



# BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

**Change Clothes Crumlin**

**JULY 2024**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## Change Clothes Crumlin

### Context and Initiative Details

Name of the initiative	Change Clothes Crumlin
Geographical scope	Local
Sources of funding	varying grants, but trading income in core
Duration of the initiative	Since 2022
Target audience	primarily serves the community of Crumlin, an area of social deprivation in south Dublin
Social justice focus area	environmental justice, circular economy
Goals of the initiative	Our goal is to create environmental, social, and economic benefits for the Crumlin area through our truly circular social enterprise. CCC does this by providing reuse solutions for clothes at all stages of the lifecycle to ensure that local clothing waste doesn't become a global problem.

### Good Practices Description

#### Stakeholder engagement in the process

The project was established and continues to evolve through consultation with the local community. It is responsive to expressed needs and interests in all aspects of its activities, including the skills workshops which it provides.

#### Methodology used

The project operates on the three Rs: Reuse – a clothing exchange service; Repair – upcycling and repair workshops; Rent – affordable occasion-wear hire service. There is not a heavy emphasis on climate change, climate justice etc., as the focus is on assisting local people struggling economically and offering accessible solutions. With regular users and learners conversations do progress to environmental issues.

#### Teaching approaches

There is learning inherent in the whole project approach, encouraging new thinking about fast fashion and alternatives to landfill for unwanted clothes, doing this through the facility of exchange and renting of clothes.

The project also runs regular workshops (c2hrs) where local women pass on skills of repairing and repurposing unwanted clothing.

### Challenges and outcomes

#### Key factors contributing to success

- Building local relationships and consulting throughout
- Creating a space that was non-judgmental
- Being open to all, including new citizens
- Pitching charges at affordable rates

### Encountered difficulties and challenges

As well as the normal financial challenges faced by small community organisations, we initially faced suspicion from many locals, thinking that the project was some sort of scam. This was overcome by word of mouth slowly spreading and through positive coverage in the media.

### Recommendations

At macro level we would urge more grassroots-based environmental projects which are practically responsive to local needs. It is more effective to meet people where they are at, rather than expect them to engage in 'academic' discussions around issues such as climate justice where the language too often alienates them.

### Impact

In 2023 1488 people attended project events, 9013 clothing swaps were made and 267 items were repaired or recycled at 25 workshops.

Word-of-mouth feedback from local residents on the impact the project is having on their lives is encouraging further growth in 2024.

The project won the Environmental Impact category at the 2023 Munster Technological University Innovation awards.

Through its regular media coverage (see its [2023 Annual Report](#)) the impact of the project reaches far beyond its local catchment area.

The project is now regularly contacted by others across Ireland wanting to learn its model of success and replicate it in their own locales.