



# **CHANGE CLOTHES**

**2024**

**IMPACT REPORT**



@changecloteshdublin  
[www.changeclotesh.org](http://www.changeclotesh.org)

## A note from the Founder

One word I would use to describe 2024 is challenging. From the outside, if you were keeping an eye on us, you would have seen great PR coverage, award wins and happy swappers and workshopers - but the reality was unfortunately more about wondering how we'd manage financially month to month, and then overcoming crazy obstacles we never thought we'd be up against so early on.

We've changed massively as an organisation, sometimes not by plan but by necessity. The biggest change was dropping the Crumlin in our name when we had to move premises quite suddenly, uprooting ourselves from Crumlin to our new home on Thomas Street, Dublin 8. Happily, it has led us to a place we never dreamt we'd be just one year after becoming a non-profit.

2024 was the year we made a name for ourselves as more than just a swap shop. We implemented a range of new projects including:

- Back to work programmes and placements
- A new range of workshops and events taking place across Ireland
- Supports for communities to run their own events
- Repair cafes
- Our presence at markets and upcycled products
- Redistribution of clothing to those in need

40 separate partners, both public and private, helped us to do all of that.

A personal highlight for me has been having young people in for various workshops and courses, injecting humour and creativity into the place. I still think about walking into the studio one morning to a bunch of young fellas from the Youth Reach Transition centre, each one getting stuck into sewing a banner. The place smelt like a Davidoff convention, but it also felt like anything could be possible with the right supports.

There's also the fact that people believed in us enough to invest in us. 44% of our income came from people paying for our services in 2024. Thank you to everyone who has engaged with us at all levels, it's been heartening to see so many faces old and new over the last 12 months, cheering us on.

Our plans for 2025 include:

- Launching a range of upcycled products
- Selling online
- Having a regular presence at in-person at markets
- Running x4 successful Tús traineeships
- Acquiring a city-centre shop front for a pilot project
- Making more public and private sector connections to expand our reach

If you think you'd like to get involved with any of that, or maybe just have a chat about what we're up to, send me a message at [mary@changeclthes.org](mailto:mary@changeclthes.org).

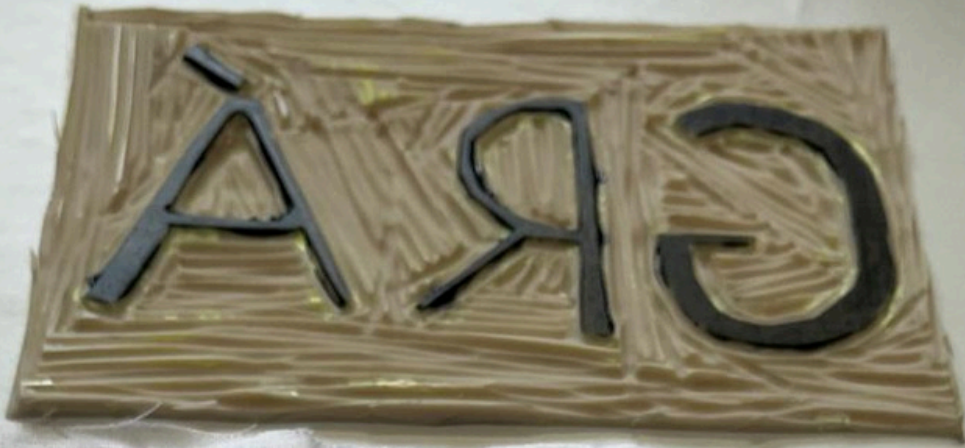
Chat to you in '25,

*Mary*



Change Clothes CEO  
**Mary Fleming**





GRÁ

Lino cut printing

'Change Clothes for Good'

## Our Vision

A world where all textiles are reused at community level for the environmental, economic and social benefit of local people.

## Our Mission

To create an accessible, affordable and social community-based clothing reuse hub where anyone can creatively reuse the clothes that already exist in our locality.

## Our Strategic Goals 2024-2026

### **Social**

- Provide community focused space where people can gather and learn more about clothing reuse
- Design creative, social events for people to engage with textile reuse
- Provide informal learnings opportunities in clothing reuse and repair, with a particular focus on 'hard to reach' young people

### **Environmental**

- Create local circular clothing reuse solutions that are affordable, social & fun
- Reduce textile dumping in the local area
- Reduce amount of clothing going to landfill and export

### **Economic**

- Create and maintain a vibrant social enterprise in Dublin City Centre
- Provide sustainable training and employment opportunities for people who are distanced from the labour market

### **Enhance CCC governance and organisational capacity**

- Improve CC governance
- Develop CCC organisational capacity
- Obtain core funding from a source aligned with our values and mission
- Broaden CC funding base



# What we do

## **Because second hand is f\*\*\*\*n grand**

Change Clothes is a community based clothing reuse hub.  
We're a registered not for profit CLG.

