



**Creating Homes
Creating Opportunities**

We have been providing furniture both new and pre-loved to people for over 17 years. As well as our mission to reduce furniture poverty, our staff and volunteers are passionate about the environment and climate change. Our day to day activities include soft furnishing deconstruction, reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

FURNITURE POVERTY

10 million furniture items are sent to landfill each year in the UK - 3 million of these could be re-used by people in crisis!

What is furniture poverty? It is the inability to afford or access the basic essential items that provide a household with a decent quality of life. It's a sliding scale where at the lowest extreme, a household has none or very few of the basic items needed and at the other end a household may have what they need for now, but if something needs repair or replacement they will not have the savings.

The essential items

Bed, bedding and mattress; table and chairs; sofa and chairs; wardrobe; carpets in living rooms and bedrooms; curtains or blinds; washing machine; fridge and freezer; cooker; TV.

Last year at Refurbs we sold over 4,118 items of pre-loved furniture and household appliances to people in need of affordable essential items.

Tackling Climate Change

Waste prevention and recycling reduces the amount of waste sent to landfill, which lowers the amount of greenhouse gases emitted as the waste decays. Landfill causes pollution to the local environment by contaminating the ground water and aquifers, contaminating the soil, and producing methane. Methane is a greenhouse gas 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide (CO₂) and is said to be the leading cause of global warming.

Our environmental objective to divert waste from landfill is fulfilled through the collection and refurbishment of pre-loved furniture through Local Authority contracts and donations.

In 2018-19 we were pleased to secure Flintshire County Council's void property cleaning and clearance contract, which incorporated a supported employment programme for Flintshire residents. Alongside the fulfilment of Flintshire's bulky household waste collection, this contract helped us to increase the diversion of usable household products from landfill as well as supported 4 unemployed Flintshire residents in its 1st year. Our soft furnishings deconstruction programme has also seen the breaking down of 6,005 items into their component parts, diverting 263 tonnes of waste from landfill, saving 312,260kg of CO₂ emissions.



OUTCOMES



17 regular
volunteers
supported



4,116
volunteer
hours



702
tonnes
of waste
diverted
from landfill

Impacts and Outputs

For every 100 Items reused the social and environmental impact can be calculated as follows:

	£ Savings to the homeowner	Kg of CO ₂ saved
100 white goods	£15,000	2,912 kg
100 tables and chairs	£8,000	3,249 kg
100 chairs or sofas	£22,500	5,200 kg
100 beds and mattresses	£10,000	6,600 kg
100 small appliances	£3,000	574 kg

*These calculations are based on the Reuse Network standard calculations