

# Northern Ireland Resources Network (NIRN) Membership Policy

NIRN is the representative body for re-use and repair organisations.

Our main aim is to promote sustainable reuse and repair as a practical and effective way of tackling Northern Ireland's waste generation. The key activities NIRN will undertake to develop and grow this market are education and awareness raising, supporting our members, tackling barriers to reuse, policy advocacy and research and promoting funding opportunities.

## Membership Support

- **Funding** - NIRN will engage with governmental departments and funding organisations to develop and promote funding opportunities and/or training/funding roadmap ideas.
- **Lobbying:** NIRN will work with members to develop policy and lobby on key member issues. Members have access through NIRN as a single point of contact to key policy makers, as well as to similar networks in the UK, Ireland & Europe.
- NIRN represents the authority on reuse and repair and provides a single reporting mechanism for reuse and repair organisations in Northern Ireland to relevant bodies
- **Promotion of sustainable resource management including reuse & repair:** NIRN will engage in major awareness raising campaigns and projects to promote reuse and repair at local and national level, as well as raising awareness through our website and social media, newsletter and presenting at conferences and events.
- **Networking Events:** Members are provided with opportunities to attend regular meetings, conferences and events at national level, and to present to or carry out workshops at various events.
- **Training:** NIRN will provide training and networking opportunities with similar organisations to facilitate knowledge sharing and discuss potential for collaborations.
- **Measurement:** Collaborating with policy makers, NIRN and members, develop a single measurement and reporting mechanism for reuse and repair which can be used as a tool to support and promote this sector.
- **Research:** NIRN supports and participates in research addressing key barriers to the reuse and repair sector and providing business opportunities. Members are provided with an opportunity to participate in such funded projects at national or European level.

## Membership types

There are two main classes of members:

- i) Full Members*

Any social enterprise community organisation or umbrella group representing the same, local authority registered in Northern Ireland, that primarily operates with re-use, and repair activities for the benefit of the community and the protection of the natural environment.

***i) Affiliate Members***

Networks or private sector and small to medium enterprises (SME) that primarily operate in reuse and repair activities for the protection of the natural environment.

Third level institutions who are offering courses in the Circular Economy and/or Sustainability who are keen to engage their students and collaborate on projects to understand and develop the reuse and repair market.

**Other Membership classes**

Other Memberships, including the appointment of honorary members, may be made at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

The NIRN Steering Committee will determine who will be responsible for the approval of membership type on the basis of meeting the above criteria and information submitted.

**Membership Benefits**

All members receive:

- Promotion through awareness campaigns, social media and other channels
- Invitations to participate in a selection of network meetings and networking opportunities
- Opportunities to participate in conferences, events and research projects
- Listing on NIRN's website
- Internal & external newsletters

Additional Full Membership benefit:

- Business development opportunities eg participation in workshops, retail opportunities, funded programmes
- Access to all network meetings
- Participation in all events & networking opportunities
- Opportunity to contribute to and representation in NIRN policy development and lobbying on key issues

## Membership Criteria

All applicants applying for membership must :

- i) Operate in Northern Ireland
- ii) Satisfy the network as to their professional ability as practicing community-based reuse and repair activities
- iii) Operate to all relevant environmental, financial and other legislation relevant to the sector
- iv) Agree to the NIRN's code of conduct (see below)
- v) Agree to complete NIRN's annual survey of reuse and repair metrics to facilitate reporting on impact
- vi) Make an application in the prescribed NIRN form

An eligible organisation that is approved for membership will become a member on payment of the annual subscription. During the Pilot phase and for the first 12 months of a member joining, no fee will be applied.

Membership is terminated if the member organisation concerned:

- Gives written notice of resignation to the association
- Fails to pay the annual subscription within the allocated time (by end March of the year in question)
- Conducts any activity that may be harmful to the network or results in it being brought into disrepute

If a full member ceases to operate as a not-for-profit organisation, the membership category will be reviewed.

Membership of the network is not transferable.

## Fee proposal

<b>Type</b>	<b>Member Category</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b>Full</b>	Any social enterprise community organisation or umbrella group representing same, that operates with re-use, recycling or waste prevention activities to the benefit of the community and the protection of the natural environment	£50
<b>Full</b>	Local Council in Northern Ireland	£250

<b>Affiliate</b>	Third Level Institution	£50
<b>Affiliate</b>	SME <5 employees	£50
<b>Affiliate</b>	National Networks	None if reciprocal membership or TBA by board

\*Please note. All memberships approvals are at the discretion of the NIRN Steering Committee and the decision is final.

### **NIRN Membership Code of Conduct**

All members are expected to:

- Support the network's mission and objectives and actively promote them
- Demonstrate a commitment to the principles of the Circular Economy
- Share knowledge and collaborate with NIRN and its members
- Strive to be well governed and managed organisations
- Declare any conflict of interest as soon as it arises
- Respect organisation and individual confidentiality
- Take an active interest in NIRN's public interest
- Seek to operate in a sustainable and ethical manner
- Support the creation of local employment and volunteering opportunities