Founded in 2022 in Crumlin, we prevent clothing waste at community level before it becomes a global problem, and create opportunity and change in the process.

Our goal is to make sure second hand is community focused, fun, affordable, and social. We do this by providing reuse solutions for clothes at all stages of their lifecycle.

## **Clothes in new-good condition**

- Permanent clothing swap shop
- Pre-loved clothing re-sale
- Borrow your own swap kit programme
- Redistribution of clothing to those in need

## **Clothes in OK condition (but needing some TLC)**

- Upcycling and repair workshops
- Free repair cafes
- Skills & personal development programmes for people distanced from the labour market
- Back to work traineeships

## **Clothes ready for landfill**

- Repurposing of rag into new, creative products



Fabric collage

"Sustainable Saturdays" at Richmond Barracks



## Our Projects

More than just a swap shop, at its heart, Change Clothes is about creating positive opportunities for all from clothing waste. From support with your first clothes swap event to back to work opportunities for long-term unemployed people - we try to have something for everyone.

### **Borrow a Free Swap Kit**

Hosting a swap shop in the Dublin City Council area? We have the answer to your prayers! Borrow all the equipment you need from Change Clothes, with thanks to our partners Dublin City Council. Learn more.



### **Change Clothes for Good**

Change Clothes is a transformative programme for young people aged 18-25 who are not currently in work or education. Piloted in 2024 with thanks to support from the CDETB, young people learn practical mending and creative upcycling skills, merchandising, illustration, styling, the basics of climate change, building resilience and much more. We are currently seeking funding for an extended year long programme in 2025, but this programme can be run in a number of formats to suit the needs of any youth organisation. Contact [hello@changeclotthes.org](mailto:hello@changeclotthes.org) for more information.



### **Community Closet**

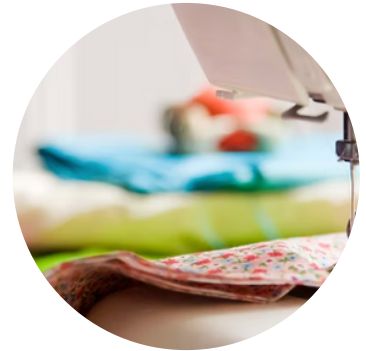
We provide appropriate clothing to people most in need by connecting with housing services to provide 'free to take' clothing rails throughout the year. Email [hello@changeclotthes.org](mailto:hello@changeclotthes.org) if you would like to avail of this service.



## Our Projects

### **Change Clothes Changes Lives**

We are currently recruiting long-term unemployed individuals to take part in a year-long Tús Scheme traineeship through the Liffey Partnership. Trainees will undertake sewing machine training and create product from waste textiles, developing essential skills and exploring their own creativity. This programme is supported by Dublin City Council as part of the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2025.



### **Camp Change Clothes**

Keep your eyes peeled for our first Easter and Summer Camps at our Thomas Street studio in 2025. We'll be offering clothing reuse courses for young people and adults alike, because creative exploration is important for everyone.



### **Repair Cafes**

We run free repair cafes on a quarterly basis. These fun and social events are a great way to observe basic repair skills and meet likeminded people. See when our next events are here.







**New home at 10-13 Thomas Street, The Digital Hub**



## The Team in 2024



**Mary Fleming**



**Oileán Carter Stritch**



**Maria Verrecchie**



**Daljeet Malhotra**



**Karolina Kędzior**

## The Board



**Jennifer Tully Bell**



**Deirdre Massey**



**Katriona Flynn**



**Gráinne Griffin**



**Roisín Kelly**



**Barbara Nea**



**Cillian O'Donoghue**



# 2024 Environmental Impact



**Clothing  
Swaps Made**



**Items Upcycled /  
Repaired**



**Items  
Re-sold**



**Items  
Redistributed to  
People in Need**



## **Pieces of Clothing saved from landfill**



According to the UK Carbon Trust, the average **carbon footprint of a t shirt over the span of its lifetime is 15kg.**

If we say that all 10,501 items had an average carbon footprint of a t-shirt (which they didn't, a huge number of larger items such as jeans, jumpers and coats were swapped), **we have saved some 147 carbon tonnes in just 12 months with Change Clothes.**



