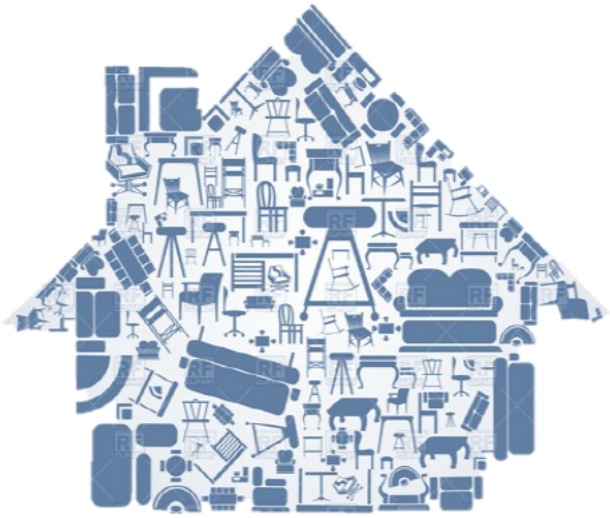


RECYCLING FIRST

Furniture and White Goods Re - Use Charity

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2024—MARCH 2025

Unit 12A
Macmerry Ind Est
Macmerry
EH33 1RD

[redacted]

Website: www.recyclingfirstel.org

[redacted]

Registered SCIO Number : SCO45286

Recycling First

Recycling First is a East Lothian-based non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting individuals in need, particularly those who are unemployed, on low incomes, or homeless. We work to reduce poverty, promote environmental sustainability, and provide pathways to employment and skills development.

Our Services

- To help meet the needs of low income households lacking basic furniture and effects.
- Accept and collect furniture donations from the general public in East Lothian.
- Store, repair as necessary, display, and sell surplus household furniture from our Warehouse.
- Offer volunteering opportunities, training, and practical work experience.

History & Status

- Founded in 1996 under the umbrella of East Lothian Voluntary Organisations Network (ELVON).
- Rebranded to Recycling First in 2005
- Registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in 2014.

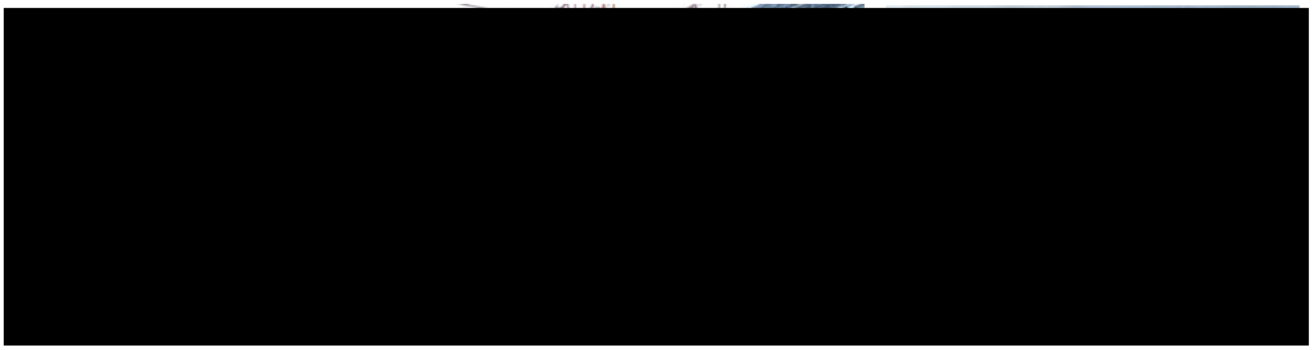
Our Objectives

- Prevention and relief of poverty.
- Provide essential furniture and household appliances to those in need, especially the homeless or low-income families.
- Protection and preservation of the environment, encourage reuse and recycling of donated furniture and household goods.
- Relief of employment, support the public through training employment, work experience, and volunteering opportunities.
- Environmental protection and stewardship, promoting recycling and reuse of furniture and household items to benefit the environment.

Community Payback

Recycling First has a strong partnership with the probation service, focusing on helping individuals through community payback programs. They emphasize seeing each participant's potential rather than their past mistakes. This year, 21 individuals completed a total of 1,880 community payback hours with the organisation, engaging in meaningful work that aligns with their skills.

Some photos of previous volunteers and old van from the early days of Recycling First.



