

# 2025

Day 2

PLENARY 3

12:15 PM  
Oct 23

## Community Organizations Leading Toward Zero Waste

**Moderator:** Daniella Menendez

Jessica Jane Robinson

**Speakers:** Laura Anthony

Eric Thomson Sargent



NATIONAL  
**ZERO**  
**WASTE**  
CONFERENCE





Resilience

Real people, real heroes.  
Real superheroes heal and restore the planet.

# Resilience Birthright: Empowering Communities Through Storytelling, Art, and Action



"The roots of war in the 21st century will be to gain access to the shrinking base of natural resources; Zero waste is the new peace movement."

- Eric Lombardi



# Who We Are

## Building Environmental Leadership Through Creative Education

01.

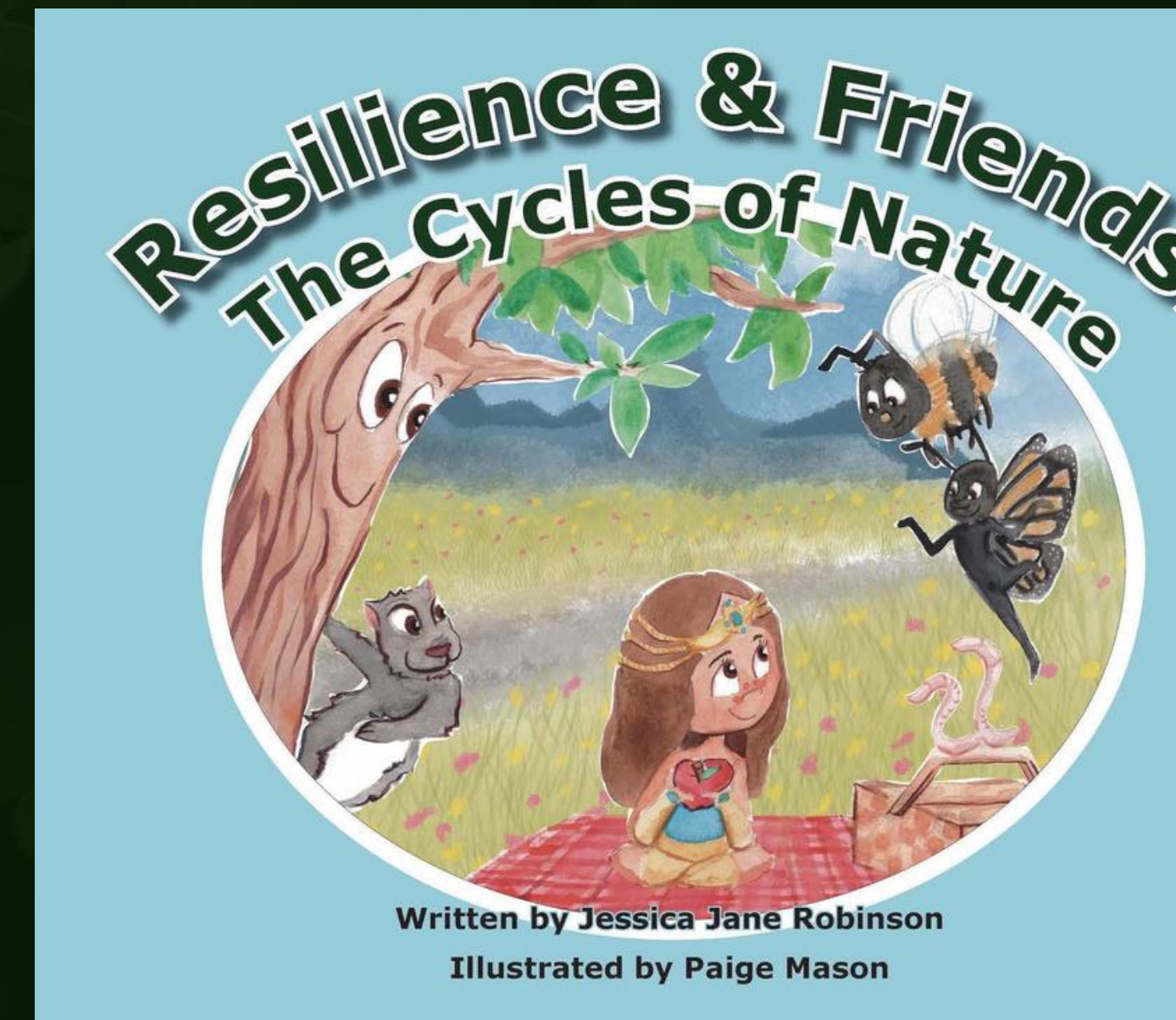
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND STORYTELLING ORGANIZATION

02.

ENGAGING YOUTH & COMMUNITIES THROUGH ART, FILM, AND ZERO WASTE PRINCIPLES

03.

