



Homemakers Community Recycling

Annual Report 2014-15

Trustees

Nick Miller (Chairman)

Kerry Lewis (Company secretary)

Martin Hickman (Treasurer)

Simon Bilsborough

Graham Harris

Roger Harris

Marilyn Price

Rev Christopher Walters

Nick Tatam

Senior Management Team

Shaun Needle – Project Manager

Rob Davies – Assistant Project Manager

Tania Watkins – Recycling /Volunteer Manager

Homemakers is a registered charity based in South Wales and was founded by Abergavenny & Crickhowell Branch of Friends of the Earth in 2001. Homemakers core activities are based around furniture and household goods recycling. Homemakers work with volunteers from disadvantaged backgrounds enabling them to gain valuable work experience in areas such as driving, administration, sales, communications, warehousing, logistics, workshop skills, marketing, finance, and educational talks to schools on the importance of recycling and re-use. Volunteers come from backgrounds such mental health, serving prisoners, probation service and adults with learning disabilities. Homemakers also help those people in need by providing affordable furniture and household goods. Homemakers provides furniture through its hardship scheme which is funded from Homemakers own reserves and other charitable trusts. Homemakers also aims to reduce landfill by means of waste reduction through its collections and house clearance service

Primary Objectives Of Homemakers Community Recycling (HCR)

HCR is a registered educational charity (No 1097505) whose primary objectives are:

- a) To help reduce waste in the county of Monmouthshire through reuse and recycling of household goods.
- b) To raise awareness, educate and promote the need for recycling, reuse and waste reduction within the county of Monmouthshire.
- c) To give people of all backgrounds an opportunity to gain valuable work experience through voluntary work.
- d) To provide affordable furniture to people in need.
- e) To play a role in a sustainable community.

The main operational activities of HCR are:-

To provide a community furniture and household goods recycling / reuse facility for the county of Monmouthshire. This comprises of the following departments and areas of work:-

- a) A working environment for volunteers from disadvantaged backgrounds to gain work experience in areas such as driving, delivery and collection of furniture, logistics, administration, sales, workshop skills, customer care, recycling and online sales.
- b) A showroom facility for residents of Monmouthshire and surrounding counties to buy affordable furniture.
- c) A house clearance service that ensures the maximum reuse and recycling possible. This entails the segregation of waste that is then transferred to the Recycling Department.
- d) A collection service for bulky household furniture as part of a Service Level Agreement contract awarded in April 2015 by Monmouthshire County Council.
- e) An online sales facility through EBay, Facebook and Amazon to ensure maximum reuse and sustainability for the charity.
- f) A Recycling Department to ensure maximum recycling and recovery is gained from furniture that is not in a reusable state.

- g) HCR operates as an educational charity and works closely with local schools and community groups to raise awareness of waste reduction.

Key Achievements in 2014-15

- HCR gained a SLA Agreement with Monmouthshire County Council to carry out the bulky household goods collection service until 2020.
- HCR became mortgage-free after paying the remainder of the balance owed to the charity bank.
- HCR rented a new building to expand recycling and reuse from house clearances.
- Plans submitted for development of new site.
- HCR was able to find an end destination for books which will increase recycling rates.
- HCR restarted its use of Amazon to sell books online.
- HCR has made improvements to facilities, with new security cameras and fencing.
- The new recycling lower and upper tier areas have been improved with improved surfaces to allow storage facilities and an educational garden to be developed.
- HCR worked with a record 96 volunteers within the year. This can be largely attributed to the grant received from Environment Wales for the position of Recycling / Volunteer Manager.
- HCR diverted a record for the charity of 357 tonnes of waste from landfill within the year.
- Homemakers helped 31 households through its Hardship Scheme within the year. The Hardship Scheme helps people who have no financial means to set up home following a crisis situation.
- 24 Schools and community groups were visited in the year to help raise awareness of recycling.
- 2706 items were reused by the general public in the year, an increase of 336 from the previous year.

- Bulky household collections increased by 63 from the previous year to 2668.
- Saturday opening of the showroom facility.

Recycling / Reuse / Landfill Table of Results for 2014/15

Recycling	305 tonnes were recycled	71 % of Waste Collected
Re-Use	52 tonnes were reused	12 % of Waste Collected
Landfill	75 tonnes were sent to landfill	17 % of Waste Collected

Chairman's Yearly Report

2014-15 has been a highly successful year once again, with improvements in all aspects of the charity's work. Our major aim since purchasing the chapel in December 2010 has been to improve the facilities the charity owns, and become more sustainable. The major financial plan this year was to pay off the mortgage on the chapel. This was achieved, saving Homemakers £600 per month which is invested in developing the new recycling yard, which we purchased in 2013. Our long term aim is to allow our recycling income to support more of our core aims and objectives, such as education and the hardship scheme, along with creating employment opportunities. The new recycling facility has slowly been developing and plans have been submitted to allow workshops, offices, canteen and toilet facilities to be installed. We feel confident, having worked closely with the council's planning department, that we will hear a positive result soon.

We have once again received valuable support from various organisations. These are:-

Environment Wales

The funding of £12,000 for the year has enabled Homemakers to employ a member

of staff to develop both volunteering and recycling. The post is fully funded for 3 years, and a following 3 years been part funded. This support has allowed for our continued development - the results of this investment are seen in the key achievements listed in this report.

Santander

£10,000 has been provided to pay a member of staff to open on a Saturday; to, build a website; and rent extra premises. This has allowed Homemakers to open on Saturdays to attract additional customers. The rest of the funding enabled us to rent premises on the site to support our house clearance and drop off facility. The "Green Room" has enabled more items to be reused and recycled, and allowed space for more volunteer participation. The 3rd section of the funding is to support the creation of a new website, replacing our current site which is out of date.

Millennium Stadium

£7,500 was awarded to Homemakers to contribute towards the building of an educational garden and workshop. The project will be completed by November 2015.

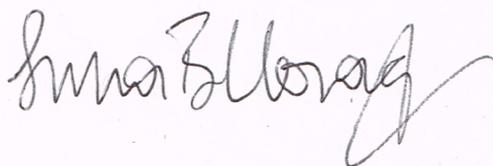
Brecon Beacons National Park

Over the last 3 years Homemakers has received £16,000 funding towards a driver. This was the final year of full funding. This funding has given Homemakers the opportunity to grow the social enterprise without having to fully fund the post. John Woodward has been Homemakers' first full time driver and he has proved a worthy asset to the organisation.

General grants for development, running costs and improved security.

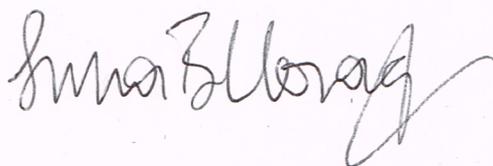
The following organisations supported Homemakers in covering running costs such as volunteer expenses, the development of the new recycling yard and improving security systems: - The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust; Viridor; The Souter Charitable Trust; Monmouthshire Building Society Charitable Foundation; The Garfield Weston Foundation; The Co-operative Bank; The Rank Foundation; Melin Homes; Mitchel Troy Community Council; and The Roger Vere Foundation.

As chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees for their hard work within the year. On behalf of the trustees, I would sincerely like to thank and congratulate our staff and volunteers in developing Homemakers over the last year. Homemakers would like to sincerely thank all the customers and residents of Monmouthshire for their continued support, which our success would not be possible without. As an organisation we would like to thank all our funders who have invested their finances in Homemakers to allow it to grow and become more successful.

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Simon Bilborough
Acting Chairman

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