

Carbon Literacy Project Ideas

Doing it differently: Waste and resources

Borrowing and loaning



'Doing it differently' for Resources means getting access to the things we need without buying new, and getting rid of the stuff we don't need or want, without throwing them in the bin.

Project Aims

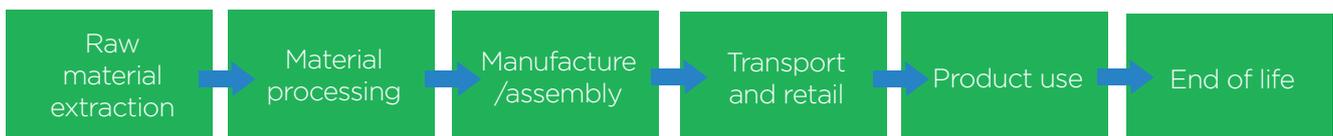
- Households are able to reduce consumption through borrowing and loaning items instead of purchasing.

How does that save carbon? What's the measurable outcome?

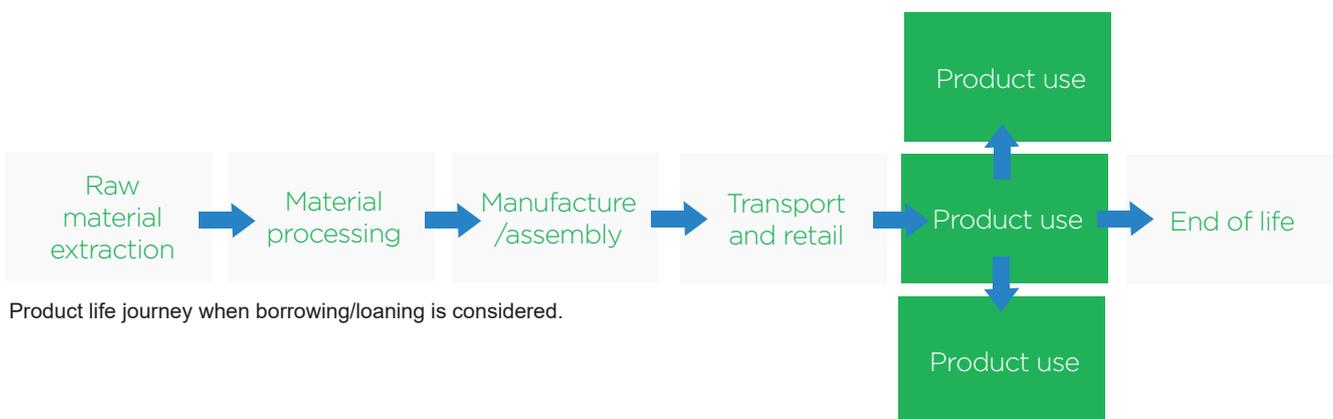
Any item that we purchase has embodied emissions associated with it. In a community of 100 households, for example, each one may own an infrequently used item (for example a drill) – this means 100 times the embodied emissions of that drill can be associated with that community. It is unlikely that more than 2 or 3 households are using theirs at any one time however, so if everyone shared 3 drills, only 3 times the embodied emissions of a drill can be associated with that community. Overall emissions are reduced – and everyone can do as much drilling as they need!

Measurable outcome: Reduce material consumption.

The CCF reporting tool and data collection guidance explains how you can monitor and evaluate how much your project has saved.



Product life journey.



Product life journey when borrowing/loaning is considered.

What are the co-benefits ? What are the potential 'community outcomes'?

Borrowing or leasing an item is much cheaper than purchasing one, so making more items available to borrow means more people have access to such items. In cases such as hiring clothes for interviews, this has many knock-on benefits.

There may also be additional carbon savings that come from making more items available to borrow – for example making sewing machines available to loan may mean someone repairs and maintains their clothes for longer, and also leads to increased skills in the community.

How do we demonstrate the co-benefits?

Financial savings: This is closely linked to the carbon savings you are already monitoring – any reduction in consumption will save carbon and money.

Improved skills, confidence and employability: There are a variety of methods you could use to monitor changes in skills, confidence and employability of participants in your project. Evaluation Support Scotland have a range of resources, guides and tools to help you monitor your impact.

<http://www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk/resources/>

What are the risks?

The savings come from displacing the purchase of new items, so the project will have an impact if it allows people to avoid purchasing something new. It may be difficult to evidence this – would someone borrowing a sewing machine have gone and bought one anyway, or are they taking advantage of the fact they can use one without buying new?

How do you increase the amount of borrowing and loaning in your community?

Designing your project: If you wish to develop a project to increase borrowing and loaning of items, you should investigate what are the most important barriers and opportunities in your community.

Your consultation could look into:

1. What items are people most likely to borrow/loan instead of buying their own?
2. How likely people are to take part in your proposed activities.
3. The real or perceived barriers to people borrowing/loaning.
4. What assets are there in the community, or wider opportunities, that could support your project aims?

The four questions, four zones grid from Shifting Normal can help you identify factors that could influence the willingness or ability to loan/borrow items.

Example project activities

Below are some examples of typical activities that CCF projects run in order to increase borrowing and loaning in order to reduce consumption.

Promoting local loaning/leasing service: Where items are already available to lease locally, projects can promote this service. This may also include peer-peer sharing platforms such as Streetbank.

Libraries of 'things': Projects can make items available to loan to community members who join their 'library'. Projects can focus on a particular type of item (e.g. Stirling Tool Library) or on items in general (e.g. Greener Kirkcaldy's 'Library of Things').

Visit our website to view a selection of case studies from past CCF projects:

www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/ccf