MISSION: TO INSPIRE ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY, CIVIC LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE





# Our Community- Led Approach

- Hands-on community education
- Youth trained as ambassadors and advocates
- Partnerships with schools, cities, and local agencies
- Creative storytelling + real-world climate action



# The Story of the Cup



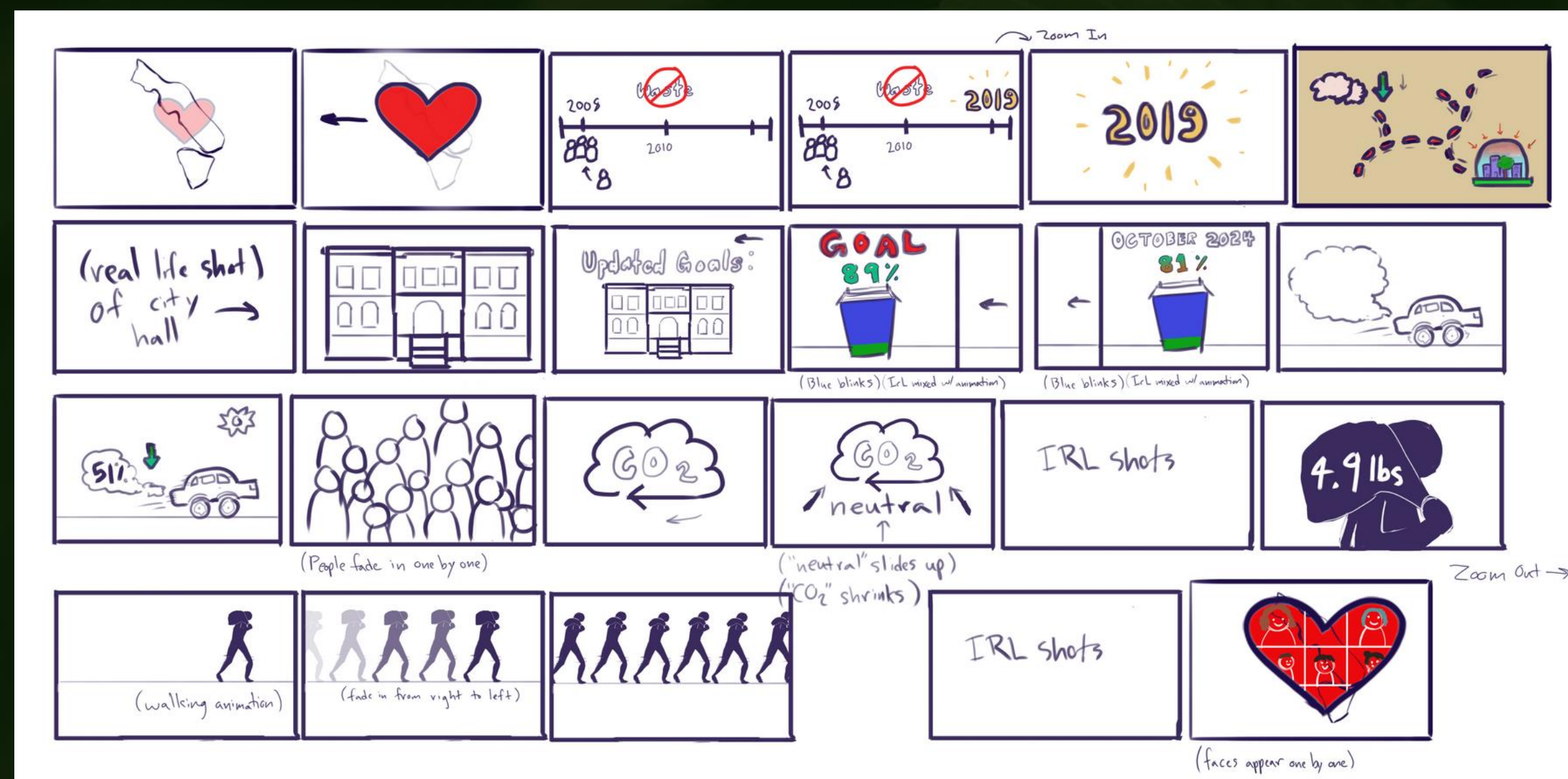
- Created with high school interns
- Explores life cycle of a single-use cup
- Promotes reuse and OKAPI Reusables program
- Screened in schools and community events
- Sparked local zero waste conversations

# Story of CARP

## Simplifying Climate Policy Through Art and Youth Voices



- Explains the City of Alameda's Climate Action & Resiliency Plan
- Co-Written by former Alameda High student Christen Choi
- Narrated and Illustrations by former Alameda High student Cristina Rodriguez
- Produced by Resilience Birthright Inc with support of the City of Alameda





