



How to calculate your scheme's CO₂ savings from paint reuse

Carbon impact data indicates that reusing paint saves a significant amount of CO₂ emissions for the paint industry. With approximately 50 million litres of reusable paint leftover each year in the UK alone, your Community RePaint scheme is helping to reduce the amount of CO₂ released into the atmosphere. By diverting paint from the waste stream and distributing it within your community, you are helping to reduce the need for new paint production.

Publishing your CO₂ savings publicly will show your customers, local businesses and the general public how your scheme is making a positive contribution in the fight against climate change. This will not only showcase that your business is dedicated to environmental issues but may also encourage eco-friendly customers to purchase leftover paint to help reduce their own carbon footprint. It may even encourage traders, manufacturers, and retailers to donate leftover paint for reuse at your scheme.

How To Calculate CO₂ savings

This guide will show you how to calculate your Community RePaint scheme's CO₂ savings from paint reuse.

How to calculate paint reuse CO₂ savings:

To calculate the CO₂ savings from paint reuse, we are using the calculations from the [Waste & Resources Action Programme \(WRAP\) 2011 report](#), titled '[A review of alternative supply chain approaches within the UK paint and woodcare markets](#)'.

This report provides the most accurate and recent calculation to date. And as paint reuse methods are currently the same as they were in 2011, this calculation is still applicable today.

The report highlights that [Crown Paints](#) quantify their carbon footprint, per 5 litre paint container, to 13.58 kg CO₂ equivalent. Therefore, 1 litre of paint reused will save 2.7kg CO₂ equivalent.

We understand that different types and brands of paint will have slightly different carbon footprint values, however, we will use this method to achieve an approximate value of CO₂ savings.

How to apply this to your Community RePaint scheme:

Before you begin, have to hand your Community RePaint scheme's statistics for annual usable paint collected.

Using the calculation above you can calculate the CO₂ saving at your Community RePaint scheme. You will need to multiply the number of litres your scheme has collected at your Community RePaint scheme by 2.7 to achieve your scheme's CO₂ savings.

For example: If you collected 5,589 litres of paint in 2019 your approximate CO₂ saving would be 15,090.3kg CO₂ equivalent.

NOTE: This is only applicable to leftover paint accepted at your scheme and this **does not** apply to ReColour remanufactured paint. Although ReColour paint does divert paint from the waste stream, it also requires stages of mixing and processing, which increases the carbon footprint of the product.

Presenting your results:

Including your CO₂ savings in your end of year report is a great way to showcase the positive environmental impact your scheme has made. To engage a wider audience, consider creating an infographic of the environmental benefits of your Community RePaint scheme to share with your customers.

[Canva](#) is an easy and free platform to make engaging infographics for your scheme. The Network Team can assist you with creating infographics for CO₂ savings statistics - [get in contact with us](#).

Infographic example:



More information:

Read this article by [Green Matters](#) which explains the basics you need to know about how carbon emissions affect the environment.

Consider calculating your organisation’s carbon emissions. The Carbon Trust have put together a [Carbon Footprint Calculator](#), designed to help UK based small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) measure their corporate emission footprint following GHG Protocol Guidance.