

# EPA Green Enterprise

## Project: Methods for expansion of paint reuse programme

Organisation: The Rediscovery Centre. Reference: 2016-ET-CP-82

**Project Objective: To identify and implement international best practice on paint reuse and to expand and streamline paint reuse processing capacity at the Rediscovery Centre.**

**Amount Of Grant Aid Awarded: €60,000**



### Background:

The Rediscovery Centre ([RDC](#)) in Ballymun Dublin and its social enterprises promote reuse and sustainable living through their diverse range of activities. One of their social enterprises is Rediscover Paint which collects paint that has been donated to local authority civic amenity sites and blends and filters it to create affordable reused paint in a range of colours.



This project set out to expand and optimise the processing of paint for reuse, which RDC's Rediscover Paint had been involved in for a number of years.

Paint waste is either water-based or oil-based, and is collected in many civic amenity sites across Ireland, and usually disposed of by incineration. Sampling by this project has shown a quarter of waste paint collected at a typical civic amenity site is water-based paint that is suitable for reuse. Capturing some of this paint stream for reuse rather than waste management, not only saves on expensive disposal, it facilitates its reuse as a new product.

### Project activities:

The project has:

- Identified what is happening internationally on paint reuse.
- Developed the optimal process for paint reuse at RDC, in line with best practice. This involved implementing new equipment at the centre as well as developing a new operational system. The project has expanded processing at the site.
- Provided a blueprint for paint reuse at different scales across Ireland, from small-scale reuse at the community level to regional sites operated by social enterprises.



This project estimates that there is up to one million litres per year of water-based waste paint in Ireland that could potentially be suitable for reuse (1,000 - 1,300 tonnes). The majority of waste paint is currently incinerated. There is an estimated 2,700 tonnes of carbon equivalent emissions associated with the original manufacture of this paint.

**The international review endorsed the existing approach by RDC, and helped further optimise the paint reuse process in line with best practice. The project activities resulted in increased throughput, streamlined practices, and enabled expansion of the paint reuse process at RDC. Since the project, RDC has used the model developed to help set up paint reuse schemes in organisations around Ireland.**



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### Work since the project:

The work done under this Green Enterprise project has acted as a catalyst for continued RDC work on paint reuse. In further work since the project:

- RDC has continued to expand its own paint reuse operations, increasing volumes handled, with paint donated by the public now being collected from various local authority civic amenity sites in the Leinster region.
- The blueprint for paint reuse developed under the project is being used to support interested organisations to set up paint reuse schemes around the country. RDC's knowledge and expertise on paint reuse is shared through RDC's Circular Economy Academy as well as through a number of EPA-funded local authority projects on paint reuse under the [Local Authority Prevention Network \(LAPN\)](#).
- RDC has launched the national [Paint Reuse Network](#) in conjunction with the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices to further expand work on paint reuse across Ireland.



### Next steps needed:

Continued support for community-based paint reuse through the national network. Consideration of circular economy policy measures such as a producer responsibility initiative, reuse targets or other incentives to encourage paint donation and reuse.

For more on the EPA's Green Enterprise programme visit [here](#)

For more see [here](#) or contact Claire Downey [claire@rediscoverycentre.ie](mailto:claire@rediscoverycentre.ie)

