

Mull and Iona Community Trust ReThink MESS Project

Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) has been awarded £249,905.08 through the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund and the European Regional Development Fund to run the ReThink MESS project from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2020.

Mull and Iona Environmentally Sensitive Solutions (MESS) is a community initiative run by MICT that provides local solutions to the waste and environmental issues that affect our communities, and brings economic and environmental benefits to Mull and Iona. MESS began in 2003 with a 'swap shop' in Bunessan. It quickly grew and there are now 3 Island Castaways Charity Shops: Craignure, Bunessan and a seasonal shop in Tobermory.

The ReThink MESS project builds on and expands some of the work undertaken by the More MESS, Waste Less project which came to an end on 31st March 2018. The focus of the project is on reducing waste and increasing recycling, and increasing knowledge of climate change.

The project has 5 strands with a number of activities in each:

- **Trial options for reducing food waste going to landfill**
Activities will include piloting a food waste collection, providing composters to schools and businesses, piloting a community fridge and running food waste reduction and low carbon food events.
- **Provide recycling facilities where there aren't any currently**
Including a 'mobile' recycling kit for local events (i.e. agricultural shows, highland games, etc.), up to 10 'Recycling on the Go' stations and 6 Beach Clean stations.
- **Work with hospitality businesses to promote lower carbon alternatives and increase recycling**
Including launching a new low carbon Eco-Charter for businesses (replacing the existing Mull and Iona Eco-Charter currently operated by M.E.S.S.) and supporting businesses with information and trials of lower carbon alternatives.
- **Run upcycling and repair workshops to equip residents with skills in repair and reuse**
Including clothes and textiles, computers and other electrical equipment, furniture and bikes.
- **Increase carbon literacy in a number of ways**
Including a 'roadshow' at local events, masterclasses in school and 'Carbon Conversations' workshops.

The ReThink MESS project is an exciting opportunity to benefit residents and visitors by providing services which don't currently exist, supporting local business and tourism and equipping people with new skills in repair and upcycling.

We expect the project to lead to behaviour changes and lower carbon choices, a reduction in waste going to landfill, an increase in recycling and composting, and increased carbon literacy and knowledge of climate change.