

Reuse / Recycling

New Start Highland is one of the main community furniture reuse projects running in the Highlands. In addition to supporting people who are experiencing a period of vulnerability with either donated furniture or housing support, this project also has very positive environmental implications.

In line with the move towards a Zero Waste Scotland (www.zerowastescotland.info), one of the aims of the project is to reduce waste production in the highlands by increasing the opportunity for reuse. The types of materials we divert from landfill are furniture, electrical and electronic items, textiles, carpets and bric-a-brac although we take anything that can be used to set up a home. We have in-house engineers testing and repairing electrical items and we also restore furniture in order to maximise reuse. Last year we successfully diverted over 650 tonnes of these sorts of household items from landfill. Any items which are not suitable for reuse are recycled wherever possible. At present we are sourcing new avenues allowing us to reuse and recycle even more of the items we collect.