YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Circularity.org Trustees' Annual Report

Annual report and financial statements for the period 1 January to 31 December 2025, prepared for the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Reference and administrative details

Charity name	**Circularity.org (previously Circularity)**
Registered charity number	**1197109**
Legal form	Charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), foundation model
Date registered	14 December 2021
Governing document	CIO foundation constitution, registered 14 December 2021
Principal address	CircularityHUB, 1 Hartshorne Road, Woodville, Swadlincote, DE11 7JB
Contact	info@circularity.org · circularity.org
Independent examiner	Not required: gross income under £25,000

Trustees who served during the year

Name	Role	Dates
Robert Gillespie	Chair	Appointed 14 December 2021
Christopher Baldwin	Trustee	Appointed 14 December 2021
Hannah Gillespie	Trustee	Appointed 14 December 2021
Katy Lawrence	Trustee	Appointed 23 July 2022; stood down 7 December 2025
Neil Johnson	Trustee	Appointed 30 December 2025

No trustee received any remuneration, payment or benefit from the charity during the year.

Charitable objects

The objects of the CIO, as recorded on the Register of Charities, are:

(1) To advance the education of the general public in the area defined by the National Forest, in particular but not exclusively by supporting the provision of a lending library;

(2) To further benefit the residents of the National Forest and neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

Structure, governance and management

Organisational structure

Circularity.org is a charitable incorporated organisation (foundation model) that aims to foster a culture of collaboration and sharing among people and communities. The trustees are the charity's decision-makers: they set its vision, mission and values, make sure it meets its legal, ethical and financial duties, and meet quarterly to oversee its work. In 2025 two of these meetings were informal project updates.

The charity's work is run by communities of volunteers who believe in the power of collective action and mutual support. They are organised around its programmes: the community managed library and social hub at the CircularityHUB, with the Studio, the Warm Space, the Repair Café and the HUB growing space, and the allotments. Volunteers plan, organise, deliver and evaluate the work, and some programmes are steered by one or more trustees who provide leadership, guidance and feedback.

The trustees also help connect the volunteers with relevant networks, organisations and resources. By working together, the trustees and the volunteers of Circularity.org aim to change people's mindsets from 'Me' to 'We' and create a more sustainable and inclusive society.

Since the year end, the trustees have set out a clearer structure: Operational Leads for operations, programmes, and communications and fundraising coordinate the day-to-day work, and working groups elect their own coordinators. The Board is due to adopt updated Terms of Reference that set this out.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees are responsible for the recruitment and selection of new trustees. They seek trustees who are willing to volunteer and help in the overall running of the charity as well as its governance, and who bring:

- a passion for community and sustainability;
- a commitment to the vision, mission and values of Circularity.org;
- a willingness to contribute time, skills and expertise to the charity and its projects;
- a readiness to learn from others and work as part of a team;
- a respect for diversity and inclusion;
- a high standard of integrity and professionalism.

Candidates are found by advertising on the website, social media and other platforms; through recommendations from trustees, volunteers, partners and stakeholders; and by inviting applications. Candidates are interviewed and assessed for suitability, and new trustees receive an induction and training. The trustees aim for a balanced and diverse board that reflects the communities they serve, and review the board's composition regularly to identify gaps.

During 2025 Katy Lawrence stood down as a trustee on 7 December 2025, and Neil Johnson was appointed on 30 December 2025. The trustees thank Katy for her service to the charity.

Risk management

The trustees manage risk through a risk register, which lists the potential risks the charity faces, their likelihood and impact, and the actions taken or planned to mitigate them. For each risk the register records:

- a description of the risk and its source;
- its likelihood and impact before any action is taken (gross risk);
- the action taken or planned to reduce or remove it;
- its likelihood and impact after that action (net risk);
- the person or group responsible for managing and monitoring it;
- the date it was last reviewed.

The trustees consult volunteers, partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders when identifying and assessing risks, and make sure the register is accessible to all relevant parties. Since the year end, the risk register has moved into the charity's online portal, where each risk has an owner and a review date, and the highest risks come to every board meeting.

The charity has policies in place covering safeguarding, complaints, bullying and harassment, conflicts of interest, risk management, serious incident reporting, social media, trustee expenses and volunteer management.

Vision, mission and strategy

Vision

The Circularity.org vision is about connection to each other, nature and the world around us. It is about creating a world where we are not just consumers, but also contributors, living in harmony with our environment and each other.

Mission

To create a more sustainable and inclusive society by fostering a culture of collaboration and sharing among people and communities: changing mindsets from 'Me' to 'We'. Circularity is a fulcrum of power, an equitable way of providing power from systems with excess to systems with too little.