CHAIRMANS REPORT - 2024-25

Recycling First has continued, as in previous years, to make a meaningful difference for many families throughout East Lothian. Through the project, households in need have received essential goods such as bedding, crockery, pots and pans, all made possible thanks to generous donations from the public who support our charity.

The organisation continues to receive strong support from partner agencies and organisations, who, through mutual agreement, refer families in need to Recycling First. We remain delighted and grateful for their ongoing willingness to collaborate.

Our work would not be possible without the dedication of our project manager, [redacted]. [redacted] has devoted 30 years to Recycling First, starting as a part-time van assistant in 1996 and ultimately building the project into what it is today. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend our sincere thanks for his tireless commitment.

Special thanks also go to [redacted], our Driver Supervisor, for his hard work in completing daily uplifts and deliveries throughout East Lothian and beyond, and to the Community Payback team for their steadfast support.

I wish to express deep appreciation for our dedicated volunteers: [redacted]. The support and dedication of our staff and volunteers underpin every aspect of our work. We are fortunate that our core staff have remained stable and committed over the years,

[redacted]
Chairman
Recycling First

PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT - 2024-25

As I mark my thirtieth year with Recycling First/ELVON and approach the conclusion of another year as Project Manager, I find it important to pause and reflect on what has truly been a remarkable journey. Though challenges and obstacles have come our way, the past year at Recycling First has been nothing short of outstanding.

The enduring spirit and determination within the Project team never fail to impress me. Despite ongoing economic pressures, evolving regulations, and the rising costs that touch every aspect of our work, the team's unwavering commitment continues to shine through. At the start of my previous report, I emphasised the profound experience and depth within our team—a sentiment I echo wholeheartedly today. Their contributions have ensured another successful year, marked by our continued ability to deliver vital services to our community, in line with the charity's mission.

This year, I am especially grateful to all who donate furniture. Our partnership with these generous donors has enabled Recycling First to thrive and excel, even when times are tough. To everyone involved in this collaboration, please know that your support is deeply appreciated and crucial to our ongoing success.

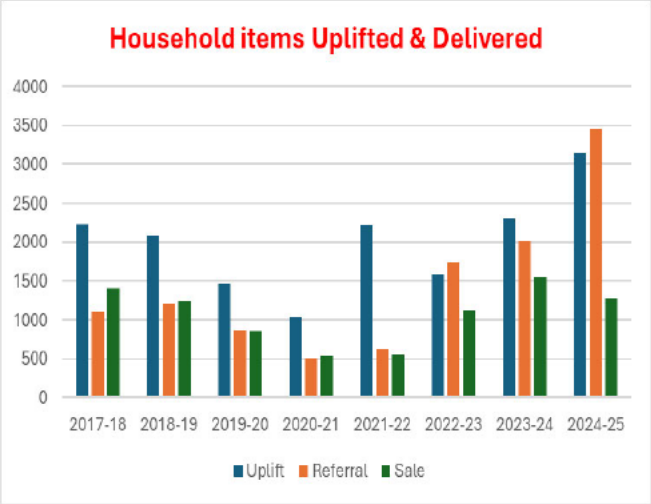
No annual reflection would be complete without recognising our incredible volunteers. Year after year, their dedication to the charity's aims remains steadfast. Volunteers are truly the lifeline of the organisation, consistently rising to every challenge and ensuring we remain resilient. My heartfelt thanks go to each volunteer for their unwavering commitment, with the hope that this spirit continues well into the future.

The Board of Trustees has also played an essential role, making important decisions to benefit the Project. With half the board composed of volunteers from Recycling First, their shared efforts and leadership deserve special thanks. Equally, I wish to recognise our outstanding employee whose daily dedication is making a tangible impact for those we serve.

As we close out a challenging yet rewarding year, it is my sincere hope that the Project will continue to thrive, regardless of the hurdles ahead. May the flow of innovative ideas for improving the Project never cease. To all involved, best wishes for the year to come.

