

Carbon Literacy Project Ideas

Doing it less: Waste and Resources

Repair and maintenance



'Doing it less' for waste and resources means reducing the amount of new stuff people buy. One way to do this is to increase repair and maintenance of existing items.

Project aims

- Increase maintenance and repair skills in the community.
- Increase use of maintenance or repair services in the community.

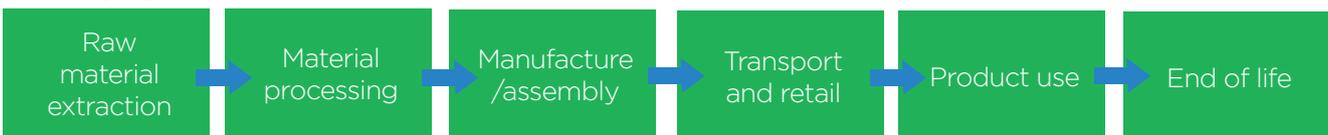
How does that save carbon? What's the measurable outcome?

If households maintain and repair the stuff they own so that it lasts longer, this means the purchase of new items as replacements is reduced. Avoiding purchasing a new item means that embodied carbon of that item is also avoided for the householder. Note that the carbon saving does not arise from doing the repair or maintenance work, it comes from reducing consumption.

Measurable outcome: Reduced waste production and material consumption.

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

Before project



Product life journey.

After project



Product life journey when repair and maintenance are considered.

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

Many repair and maintenance services are small, local businesses and increasing their use is good for the local economy.

Improving repair and maintenance skills can improve people's confidence and perhaps possibly their employability.

By making our stuff last longer and reducing the need to buy new, we save money.

Learning and sharing repair and maintenance skills is a great opportunity for inter-generational interaction – for many older members of the community these skills are second nature.

How do we demonstrate co-benefits?

Local economy: Alongside collecting data about items people have repaired, you may be able to collect evidence of increased use of local shops and services. Alternatively, you could work with local repair services to evidence increase in their use.

Improved skills, confidence and employability: There are a variety of methods you could use to monitor changes in skill, 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/>

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

Intergenerational interaction: Again, Evaluation Support Scotland have resources, guides and tools to help you monitor your impact.

What are the risks?

Just because people attend a workshop, for example, it doesn't mean they will necessarily reduce their consumption. This is particularly a risk where the workshop is for repairing clothes and other items where participants are likely to have or want more than one e.g. repairing a bag does not stop additional bags being purchased. To reduce this risk, it is worth planning additional awareness activities to help participants understand the importance of reducing consumption.

How do you increase repair and maintenance in your community?

Designing your project: If you wish to develop a project to reduce consumption by increasing repair and maintenance skills or increase use of local repair/maintenance services, you should investigate what the most important barriers and opportunities are in your community. Your consultation could look into:

1. What items are most often replaced when they could be made to last longer?
2. How likely people are to take part in your proposed activities.
3. The real or perceived barriers to people repairing and maintaining items.
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 repair and maintain items.

Example project activities

Below are some examples of typical activities that CCF projects run in order to make things last longer through repair and maintenance.

Reuse and repair directories: You could compile a directory of local repair and maintenance services and encourage community members to use these.

Drop in surgeries: You could host drop-in surgery appointments for people to bring in items for simple repairs or maintenance. You should be careful of the impact this might have on local businesses that charge for these services if you are offering it free of charge.

Repair and maintenance skills workshops: Running one-off workshops or courses to increase the skills of community members to make repairs and carry out maintenance themselves builds a lasting legacy for your project and can also tap into the skills and knowledge of community members.

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

www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/ccf

