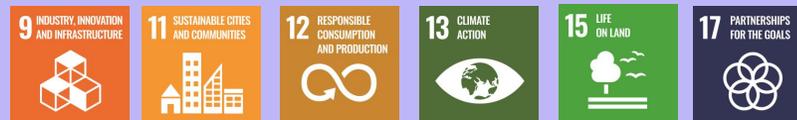




# Donation Drive Impact Report 2024-25

Hayley Lambert (Sustainability Champion – Circular Economy)  
Evelin Sanderson-Nichols (Sustainability Coordinator)

**UNIVERSITY  
OF WARWICK**



# Summary

The Donation Drive is a flagship circular economy initiative at the University of Warwick, designed to reduce the environmental impact of student move-out by making it easier for students to donate unwanted items before leaving campus.

This proactive system prevents waste, reduces the University's carbon footprint, and supports both incoming students and local charities.

In the 2024/25 academic year, three Donation Drives were organised to coincide with major student move-out periods: June, July, and September.

The project is delivered by the Energy & Sustainability Team, with vital support from the Post & Portering Team, Waste & Recycling Team, Warwick Conferences, and Warwick Accommodation.

This year, we built on the success of the initiative by expanding awareness and piloting supporting projects - including the Yard Sale and Exchange Students' Library of Things - while also exploring storage partnerships to help students manage their belongings more sustainably.



# Strategic Priorities

Donation Drive directly contributes towards the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**, specifically:

- SDG9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)
- SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities),
- SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)
- SDG13 (Climate Action)
- SDG15 (Life on Land)
- SDG17 (Partnership for the Goals)

Donation Drive also feeds into two of the **University of Warwick's strategic priorities**:

- Sustainability
- Regional Leadership

The Donation Drive also supports the **Way to Sustainable** strategy and will continue to play a key role as we refresh and update our sustainability priorities.



## **Sustainability**

Embedding sustainability in our curriculum and research, supporting campus biodiversity and operations to go beyond net zero.



## **Regional Leadership**

Driving the economic, social and cultural growth of our region.

# Process Improvements

To increase participation and visibility, we trialled purpose-built outdoor donation stations, making it easier for students to see where and how to donate.

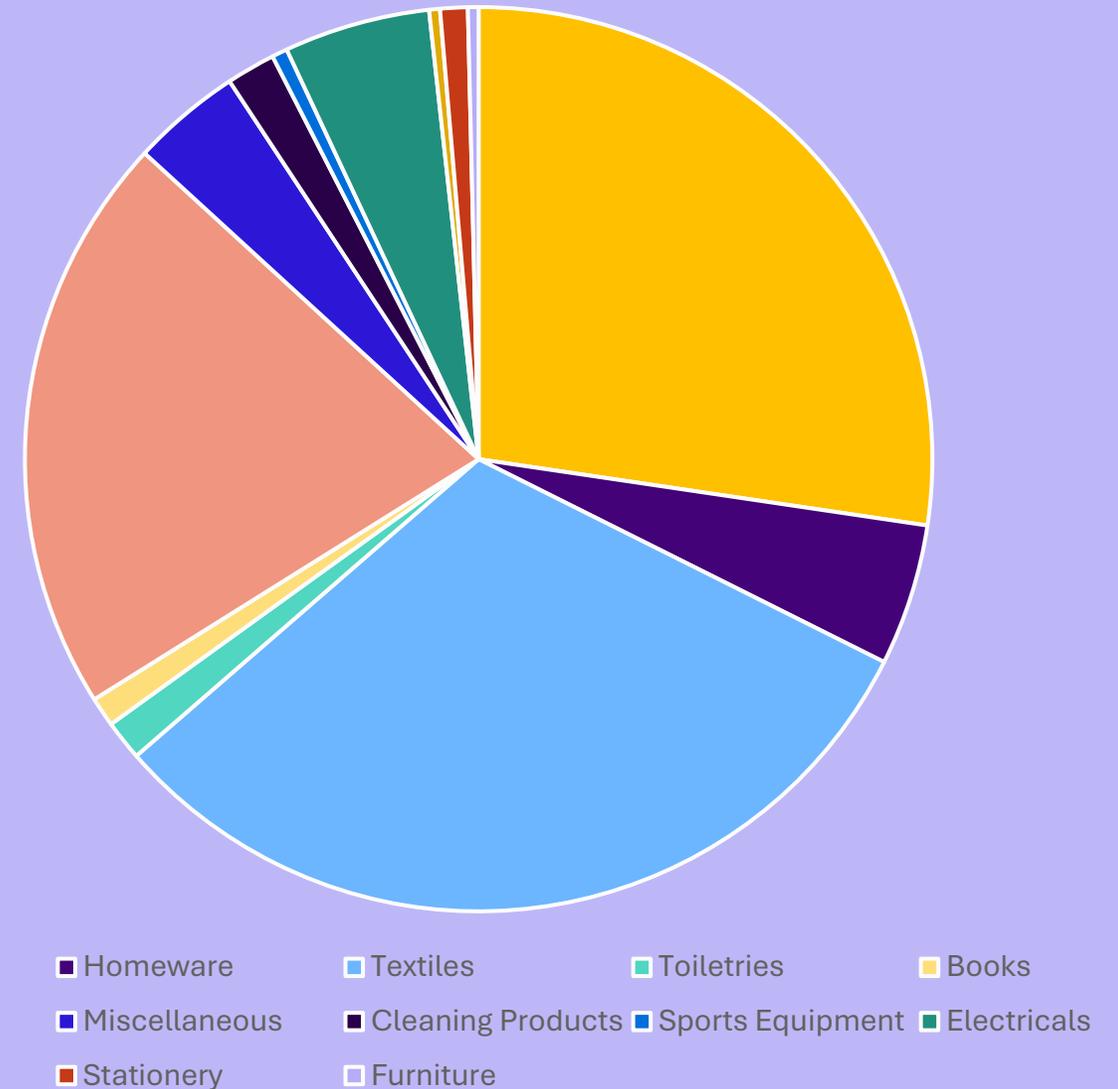
We also formalised relationships with partner charities to ensure that donated goods are distributed efficiently and responsibly through official University charity partnerships.