Strategy

We provide spaces and places for people to have connecting experiences, and for charities and non-profits to provide their services. Our work moves through five stages:

- **Imagineering.** Imagining and designing a solution to a specific problem, such as a circular economy and community wellbeing hub in Woodville where people can access projects that promote sustainability, resilience and learning.
- **Asset or funding acquisition.** Securing the resources to make it happen: the use of the CircularityHUB building from Derbyshire County Council; grants, donations and sponsorship; and equipment and materials donated or lent by local businesses, organisations and individuals.
- **Community building.** Recruiting and training the volunteers who run the projects, inviting residents of Woodville and the surrounding area to take part, and building ownership by listening to their needs, interests and feedback.
- **Connection.** Linking our projects with each other, such as the HUB growing space and the Repair Café, and with organisations working towards similar causes, including the National Forest Company and Derbyshire County Council.
- **Enlarging the gestalt.** Widening our reach through our website, social media, YouTube channel, podcast and newsletter; through events and festivals; and by inspiring other communities to create their own community wellbeing hubs.

Activities and achievements in 2025

The CircularityHUB

The CircularityHUB is a community managed venue run and maintained by volunteers, and a multifunctional space for projects that promote the circular economy, community wellbeing and lifelong learning. It houses:

- **Woodville Community Managed Library**, a volunteer-run library service (see below).
- **The Studio**, a creative space for podcast, music, film and other artistic expression, with equipment, peer-to-peer training and workshops for all ages and abilities, and links to local cultural events.
- **The health and wellbeing space**, a calm environment for yoga, meditation and callisthenics, which also hosts a weekly health and wellbeing group.
- **The Warm Space**, where people can enjoy a warm drink and refreshments in a cosy, comfortable setting.
- **The Repair Café**, a monthly event where people bring broken items and learn to fix them with volunteers (see below).
- **The HUB growing space**, a volunteer-led growing space. In 2025 the trustees allocated funding to develop a growing area at the back car park.

Woodville Community Managed Library

The library is a volunteer-run service giving residents of Woodville and the surrounding area access to books, information and digital resources. It is part of the Derbyshire library network, supported by Derbyshire County Council, and is located at the CircularityHUB. In a small community setting it offers a welcoming, inclusive space to read, learn, socialise and take part in activities.

Regular volunteers are involved in every aspect of the service: book selection, shelving, cataloguing, issuing, customer service, activities, promotion and fundraising. They receive training and support from Circularity.org and Derbyshire County Council, develop their skills, confidence and employability, and have a say in how the library is run.

The library is open Mondays 2pm to 7pm (except bank holidays), Fridays 2pm to 7pm, and Saturdays 10am to 1pm.

Growing: the HUB growing space and the allotments

The HUB growing space and the allotments are volunteer powered and promote food security, sustainability and community wellbeing. Alongside the growing space at the CircularityHUB, the charity looks after allotment plots at Woodville Allotments and Winshill, where volunteers grow fruit and vegetables, learn new skills and meet new people.

Food grown is shared with local food banks and other initiatives helping people with the cost of living, aiming to reduce food waste, carbon footprint and food poverty while increasing health, happiness and resilience. Anyone can get involved, with or without gardening experience.

Repair Café

The Repair Café, in Woodville and Rosliston, is part of a worldwide and local movement to reduce waste by empowering the community to repair things rather than send them to landfill. This long-standing activity is hosted by skilled engineers and talented craftspeople, and brings a steady stream of visitors from the local and wider community into the Circularity world.

The Repair Café has become a household name locally, with many returning visitors alongside newcomers. We aim to grow the repairer base, which will increase the skills and repairs available, save more items from waste and reduce the community's CO2 footprint. This has been developed as a measurable public benefit in line with the Circularity strategy.

The Studio

The recording studio and film-making facilities let Circularity.org produce high-quality audio and video showing the impact of its projects, such as The Fellowship of the Woods, and the stories of the volunteers and community members involved. Content is shared through the website, social media, YouTube channel, podcast and flyers. The facilities help people express their creativity, share their stories, learn new skills and connect with others.

Volunteers

44

volunteers gave their time in 2025

£468.10

spent on volunteer recognition, from a budget approved in March 2025

Volunteers are the driving force behind Circularity.org's work to change mindsets from 'Me' to 'We'. They are involved in every stage of the project cycle, from planning and organising to leading, promoting and evaluating, and contribute their skills, time, energy and passion.

Volunteering benefits the volunteers themselves as well as the community. They receive training and support from Circularity.org and partners, develop skills, confidence and employability, have a say in the projects they are involved in, and enjoy the social contact, fun and satisfaction of volunteering. Without them, Circularity.org could not achieve its goals. The trustees are grateful for their dedication and celebrate their achievements.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and planning its activities.

In 2025 the charity delivered public benefit through:

- the Woodville Community Managed Library at the CircularityHUB, part of the Derbyshire library network, open to everyone and run by volunteers, furthering object (1);
- the CircularityHUB as a welcoming community space, including the Warm Space, the Studio, the health and wellbeing space, and the Repair Café in Woodville and Rosliston, which help people save money, reduce waste, learn skills and meet others, furthering object (2);
- the HUB growing space and the allotments, where people grow food, learn skills and spend time outdoors;
- volunteering itself: 44 volunteers gave their time in 2025, gaining skills, confidence and company.

