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Reuse, repair and share

Elements of a new economy

Breaking free from dependence on economic growth, protecting our vital systems – biodiversity and the climate –, strengthening mutual aid and solidarity, promoting the common good... all these positive objectives are intrinsically linked to the promotion of 'Reuse – Repair – Share'.

This is why Mouvement Ecologique is heavily involved in this area, often in collaboration with the Oekozenner Pafendall and, thanks to an agreement with the Ministry of the Environment, as part of the 'Rethink' project.



ON THE PATH FROM RECYCLING TO RESOURCE CENTRES: EXPERIENCES AND PRACTICAL IDEAS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND UNIONS

On 30 October 2025, Mouvement Écologique and Oekozerter Pfandfall invited everyone to the seminar “From Recycling to Resource Centres” at the Prince Henri Centre in Walferdange, with the support of the Ministry of the Environment and the municipality of Walferdange.

Numerous participants from local authorities, the waste management sector, social institutions, businesses and interested members of the public discussed ways of transforming recycling centres into genuine resource centres – centres where reuse, repair and sharing take centre stage.

Using concrete examples, innovative approaches and concepts were presented to show how resource centres can successfully become places dedicated to the circular economy and resource conservation, tailored to the size of the local authorities. These examples came from both Luxembourg and Germany.

The seminar impressively demonstrated the potential impact of such centres, including from a social perspective. Indeed, modern resource centres go far beyond traditional waste management: they can become important meeting places for the community, raise awareness of the circular economy and foster social interaction. In doing so, they offer communities numerous opportunities to organise additional activities: themed reuse markets (school supplies, books, party decorations, etc.), ‘social reuse’, etc.

The seminar highlighted the importance of such an exchange and showed that there are still various issues to be debated at national level, such as whether local authorities can grant their residents preferential access to their municipal centre.

LUXEMBOURG’S NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN – A GOOD FOUNDATION, BUT POOR IMPLEMENTATION

In 2025, Luxembourg’s new national waste and resource management plan was put out for public consultation. It is an important tool for the future development of waste management in Luxembourg and for adapting to national and European requirements.

In a position paper, Mouvement Écologique welcomes the key elements of this plan.

However, it believes that improvements are needed in key areas. For example, the plan is in many respects rather vague and not sufficiently binding to initiate a genuine transition to a circular economy.

Mouvement Écologique has therefore urged the government to build on this plan, focusing particularly on the most relevant measures to be further developed, and to prioritise prevention and reuse, the strengthening of resource centres, reducing massive exports, monitoring the ‘use’ of exported waste, establishing local repair and reuse activities, and the circular economy at the heart of its priorities.

This plan should also be supplemented by a binding financing plan, as well as an analysis of available human resources and governance structures.





THE 'FIXIT' CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

In 2025, Mouvement Ecologique and Oekozer Pafendall, with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, continued the “fixit! Repair. Borrow. Use.” campaign. The aim is to promote repair, reuse and sharing for everyone through practical advice, thereby strengthening the economy of the common good.

The campaign advocates not only reduced consumption and better protection of resources, but also an alternative economic model. As part of the campaign, the website was updated with new advice, and template notices were also provided to local authorities for their ‘Buet’. These resources were used by several local authorities throughout the year and received positive feedback.

In 2025, the following content was published:

- **“Children’s toys and clothes – Better to share than throw away”** – Initiatives and actions for the reuse of children’s toys and clothes.
- **“Second-hand bikes are just as good for cycling”** – In recent years, there has been a real boom in cycling, which has now led to the emergence of a dynamic second-hand market. The Fixit campaign highlights special initiatives where second-hand bikes are refurbished and sold at affordable prices.
- **“Refurbished – electrical appliances as good as new”** – In the field of household appliances and smartphones, a similar trend is also developing, allowing people to continue using appliances in very good condition at more affordable prices.

LOCAL REPAIR WORKSHOPS RATHER THAN REPLACEMENT: 43 MUNICIPALITIES NOW OFFER A ‘REPAIR GRANT’

Over ten years ago, Wiltz became the first municipality in Luxembourg to introduce financial support for the repair of household appliances: the ‘repair grant’. Since then, the Oekozer Pafendall, the Mouvement Ecologique and Oekotopen.lu have campaigned vigorously for the extension of this scheme at national level

Other municipalities have since followed suit, so that, including the municipality of Schengen, a total of 43 municipalities will offer this support from January 2026 – in some, the grant complements existing subsidies for the purchase of new, energy-efficient appliances, whilst in others, it has replaced them. The offer varies from one municipality to another (in terms of the amount of the eco-bonus, the repairs covered, etc.).

Repair is particularly environmentally friendly for appliances with a high ‘ecological footprint’: that is, those containing valuable and sometimes critical raw materials, such as IT equipment, for which resource consumption during production is far more problematic than their subsequent energy consumption. Some municipalities follow the Oekotopen.lu repair guide, which includes criteria for promoting energy-efficient appliances as well as for environmentally friendly repairs.

Unlike in Austria, France or certain German Länder, there are currently no national guidelines or nationwide repair subsidies in Luxembourg. However, the growing involvement of local authorities shows that the promotion of repair is increasingly seen as a permanent feature of sustainable local policy. The Mouvement Écologique continued to work towards this goal in 2025.