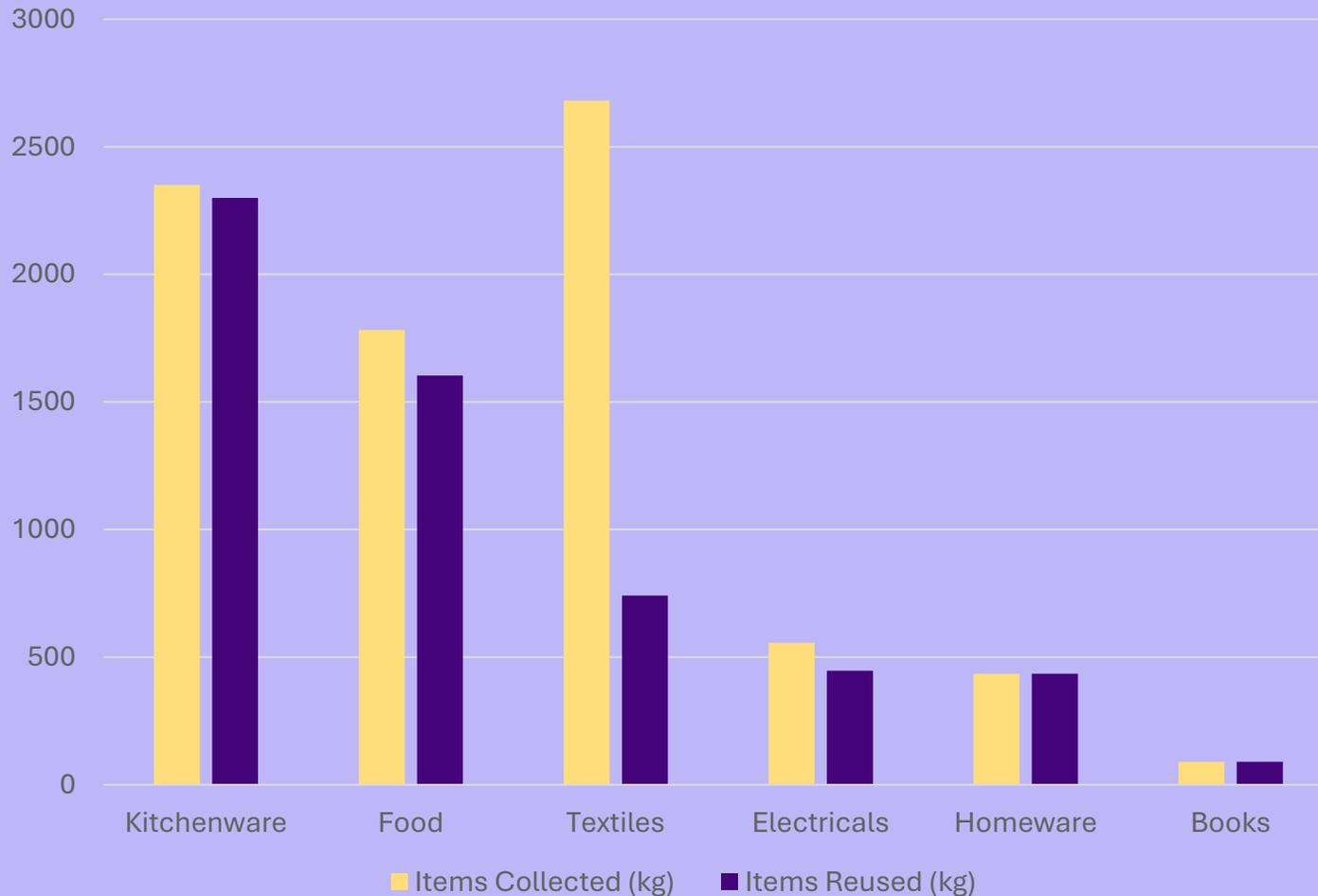
# Items Collected - Summary

This year, we have collected 9.5 tonnes of items during the student move out period.

Item	Weight (kg)
Kitchenware	2350.36
Homeware	435.04
Textiles	2681.7
Toiletries	122.72
Books	90.45
Food	1783.35
Miscellaneous	336.92
Cleaning Products	150
Sports Equipment	47.46
Electricals	447.5
Toilet paper	33.11
Stationery	84.3
Furniture	32.56



# Items Collected and Reused



This year, we achieved an impressive 77% reuse rate, excluding waste and recycling.