[redacted]
Project Manager
Recycling First

2024 - 2025 Key numbers and activity



We Supported

474

households who needed help

6 Volunteers contributed an estimated

2.031 hours to support Recycling First

Tonnage Donations

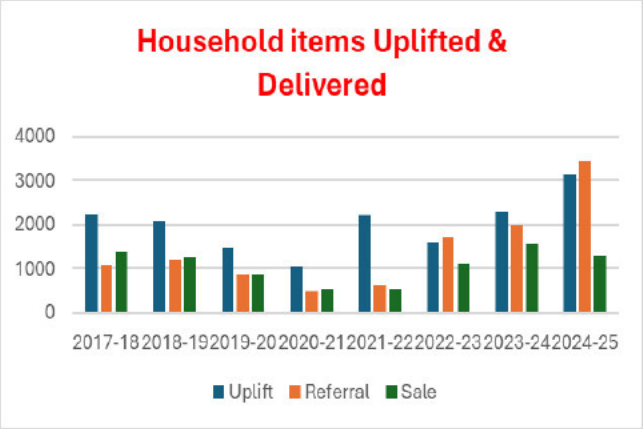
78 tonnes of furniture donated. This makes a total of **670 tonnes** donated in the last **9** years

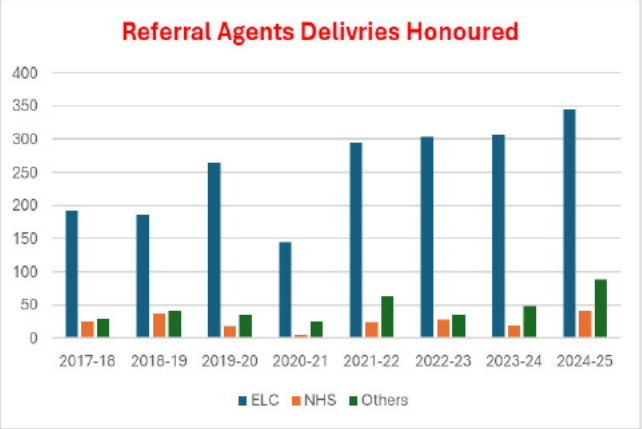
Tonnage Sales

34 tonnes of furniture sold, Just under **312 tonnes** of furniture sold in the last **9** years.

Tonnage Referrals

83 tonnes of furniture handed out on referrals, making a total of over **361 tonnes** reused over **9** years.

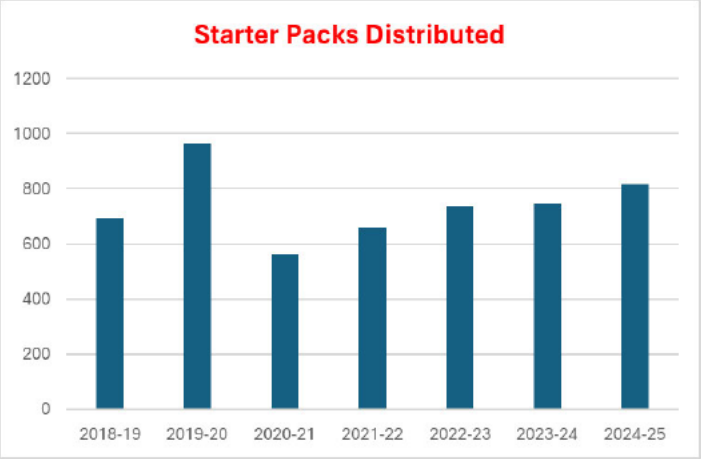




2024- 2025 Key numbers and activity

	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	%
Households Participated	1.120 Households participated	1.185 Households participated	Up 5%
Items Donated	2.299 items donated	2.851items donated	Up 29.9%
Tonnage Donated	75 tons items donated	78 tons items donated	Up 4%
Referrals Honoured	420 Referrals honoured	435 Referrals honoured	Up 3.5%
Items Re - Used	3.300 items re-used	3.460 items re-used	Up 4.8%
Tonnage Re - Used	82 tons were re-used	83.25 tons were re-used	Up 3%

Starter Packs



815 Starter Packs were distributed to **185** families.
This makes a total of **5.179** packs supporting **1.148** families over the last **7** years .

[redacted]

Recycling First : A year of Volunteering-Driven Success

Recycling First has had another successful year, thanks to the dedication of our amazing volunteers. The vast majority of our work is carried out by volunteers, and without their commitment we simply could not operate. We run structured training placements for volunteers in the office, warehouse, workshop and on the vans. For many, volunteering has become a crucial stepping stone toward paid employment.

Volunteers come to us from a variety of sources, including training programmes, agencies and local community members who want to make a difference. We are proud to share that the majority of our work placements have transitioned into paid employment after leaving the project, as participants gain valuable skills and confidence. We are also delighted to have retained some placements in paid roles.