The charity's activities are open to anyone who lives in or visits the area, whatever their background, and most are free or by donation. Any benefit to individuals, such as the skills volunteers gain, is incidental to these charitable purposes.

Financial review

TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	NET EXPENDITURE
£18,349.89	**£22,586.30**	**(£4,236.41)**

Most income came from donations and legacies (£7,543.89), charitable activities (£5,894.33) and grants (£3,705.06). The largest costs were other professional services (£11,166.21), which mainly covered cleaning, maintenance of the HUB building and utilities; utilities (£4,831.59); and project costs (£2,483.55).

Income fell compared with 2024 because the charity made fewer grant applications. The expected lease of the HUB was delayed, and the trustees were waiting for it to be in place before applying for larger grants. Once the lease is agreed, they plan to apply for larger grants to bring income and spending back into balance.

As income was under £25,000, the accounts did not need an independent examination.

Monthly statement of financial activities, year ended 31 December 2025

Income, £	Donations & legacies	Charitable activities	Grants	Other*	Total income
Jan 2025	2,401.66	660.00	200.00	–	**3,261.66**
Feb 2025	524.20	75.00	983.60	–	**1,582.80**
Mar 2025	2.50	1,140.00	358.85	11.24	**1,512.59**
Apr 2025	83.85	75.00	–	–	**158.85**
May 2025	170.11	700.00	1,269.79	–	**2,139.90**
Jun 2025	60.90	114.33	500.00	–	**675.23**
Jul 2025	283.15	75.00	–	–	**358.15**
Aug 2025	459.06	75.00	(107.18)	–	**426.88**
Sep 2025	156.77	795.00	–	1,195.37	**2,147.14**
Oct 2025	3,206.83	75.00	–	–	**3,281.83**
Nov 2025	114.86	75.00	500.00	–	**689.86**
Dec 2025	80.00	2,035.00	–	–	**2,115.00**
Year	**7,543.89**	**5,894.33**	**3,705.06**	**1,206.61**	**18,349.89**

Expenditure, £	Professional services	Utilities	Project costs	Other**	Total costs	Net
Jan 2025	922.50	2,498.53	59.99	427.35	3,908.37	(646.71)
Feb 2025	952.50	266.02	252.39	40.51	1,511.42	71.38
Mar 2025	1,295.00	–	692.14	48.79	2,035.93	(523.34)
Apr 2025	740.00	–	564.08	1,691.45	2,995.53	(2,836.68)
May 2025	792.95	–	112.26	16.06	921.27	1,218.63
Jun 2025	1,264.60	–	41.98	10.81	1,317.39	(642.16)
Jul 2025	1,040.45	–	189.95	449.35	1,679.75	(1,321.60)
Aug 2025	512.50	–	95.00	224.18	831.68	(404.80)
Sep 2025	1,200.01	–	361.78	271.01	1,832.80	314.34
Oct 2025	796.00	–	88.98	90.11	975.09	2,306.74
Nov 2025	738.70	2,067.04	–	703.06	3,508.80	(2,818.94)
Dec 2025	911.00	–	25.00	132.27	1,068.27	1,046.73
Year	**11,166.21**	**4,831.59**	**2,483.55**	**4,104.95**	**22,586.30**	**(4,236.41)**

* Recharged expenses (£1,195.37) and services (£11.24). ** Office and administration £1,463.31, insurance £875.95, advertising £609.25, volunteer recognition £468.10, sundries £307.30, travel £198.00, telephone £136.29, interest £46.75. The August grant figure includes a £107.18 adjustment. Figures in brackets are net expenditure. Prepared on an accruals basis from the charity's accounting records.

Reserves policy

The charity holds reserves so that it can keep its services running through a dip in income and meet its commitments. Only unrestricted funds count; restricted funds belong to the purpose they were given for. The trustees' target is three months of unrestricted running costs, about £5,650 at 2025's level of spending.

Funds at 31 December 2025 (estimated)	£
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2025	11,522
Net expenditure for the year	(4,236)
Total funds carried forward	**7,285**
of which restricted	4,475
of which unrestricted (free reserves)	**2,810**
Reserves target (three months' unrestricted costs)	5,650

Unrestricted reserves of about £2,810 are below the trustees' target of £5,650. The trustees plan to rebuild reserves by applying for larger grants once the HUB lease is in place, and by keeping running costs under review.

Plans for the future

In 2026 and beyond the trustees plan to:

- put a clearer governance and operating structure in place;
- grow volunteering and reduce reliance on any one person;
- focus the growing programme on what volunteers can sustain;
- raise the charity's profile in the community;
- keep the HUB safe and fit for purpose, and policies up to date;
- bring income and spending back into balance and rebuild reserves.