- 30% reused on campus (2.9 tonnes)
- 47% reused off campus (3.8 tonnes)

In total, over 3.8 tonnes of items - including non-perishable food, clothing, cleaning products, and stationery - were donated to local charities.

These achievements demonstrate our growing impact and commitment to extending the life of valuable resources.

# Progress

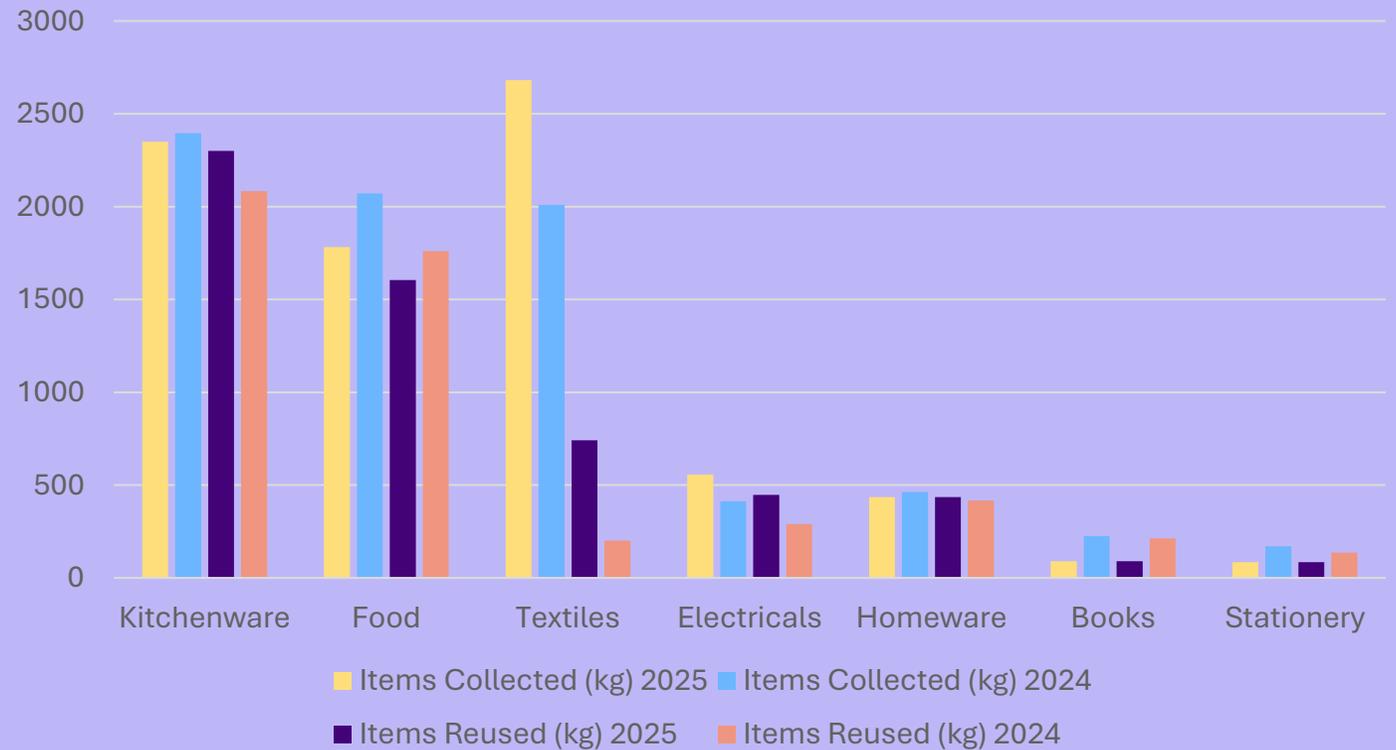
Fewer rooms were in use on campus in 2024/2025, but there was an increase in items collected and an increase in reuse.