[redacted]

[redacted]

In Memory: [redacted]

We were saddened to share that [redacted]y, our electrician for 4 years, passed away after a long illness. [redacted] always had a a ready smile and a helpful word for colleagues

What People say about Recycling First

Thank you for the collection today it was all carried out efficiently and professionally it is a certainly a service that I will recommend

Lovely
Lot
You lot

I chose to volunteer at Recycling First for its stand on helping the local disadvantaged group"

Great Quality, Great Service!!!

Thoroughly Recommended

"Very well appreciated, it helps us buy things that we can't afford in the high street stores. Thank you to Recycling First

We cannot thank you enough for the cooker and washing machine, please accept this small token as a big Thank You!

Wide verity of choices always enjoy a nose!

Thank You

Great wee place always enjoy having a look around, we usually come across something that we are looking for our house, the guys are always happy to help.

Super great service, Driver and team very friendly and polite, will use the charity again.

Great Place, Great Service.
Thank you for all you do

Amazing place loads of great furniture to choose from and lovely professional help. Fast delivery, affordable prices, and reliable service overall. To be honest I can't fault the place or people working there from the moment we walked into the place to delivery. Definitely recommend to everyone and definitely will be back.

What a great place amazing customer service and Quality products at very reasonable prices

And finally… get involved!

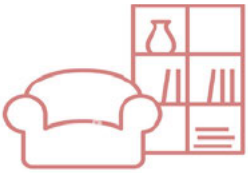
There are many ways to support recycling First:

Spread the word: Follow us, share our work and tell your friends. The more people who know about us, the more impact we can have.

Volunteer with us: Join our growing team and make a difference in your community. Whether it's helping in store, office or joining our van teams, there's a role for you.

Donate your pre-loved furniture: Your unwanted items can help someone furnish their home affordably. We offer free local collection across the East Lothian.

Partner with us: We believe in doing more together. If you're a local organisation, school, or business, we'd love to explore how we can collaborate to support our communities.



Shop with us: Everyone is welcome in our Warehouse! Pop into our Sales Room and browse quality and affordable furniture - and say hello while you're there.

Outlook for 2025-26:

- Recycling First's primary objective is to improve customer service within their warehouse operations, focusing on supplying essential furniture to local authorities and providers of furnished tenancies.
- Recycling First intends to broaden its customer base by identifying and pursuing opportunities in the social housing sector, aiming to support a wider range of individuals and families in need.
- A further goal is to increase sales within Recycling First's warehouse outlet, thereby making more pre-loved surplus goods available to the general public.
- Ongoing efforts will be made to deepen partnerships with referral agencies, and to raise the volume of donations distributed to those facing challenges.
- Together, these initiatives demonstrate Recycling First's dedication to sustainability, community welfare, and ensuring access to essential resources for vulnerable groups.

Our Achievements 2024 - 2025

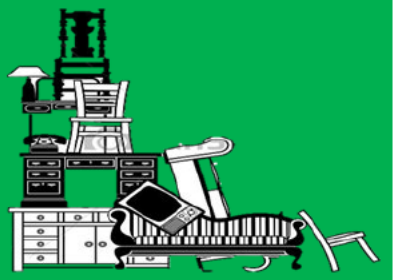
We collected
3.148
Items from local residents

3.460
Items were selected for
Re - Use

REVOLVE
First Choice for Second Hand

Over
83 Tons
of electrical & Household items Diverted from Landfill

7.741 People used our Charity Warehouse to access affordable Household Items



The Value of Furniture provided to those Referred to us for help was
£65.846

We received
730 requests for help
Benefitting **474**families

1.185 Uplifts were carried out.

We supplied **815**
Starter Packs
to **185** families

RECYCLING FIRST

Recycling First is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation - SCO45286

Registered Address:

Unit 12a Macmerry Ind Est, Macmerry EH33 1RD

[redacted] Website: www.recyclingfirstel.org

Chairman

[redacted]

Trustees serving in 2024 - 25

[redacted]

Independent Examiner of Accounts:

[redacted] of Glass Accountancy Ltd

Recycling First gratefully acknowledges the support of:

East Lothian Council

REVOLVE First Choice for Second Hand

FreshStart

CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND

reuse NETWORK

Charity No SCO 45286

RECYCLING FIRST

ACCOUNTS AND REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

GLASS ACCOUNTANCY
DUDDINGSTON YARDS
EDINBURGH
EH15 3NT

Recycling First - Charity No. SC0 45286

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025		2024
Receipts				
Grants:				
Scottish Churches	3,125			
East Lothian Council	30,000		42,500	
		33,125		42,500
Sales		52,350		52,569
Bank Interest		1,158		1,164
Other Income:				
Delivery charge	*1,500*		*1,968*	
Donations	100		100	
ELC Waste Services	2,126		2,602	
Tonnage Payment FRP	-		-	
		3,726		4,670
Total Receipts		90,358		100,904
Payments				
Salaries		38,076		35,089
Volunteer Expenses		*1,420*		*2,629*
Clothing				458
Rent & Rates		13,970		12,627
Repairs and Maintenance		2,715		412
Insurance		4,387		2,178
Misc expenses		283		
Heating, Lighting and Cleaning		5,702		6,465
Motor and Travel Expenses		13,064		13,692
Printing, Postages and Stationery		1,294		920
Telephone		*1,416*		*955*
Subscriptions and Publications		1,269		2,731
Professional Fees				
Office Equipment expensed		1,031		1,492
Room Hire		32		43
Bank charges		65		
Waste disposal		3,088		1,050
Total Payments		87,812		80,741
Surplus/deficit for year		2,546		20,162
Surplus brought forward		106,961		86,798
Surplus Carried Forward		109,507		106,961

Recycling First - Charity No. SC0 45286

Statement Of Balances as at 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
Fixed Assets	-	-
Current Assets		
Petty Cash	-	-
Bank Accounts	109,507	106,961
	109,507	106,961

Recycling First - Charity No. SC0 45286

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements are prepared on an Receipts and Payments basis to comply with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. In preparing the Financial Statements the Charity follows best practice as laid down in the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) issued in February 2005, and accounting standards applicable to the Companies Act 1985 & 2006.

(b) Incoming Resources

Incoming Resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity becomes entitled to the resources.

Grants and donations are only included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

(c) Payments

All expenditure is accounted for on a Receipts and Payments basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

(d) Unrestricted Funds

These funds are expendable at the discretion of the Management Committee in furtherance of the Objects of the Charity.

(e) Designated Funds

None of the funds held at the end of the financial period were restricted and are therefore held as unrestricted and may be used at the discretion of the Management Committee in furtherance of the Objectives of the Charity.

2) FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation of Fixed Assets is calculated at a fixed percentage to write off the cost on a reducing balance basis:
Plant & Machinery 25% reducing balance.
Motor Vehicles 25% reducing balance.

	Plant & Machinery	Motor Vehicle	Totals
Costs:			
At 01 April 2024	£ 9,514	£ 8,251	£ 17,765
Additions	£ -	£ -	£ -
Disposals	£ -	£ -	£ -
At 31 March 2025	£ 9,514	£ 8,251	£ 17,765
Depreciation:			
At 01 April 2024	£ 9,514	£ 8,251	£ 17,765
Charge for year			£ -
Disposals	£ -	£ -	£ -
At 31 March 2025	£ 9,514	£ 8,251	£ 17,765
Net Book Value:			
At 01 April 2024	£ -	£ -	£ -
At 31 March 2025	£ -	£ -	£ -

Recycling First - Charity No. SC0 45286

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

3) RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted income b/fwd	106,961	86,798
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	2,546	20,162
Unrestricted income funds carried forward	109,507	106,961

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Recycling First
Charity No SC0 45286

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are enclosed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44 (1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respects the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulation, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 *Accounts Regulations*

have not been met, or

2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

[redacted]

Glass Accountancy
Duddingston Yards
Edinburgh
EH15 3NT

20 August 2025

Recycling First

Report of the Management Committee for the year ended 31st March 2025

The Management Committee presents its report along with the Financial Statement of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Recycling First is registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with OSCR (Charity No: SC045286).

Recycling First is located at Unit 12A, Macmerry Industrial Estate, Macmerry, EH33 1RD. The objects of the organisation, as recorded in the constitution, are to help meet the needs of low income households lacking basic furniture and effects; to satisfy the wishes of people who wish to see their surpluses put to good use; to reduce the volume of domestic waste by recycling usable goods; and to promote the advantages of recycling furniture, furnishings and appliances and to work with and support furniture recycling projects in other areas.

During the year to 31st March 2025, we continued to operate according to our constitution.

The accounts for the year to 31st March 2025 are attached and form part of this report. This report was approved by the Trustees.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

[redacted]

Date: 11/09/2025