# Youth Sustaining Peace

Connecting Zero Waste, Climate Action, and Peacebuilding



- Empowers youth to lead climate and community service projects
- Includes door-to-door outreach and school education
- Provides free compost kits, recycling guides, and local resources
- Builds youth leadership, communication, and advocacy skills





# Why Community Leadership Matters

## When Youth Lead, Communities Follow



- Builds trust and shared ownership
- Aligns with local city and state climate goals
- Turns policy into people-powered action
- Strengthens equity and sustainability in real time



# Looking Forward

## Expanding Impact



- More short films simplifying local climate action plans
- Scaling youth programs statewide
- Strengthening partnerships with schools and cities
- Continuing to merge art, education, and civic engagement



# Together, We Are Resilient



- Storytelling transforms systems
- Art empowers change
- Youth sustain peace



*Jessica Jane Robinson*  
Founder and CEO  
JessicaJaneRobinson@gmail.com



# From Pop-Ups to Permanent: Building Community Centered Repair Hubs

INTRODUCING THE REUSE & REPAIR COLLECTIVE:  
A ZERO WASTE SAN DIEGO PROJECT

# ZERO WASTE SAN DIEGO

A Small Organization With A Mighty Impact  
501(c)3 Non Profit - Founded in 2007

## Our Mission:

Zero Waste San Diego promotes and manages zero waste programs and events, advocates for policy changes that promote a zero waste society, and educates people on how they can reduce the effects of climate change through sustainable resource management.

## Our Objectives:

- Maximize management and conservation of resources
- Reduce discard-related greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.
- Educate and persuade citizens, businesses, and governments in the San Diego County region to adopt and enact zero-waste principles.
- Provide ideas and guidance through the process of making and implementing zero waste plans in our region.

## Flagship Programs:

- Zero Waste Symposium
- SD Fixit Clinic

The logo for Zero Waste San Diego features the words "Zero Waste" in a large, green, handwritten-style font. The word "Zero" is positioned above "Waste". A thick, green, hand-drawn brushstroke arches over the text, framing it from above and to the right. Below the main text, the words "SAN DIEGO" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white circular background.

SAN DIEGO

# Zero Waste Symposium

The Zero Waste Symposium is our premier annual event, bringing together thought leaders, innovators, and sustainability professionals to drive action and inspire change.

**2026 will be our 13<sup>th</sup> Symposium.**

## Event Details:

- **Date: February 18, 2026**
- **Audience: We expect over 250 attendees, sold out last year! We offer both in-person and virtual tickets.**



# San Diego Fixit Clinic

- Kicked off in January 2016
- Powered by passionate volunteers
- Happening 2-3 times a month
- Recognized by the EPA in 2024