Compared to 2023/24:

- 9% increase in total items collected
- 11% increase in reuse rate

These improvements reflect the growing awareness and engagement of our campus community in sustainable move-out practices.

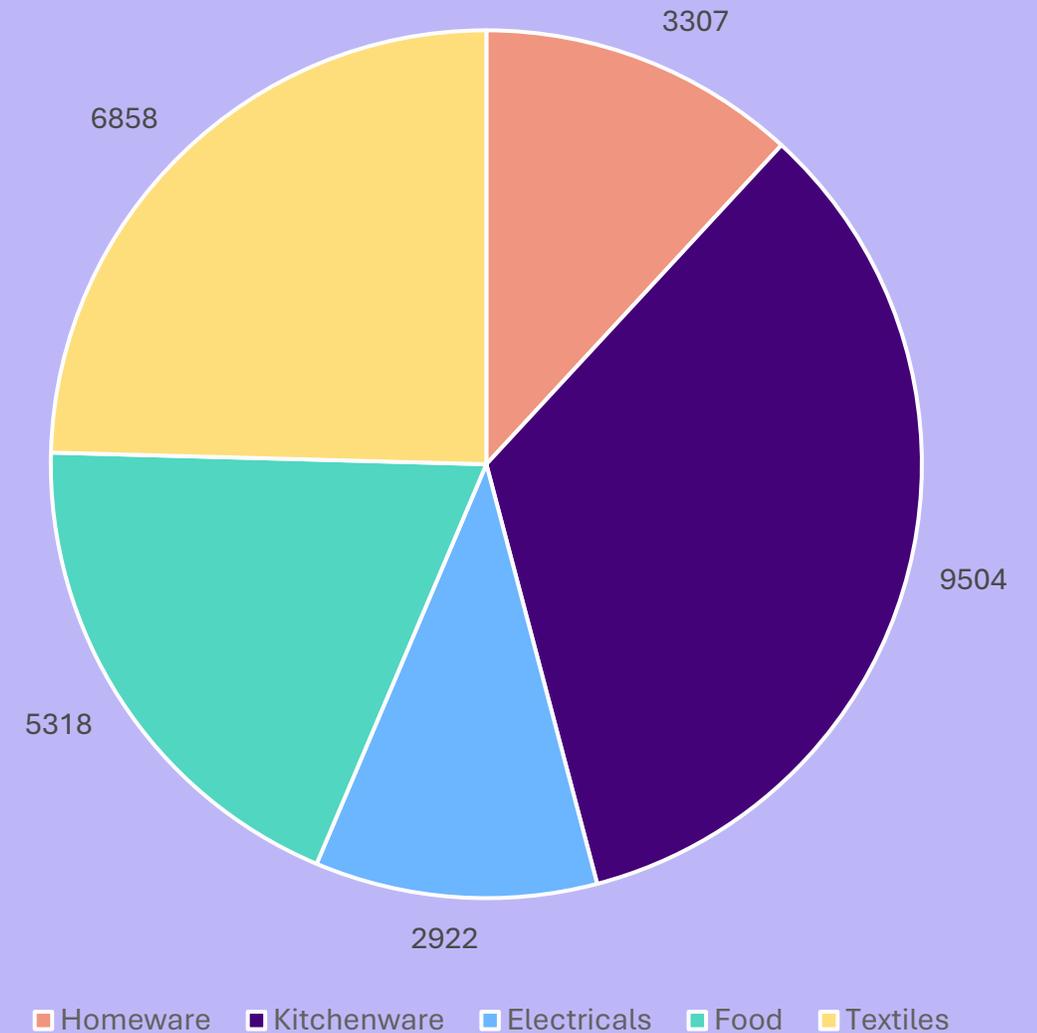
Year	Student Rooms Vacated	Tonnes of items collected	Tonnes of items reused
2023/24	7481	8.7	6
2024/25	7041	9.5	6.7



