Circular Economy Behaviours in Northern Ireland 2025/26: questionnaire wording and response labels

Introduction

Four questions were included in the 2025/26 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) to help strengthen the evidence base on consumer behaviours in Northern Ireland. This document provides the full wording and response options, followed by the shortened labels used in the publication and supplementary tables.

Some response options have been shortened for presentation purposes. The shortened wording does not change the underlying response categories.

Full CHS survey questions and response options

CEconomy1

In the last 12 months have you undertaken any of the following activities?

Select all that apply

1. Bought second hand or refurbished items instead of buying new
2. Bought brand new items
3. Sold items I no longer need (e.g. online marketplaces)
4. Donated items I no longer need (e.g. to charities)
5. Repaired items when they were broken or worn out (e.g. clothing, appliances)
6. Used a service to share or rent items (e.g. car-sharing, tool rental, clothing)
7. Chosen products made with recycled or reusable materials (e.g. clothing, electronics)
8. Opted for reusable or refillable products (e.g. water bottles, cleaning products)
9. None of the above

CEconomy2

Which of the following have you bought second-hand or refurbished?

Asked where CEconomy1 indicated second-hand/refurbished purchase. Select all that apply

1. Clothing
2. Accessories (e.g. shoes, bags)
3. Furniture (e.g. sofas, tables, chairs)
4. Electronics (e.g. phones, laptops, TVs, games consoles, cameras)
5. Household appliances (e.g. washing machines, microwaves)

6. Tools or gardening equipment
7. Books or games
8. Children's items (e.g. toys, prams)
9. Leisure equipment (e.g. fitness equipment)
10. Vehicles (e.g. cars, motorcycles)
11. Other
12. Have not bought any second-hand or refurbished products

CEconomy3

When you most recently bought a household appliance or personal electronic device, which of the following characteristics did you consider important? This includes items such as a cooker, washing machine, refrigerator, microwave, TV, mobile phone or laptop.

Select all that apply

1. Product is brand new
2. Price
3. Brand
4. Appearance
5. Technical characteristics (e.g. capacity, performance, advanced features)
6. Eco-design of the product (e.g. durable, repairable design and made with environmentally friendly materials)
7. Possibility to extend the life span of the product by buying extra guarantee
8. Energy efficiency of the product
9. A take-back scheme offered by manufacturer or seller
10. None of the above
11. Never bought a household appliance or electronic device

CEconomy4

Have you done any of the following in the last 12 months?

Select all that apply

1. Repaired clothing (e.g. zip, patch a hole)
2. Altered or redesigned clothing (e.g. take up hem)
3. Kept a clothing item for longer to avoid buying new
4. Acquired a clothing item (including footwear or accessories) second-hand/vintage
5. Purchased clothing items with organic or recycled material

6. Used a clothing rental service instead of buying new
7. Made a clothing item
8. None of the above

Response labels used in the publication

For presentation purposes, some response options have been shortened in the publication and supplementary tables. The tables below show the full survey response alongside the shortened label used throughout the publication. These changes shorten the labels only and do not change the underlying response categories.

CEconomy1: Activities undertaken

Full survey response	**Shortened publication labels**
Bought second hand or refurbished items instead of buying new	Bought second-hand or refurbished items
Bought brand new items	Bought brand new items
Sold items I no longer need (e.g. online marketplaces)	Sold items no longer needed
Donated items I no longer need (e.g. to charities)	Donated items no longer needed
Repaired items when they were broken or worn out (e.g. clothing, appliances)	Repaired broken or worn items
Used a service to share or rent items (e.g. car-sharing, tool rental, clothing)	Shared or rented items
Chosen products made with recycled or reusable materials (e.g. clothing, electronics)	Chose products made with recycled or reusable materials
Opted for reusable or refillable products (e.g. water bottles, cleaning products)	Chose reusable or refillable products
None of the above	None of these

CEconomy2: Purchasing second-hand or refurbished items

Full survey response	**Shortened publication labels**
Clothing	Clothing
Accessories (e.g. shoes, bags)	Accessories
Furniture (e.g. sofas, tables, chairs)	Furniture
Electronics (e.g. phones, laptops, TVs, games consoles, cameras)	Electronics
Household appliances (e.g. washing machines, microwaves)	Household appliances
Tools or gardening equipment	Tools or gardening equipment
Books or games	Books or games
Children's items (e.g. toys, prams)	Children's items
Leisure equipment (e.g. fitness equipment)	Leisure equipment
Vehicles (e.g. cars, motorcycles)	Vehicles
Other	Other

CEconomy3: Considerations when purchasing appliances and electronics

Full survey response	**Shortened publication labels**
Product is brand new	Product is brand new
Price	Price
Brand	Brand
Appearance	Appearance
Technical characteristics (e.g. capacity, performance, advanced features)	Technical characteristics
Eco-design of the product (e.g. durable, repairable design and made with environmentally friendly materials)	Ecodesign of the product
Possibility to extend the life span of the product by buying extra guarantee	Extended guarantee available
Energy efficiency of the product	Energy efficiency
A take-back scheme offered by manufacturer or seller	Take back scheme
None of the above	None of these above
Never bought a household appliance or electronic device	Never bought a household appliance or electronic device

CEconomy4: Clothing items

Full survey response	**Shortened publication labels**
Repaired clothing (e.g. zip, patch a hole)	Repaired clothing
Altered or redesigned clothing (e.g. take up hem)	Altered or redesigned clothes
Kept a clothing item for longer to avoid buying new	Kept clothes for longer
Acquired a clothing item (including footwear or accessories) second-hand/vintage	Acquired second-hand or vintage clothes
Purchased clothing items with organic or recycled material	Purchased clothes with organic or recycled material
Used a clothing rental service instead of buying new	Used a clothing rental service
Made a clothing item	Made a clothing item
None of the above	None of these