## Impact Report

**300+**

Events  
hosted

**40,000 lbs**

Waste  
Diverted

**73%**

Success  
Rate



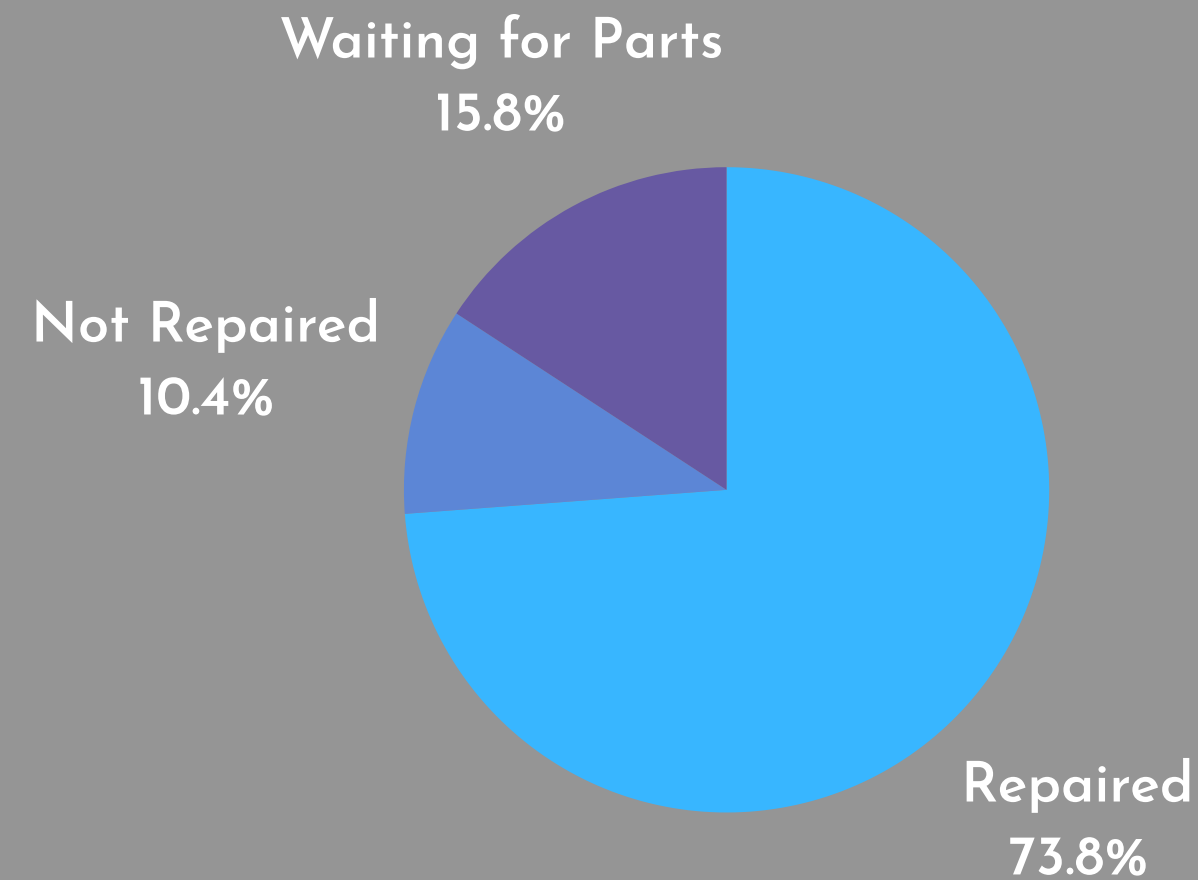
# 2025 Snapshot

## Attendance

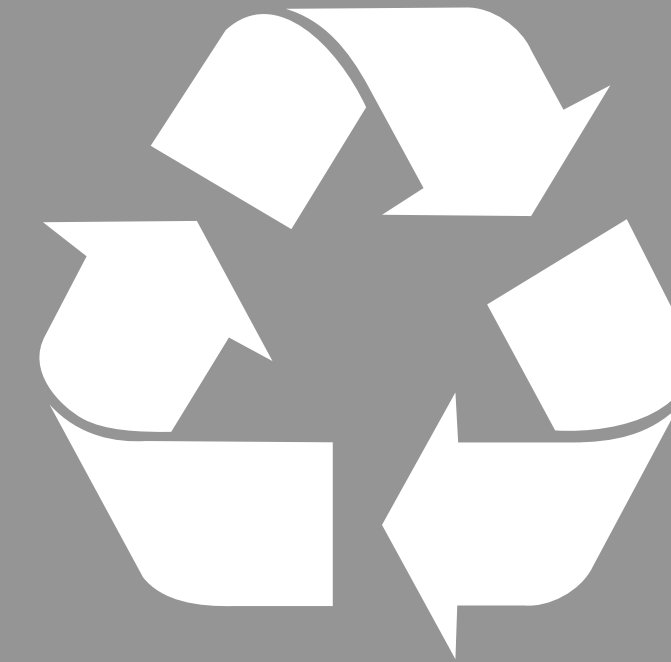


1,222 (27)