**147 carbon tonnes saved in just 12 months...**

## **What does that look like?**

Driving **882,000km** in a Diesel car

**147** flights from Frankfurt to New York

**73,500** fire extinguishers

**1,293,600** cups of coffee

**167,881,521** smart phones charges

**19,320** meat based meals





Upcycled display for Change Clothes

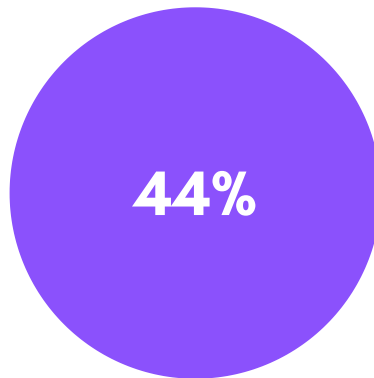
By TU Dublin Visual Merchandising Students



# 2024 Economic Impact



**Income  
generated &  
reinvested into  
Change Clothes**



**% of our income  
that was traded vs.  
fundraised**



**Staff  
employed**



**Creatives  
paid**



# Re-sale at NUI Galway





## 2024 Social Impact



**Clothing Re-users  
Participating**



**Short-term  
Trainees**



**Volunteers  
Active**



**Workshops  
Held**



**Courses  
Facilitated**



**Rails installed in  
homeless services**




**Swap Kits  
Borrowed by  
Communities**





Turtle  
Stitch

A simple line drawing of a turtle, showing its shell, head, and tail, with small circles around it indicating stitching points.


Blanket

A piece of white paper with the word "Blanket" written in pink cursive, accompanied by several small pink hearts.

'Change Clothes for Climate'

Cruinniu na nóg programme at Rialto Youth Project

Embroidery

The word "Embroidery" is written in large, colorful, stylized letters. Each letter is a different color: E (pink), m (orange), b (yellow), r (green), i (blue), n (purple), e (red), r (orange), y (yellow).



# 2024 Highlights

## Jan

Change Clothes held its first sewing machine workshop in-studio, going on to become a monthly event.

## Feb

We had a feature in the Irish Times that introduced us to a much wider clientele.

## March

We launched our Annual Swap Membership, held our first €2 re-sale event, and held our first drive for clothing for people in need.

## April

Change Clothes launched a free t-shirt upcycling resource and held a day of free workshops to celebrate.

## May

We launched the free Swap Kit with support from DCC, ran a free programme with Rialto Youth project for Cruinniu na nÓg, and won the Emerging Category at the RDS Circular Economy Awards.

## June

Change Clothes ran its first Summer Camp programme at Richmond Barracks with support from Dublin City Council Culture Company.

## July

Change Clothes was appointed as 'Sustainable Development Goals' Champions 2024-25 by the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications.

## August

We launched our quarterly, free Repair Cafes and manned a trading stand at the RDS Horse Show with support from the RDS Foundation.

## September

Change Clothes Crumlin became 'Change Clothes' and moved to The Digital Hub, Dublin 8. We were also announced as recipients of the Dublin City Council Social Enterprise Award, as well as winners of the Nancy Ward Circular Economy Award.

## October

Pilot programme 'Change Clothes for Good' took place, offering young adults a practical introduction to sustainable fashion. We were featured in The Guardian in the same month.

## November

We hosted an in-house re-design thinking event for Irish Design Week and ran a 6-week programme for Youth Reach participants.

## December

Change Clothes launched the 'Community Closet' Project, providing 'free to take' clothing rails to people most in need.





Free t-shirt reuse workshops



## 2024 media highlights

Wear and tear: How Europe is stepping up efforts to make fast fashion unfashionable

**The Irish Times, December 2024**

[Read](#)

Want a new wardrobe at a low cost? Try clothes swapping

**RTE, October 2024**

[Read](#)

'Because secondhand is feekin' grand': how clothes swapping became huge in Ireland

**The Guardian, October 2024**

[Read](#)

'There is a great sense of satisfaction': How to save money on clothes

**The Irish Times Weekend Magazine, July 2024**

[Read](#)

Change Clothes Crumlin launches the Swap Tool Kit

**The Echo, May 2024**

[Read](#)

Fionnuala Jay's top 6 sustainable havens in Dublin

**RTE Lifestyle, April 2024**

[Read](#)

The End Of The World With Beanz

**RTE Two, March 2024**

[Watch](#)