# Carbon Savings

The Donation Drive saved 31,654 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>, equivalent to driving 4.7 times around the world or powering 30.6 million phone charges.

The chart on the right highlights the top five item categories that achieved the greatest carbon savings.



# Volunteers

The Donation Drive was powered by 44 incredible volunteers - including staff, students, and local residents - who dedicated their time to sort, clean, and weigh donations.

Their enthusiasm and teamwork made it possible to process thousands of items efficiently and ensure everything found a new home. Our volunteers said:

*“Helping out with the Donation Drive was such a rewarding experience. It felt great knowing we were helping reduce waste and give items a second life. The team was very friendly and welcoming, the atmosphere was positive, and even though the work was physical, it was genuinely fun and energising!”* (Keshani Boosoo, Undergraduate, Warwick Medical School)

*“It was great to contribute to something that reduces waste, encourages circular economies, and gives back to the local community. I loved speaking with the other volunteers, charity partners, and organisers and learnt a lot from them.”* Ruqaiyah Jarviton, Undergraduate, Global Sustainable Development)



# Kitchen Kit Market

The Kitchen Kit Market ran for five days during Welcome Week (26–30 September), attracting 1,254 students and raising £5,102.43 for Carriers of Hope, a local charity supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

The Kitchen Kit Market received an average feedback rating of 4.73/5, with overwhelmingly positive comments such as:

*“Incredible initiative! Pretty much got everything we need — sustainable and economical :) Thank you!”*

*“Team was awesome, very helpful and organised. Loved the cause!”*

*“It’s a really great initiative!!! ... Almost all of the items were sold out within an hour. It’s a great resource for international students.”*



# Yard Sale

## Donation Drive Associated Project

At the end of term 2, we hosted the Yard Sale, giving students an opportunity to sell, donate, or rehome their unwanted belongings.

Highlights included:

- A student seller raising £120 for the Alzheimer's Society
- Others selling items to fund moves abroad, including to Ireland
- Numerous donations of kitchenware, stationery, and clothing collected for Carriers of Hope

In true circular fashion, the event was promoted using a repurposed departmental banner, created in collaboration with Design Studies students — giving materials a second life while communicating our sustainability values.



# Exchange Students' Library of Things

## Donation Drive Associated Project

In partnership with the Short-Term Mobility Team, we launched the Exchange Students' Library of Things, allowing visiting students to borrow essential items instead of purchasing new ones.

The Library was furnished using shelving reused from the Rootes Grocery Store, which was being refurbished, and stocked with items collected through the Donation Drive - giving both furniture and household goods a meaningful second life.

This pilot initiative supports a sharing culture on campus, reduces unnecessary consumption, and enhances the student experience for those staying short-term.



# Storage

To make sustainable move-out even more convenient, we partnered with Gilkes Removals to offer reduced-rate storage packages for Warwick students.

This collaboration helped 164 students store their belongings over the summer, reducing waste from last-minute disposals and making returns to campus easier.



## Discount Packages

All packages include **FREE** recycled boxes, **FREE** collection, **3 months storage** AND **delivery** within 30 miles!



**Basic Package**

Up to 5 items

Up to 20kg per item



**Premium Package**

Up to 10 items

Up to 20kg per item



**Deluxe Package**

Up to 15 items

Up to 20kg per item

“

*We are incredibly grateful to the University of Warwick and its students for their generosity. The donated items make a real difference for families and individuals in urgent need, helping to provide comfort and practical support at a difficult time*

Danielle Joyce - Head of Client Services, Carriers of Hope