## Success Rate

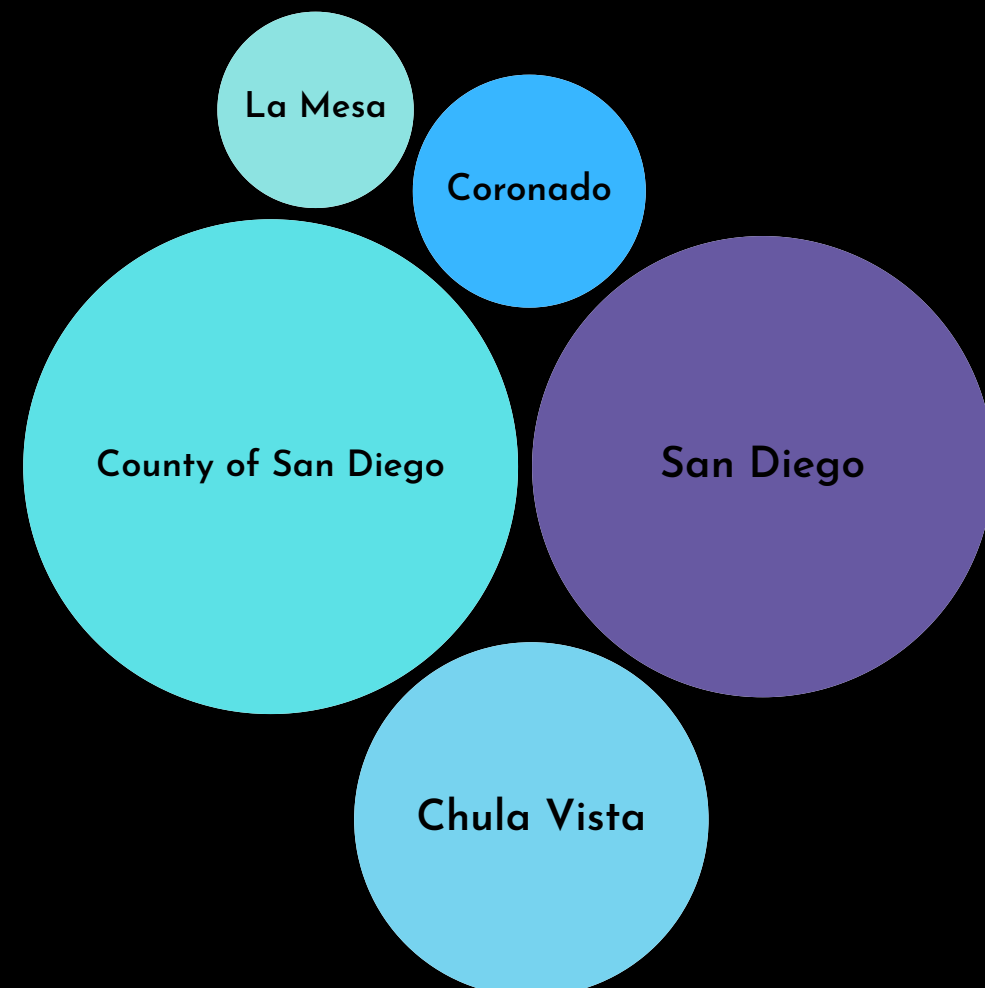


## Diversion Rate



8,920 lbs diverted from landfill through repair or recycling

## Communities Served



## Volunteer Hours



1,875

## Top Items Repaired

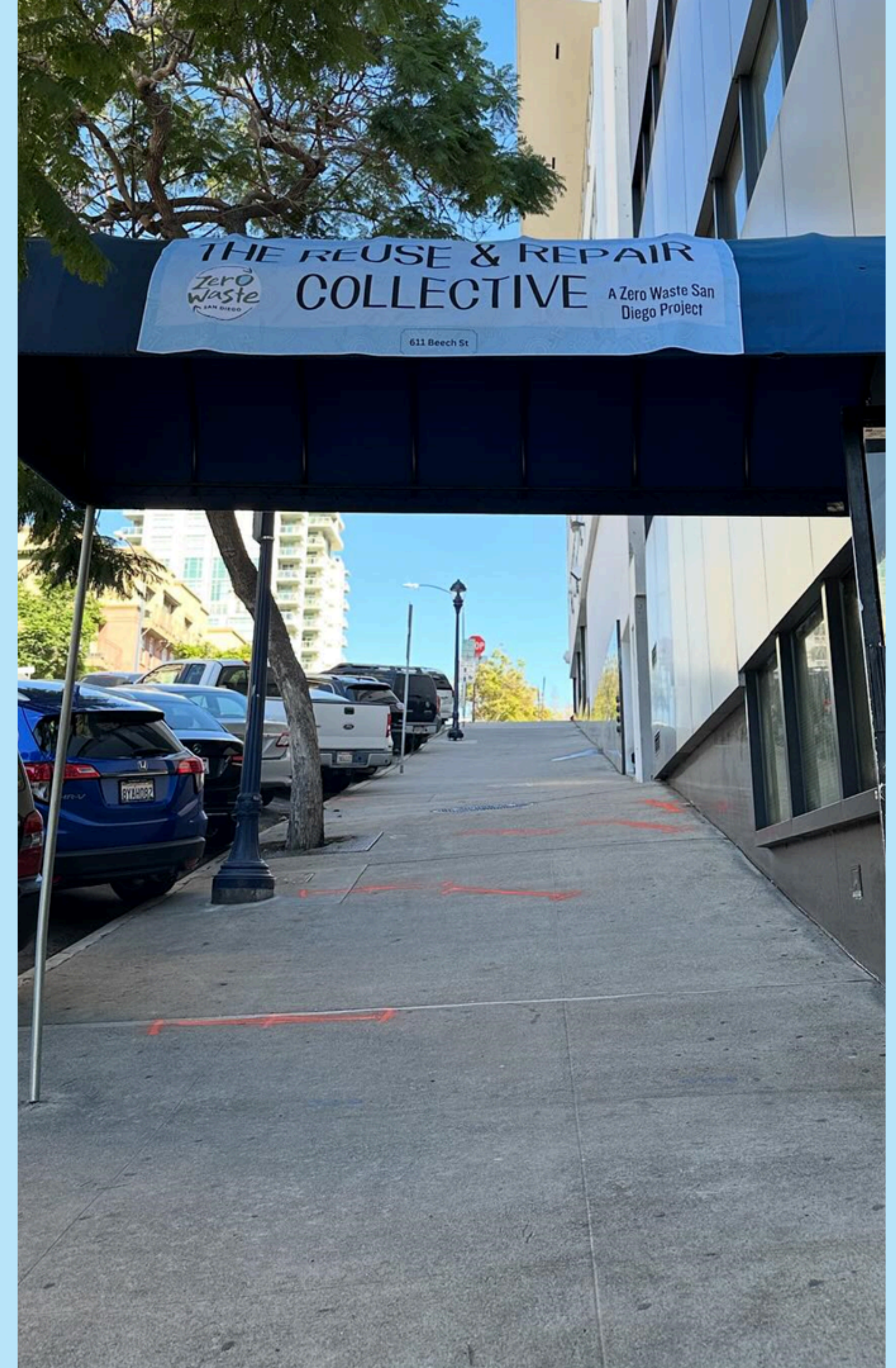
1. Lamps
2. Toasters
3. Blenders
4. Heaters/Fans
5. CD/DVD Players
6. Espresso Machine
7. Clothes
8. Stuffed Toys
9. Jewelry
10. Bicycles
11. Turntable