Get new season fashion thrills without breaking the bank or the planet

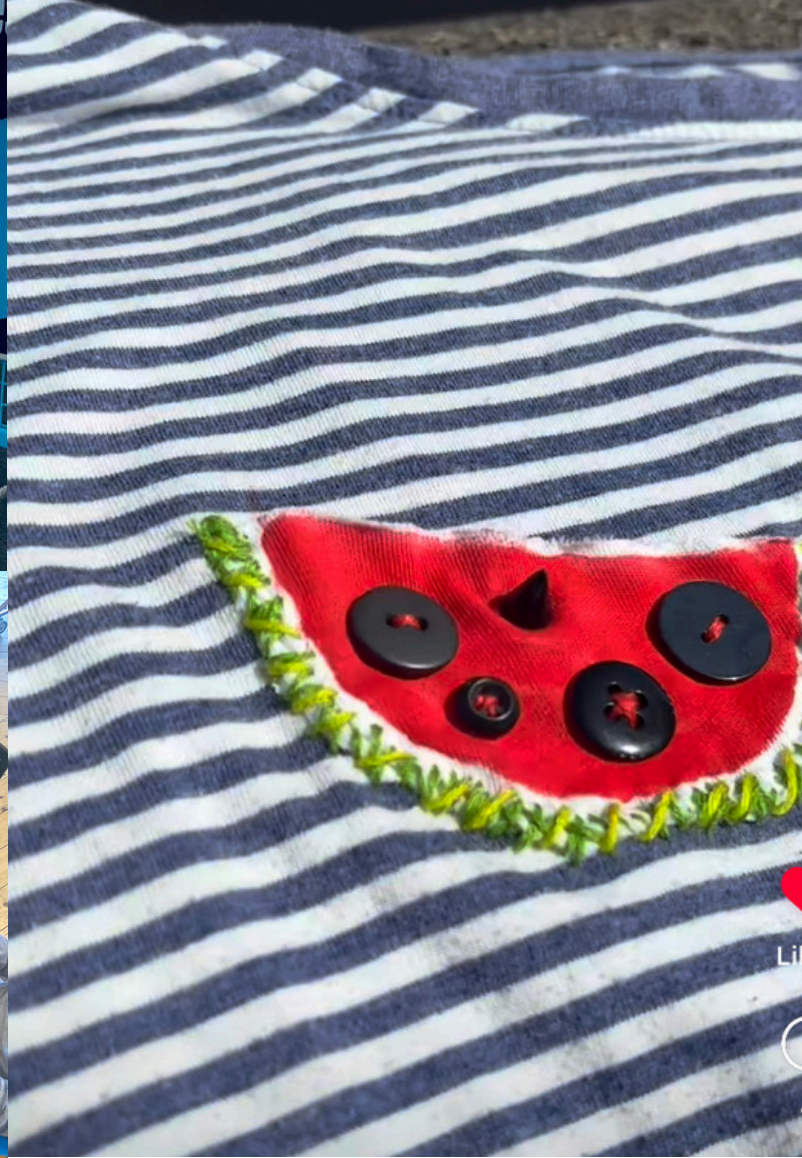
**The Irish Times Magazine, February 2024**

[Read](#)











**Sincere thanks to everyone who enabled us to carry out our work in 2024**

**Funders**



**Donors**



**Strategic Supporters**





**Thank you for booking us for workshops, events +**

**programmes**

Sister Sheds, UCD SU, STAND, Firhouse Crafting Group  
Dublin City Council Culture Company, UCD Sustainability, TU Dublin Societies Office, TU  
Dublin Sustainability Office, Carlow County Council, Waterford County Council, Fingal  
County Council, Dublin City Libraries, South Dublin Libraries, Irish Schools Sustainability  
Network, ECO-UNESCO, Bleeding Pig Arts festival, Environmental Protection Agency,  
Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications, Dublin South City  
Partnership, An Taisce Green Schools, Community Resources Network Ireland, MU Fashion  
Society, The Rediscovery Centre, IMMA, AmDocs, Helsinn Birex, Cherry Orchard  
Development Association, Etsy, Sphere 17, Phibsborough Tidy Towns, Bimeda, Akidwa,  
Respond Housing, Youth Reach Transition Centre Parnell Square, Kildare County Council  
NYCI, Guinness Open House Brewery, Department of Employment, Trade & Enterprise,  
Rialto Youth Project

**& to all of our amazing volunteers !!!**

**THANK YOU**

## Join the journey!

Sign up to our mailing list to find out more, or follow us on social media.

## Contact us directly

hello@changeclotnes.org

087 382 8532

Change Clothes Crumlin T/A Change Clothes

10-13 Thomas Street

The Digital Hub

Dublin 8







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