of things you need, but don't want to buy

ABOUT US
Find out more about MCRLOT and get involved

BORROW
Join the Library and start borrowing!

DONATE
Donate good quality items to the Library

FAQS
All the info you need to know

How does it work?

MCRLOT works just like a normal library...but for things instead of books.

You'll be able to borrow whatever you like, whenever you need it - from power tools to pizza ovens, carpet cleaners to camping equipment.

MCR
mine
yours
LOT

Key Successes – Heaton Repair Café, Stockport



- **Heatons Repair Café, Stockport** - residents take items to be repaired and have a coffee and chat
- **(left) Horwich Repair Café, Bolton**

Key Successes - Little Green Sock Project in Trafford

Take donations of baby and children's clothes and equipment from the community
Sorted, washed and ironed and made available to families in need via referrals
Raise money through corporate volunteering and fund raising



Review of Project Outcomes

- 2021 21 projects funded
 - 2022 26 projects funded
 - 2023 22 projects funded
 - 2024 21 projects funded
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- Reporting has been improved but there's more to do. Initially focussed on tonnage but now looking at specific project outcomes such as no's of bikes repaired etc.

Outcomes reported from the 22 projects that were funded under round 3 (September 2023 to September 2024) are as follows:

- 732 volunteers took part in one of the funded projects;
- A total of 12,756 people were engaged through workshops and projects;
- 756 items of clothes were reused or repaired;
- 1, 202 non-electrical items were repaired & reused;
- 339 bikes were repaired or reused;
- 6,566 electrical items were repaired and reused; and
- 69,516 kg of food waste was diverted from Energy from Waste.

Aims and Objectives

Aims: The Community fund aims to increase the amount of household items that are donated, shared, repaired, upcycled and redistributed to reduce the amount we throw away.

Objectives:

- Increase the number of community projects involved in donating, sharing, repairing, upcycling and redistributing household items like clothes, shoes, bikes, furniture, tools, books, school uniforms, IT equipment etc;
- Raise awareness of the different ways that residents can donate, share or borrow household items, places to get household items repaired or upcycled or ways to volunteer or learn new skills in repair and upcycling;
- Change people's behaviour and attitudes towards buying pre-loved or second hand, borrowing, hiring or renting items to reduce what we buy; and
- Increase community cohesion and improve mental wellbeing by bringing people together to share their knowledge, experiences and household items for the benefit of others.

Renew Greater Manchester Community Fund

To enable us to better connect the source of the funding with its purpose, it is suggested to change the name of the fund to Renew Greater Manchester Community Fund.

Graphics used in the communications to help explain the importance of repair and reuse using language that is more easily understood by the public.

Next steps

Review and update application form, FAQs and reporting templates

Review and update communications plan

Open fund under the new name in April 2025.