# Reuse & Repair Collective

- **7000 square feet**
- **6 Classrooms**
- **Tool Lending Library (coming soon)**
- **Repair Classes**
- **Makerspace/Coworking Space**
- **Fee-based repair available.**

## Grand Opening Ceremony:

- **Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025**
- **611 Beech St, San Diego, CA 92101**
- **Audience: We had over 120 attendees**



# Inside the Collective

- **Leased signed May 1, 2025**
- **Old abandoned school**
- **Heavily discounted rent**
  - **2 tenants**
- **100% volunteer and community contribution**
- **90% items donated**



**WORK IN PROGRESS**

nsformati

and Repair Colle

# New Website

NOW OPEN: VISIT THE REUSE & REPAIR COLLECTIVE, LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO



DONATE

HOME

ABOUT US ▾

EDUCATION ▾

EVENTS ▾

GET INVOLVED

VISIT

## VISIT THE REUSE & REPAIR COLLECTIVE IN DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

The Reuse & Repair Collective, a Zero Waste San Diego project, offers San Diego residents of all skill levels access to tools, repair knowledge, and a hands-on project space where you can learn repair skills, extend the life of your belongings, and connect with neighbors.

BECOME A MEMBER

SUPPORT OUR WORK

MEMBER LOGIN



Privacy - Terms

# The Tool Shed



I CAN  
- and -  
I WILL

# The Bike Room



# The Textile Room



# The Community Room



# The Workshop



# Our Tenants



Positive Phee: Blending fashion, sustainability, and fun through Sip & Style community events.



Be Creative Zone: We save stuff from the landfill for funky folk art and creative upcycling.

# Our Equipment

**GovDeals**<sup>®</sup>

A Liquidity Services Marketplace

**OfferUp**

buy. sell. simple.



*Donate Supplies  
from our*  
**amazon** *wishlist*  
[Click Here](#)



**Will J Reid  
Foundation**

# Our Events



Thu, Oct 23, 6pm - 7:30pm PDT  
**The Crafty Rebelle - Sustainable Crafting - ...**  
 The Reuse and Repair Collective, San Diego CA, United States



Mon, Oct 27, 5:30pm - 7:30pm PDT  
**Blockprinting Workshop hosted by Stitch Iyagi**  
 The Reuse and Repair Collective, San Diego CA, United States



Tue, Oct 28, 6pm - 9pm PDT + 8 dates  
**Collaging Stuff hosted by Be Creative Zone**  
 Reuse and Repair Collective, San Diego CA, United States



Thu, Nov 6, 6pm - 6:30pm PST  
**The Crafty Rebelle - Sustainable Crafting - ...**  
 The Reuse and Repair Collective, San Diego CA, United States



Sun, Nov 9, 1pm - 1:45pm PST + 1 date  
**Sewing Refresher**  
 The Reuse and Repair Collective, San Diego CA, United States



Sun, Nov 9, 2pm - 4pm PST + 1 date  
**Monthly Mending Workshop**  
 The Reuse and Repair Collective, San Diego CA, United States



# Our Partnerships



**EnvirGreen**  
Electronic Recycling Services

# Next Steps

**1**

Working Out the Kinks

**EMBRACE  
CHALLENGES!**

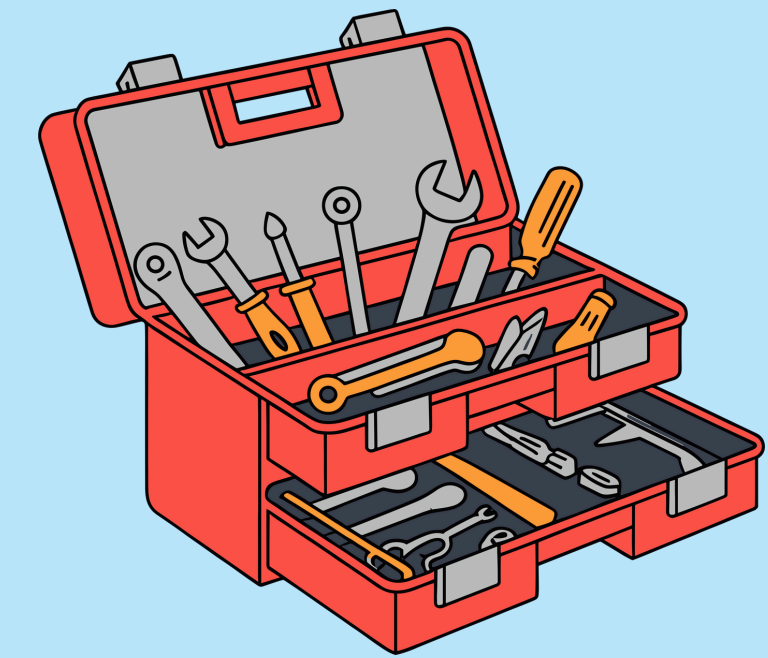
**2**

The Flow



**3**

Tool Library



**4**


Mentorship



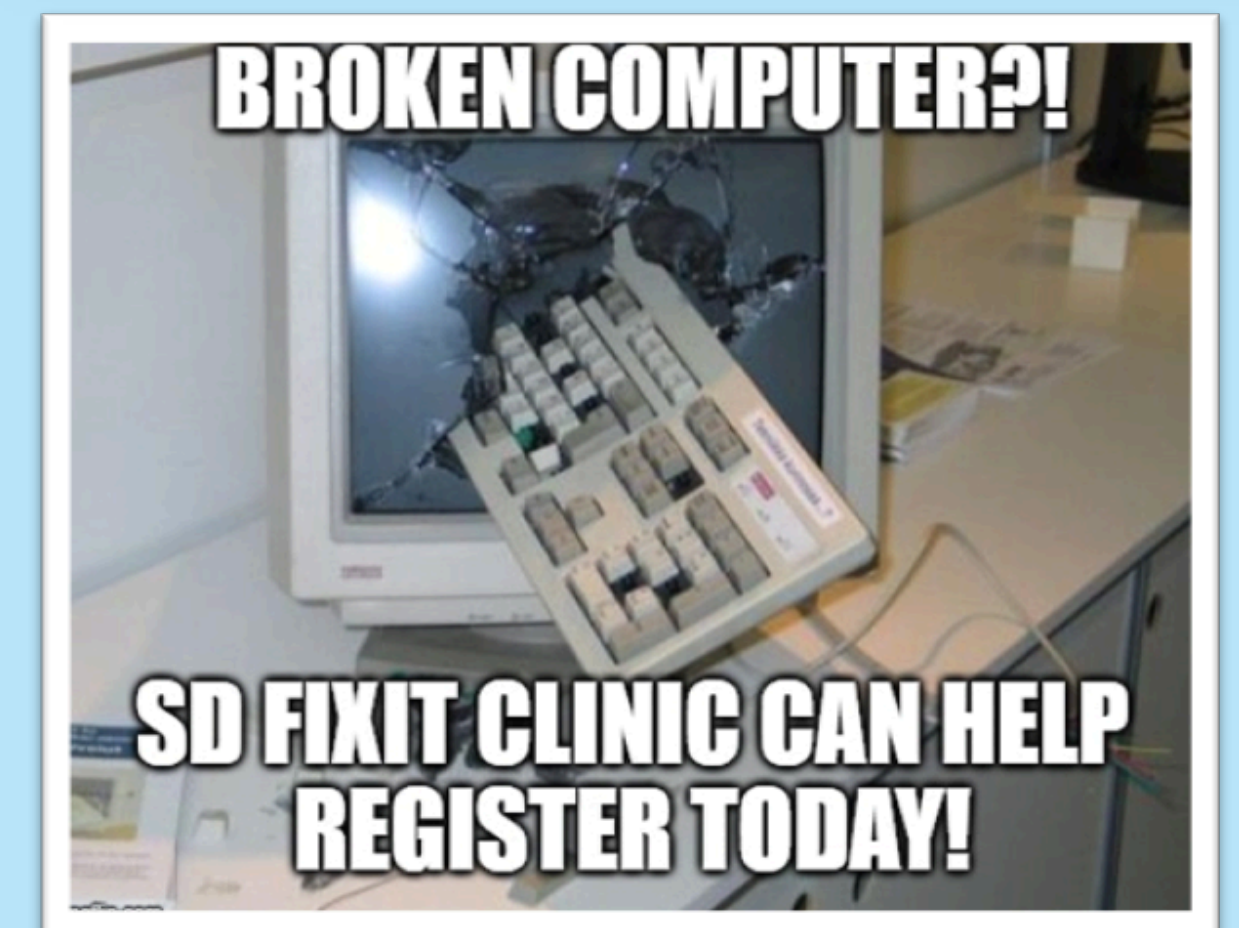
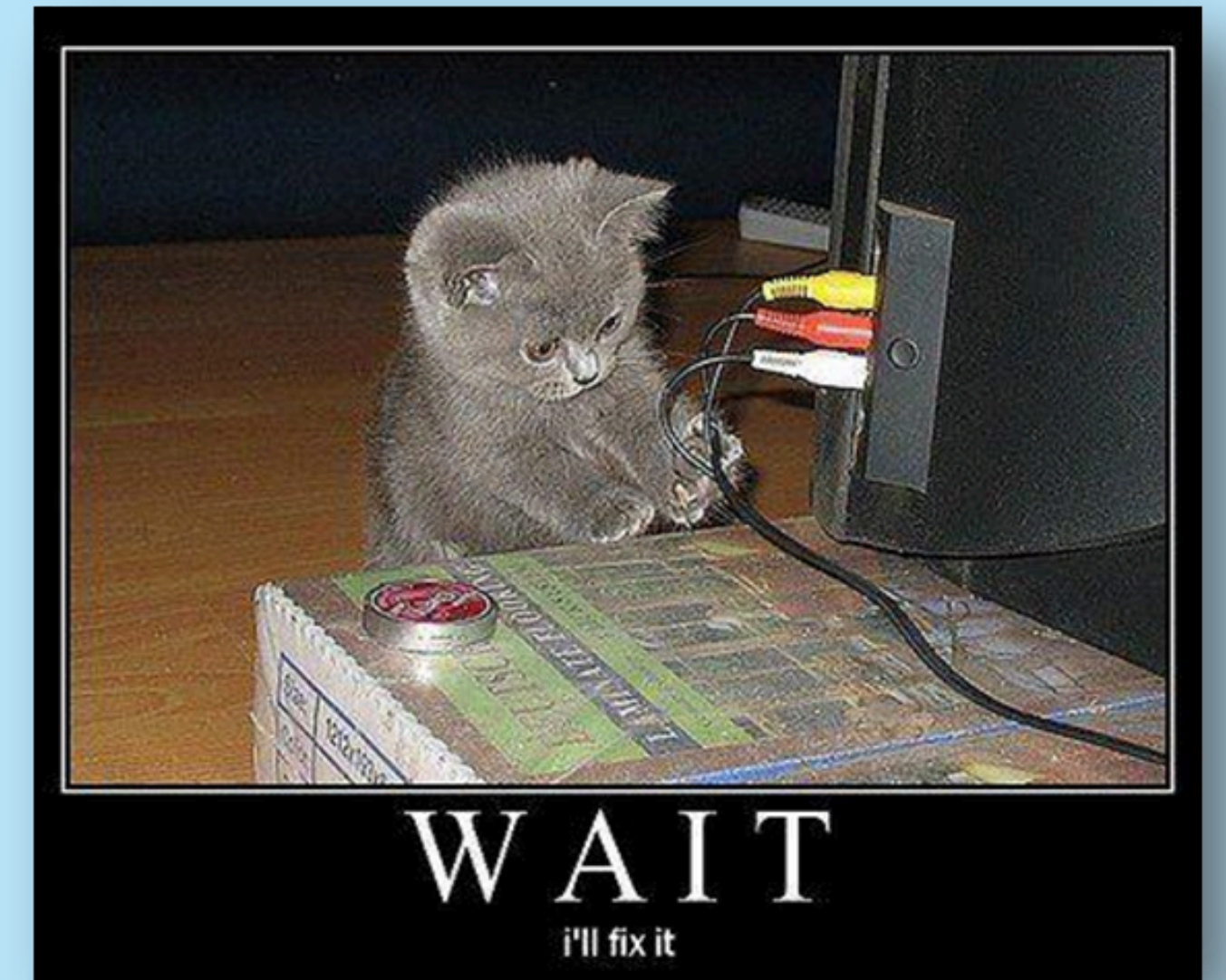
# Thank you!

**Laura Anthony**  
**Director**  
**Zero Waste San Diego**

 [lauraa@zerowastesandiego.org](mailto:lauraa@zerowastesandiego.org)

 [lauraanthony](#)

 [zerowastesd](#)



# Building The Circular Economy Community in Boston

By: Eric Sargent



CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
CLUB  
*Boston*

# About Me

**Bard MBA**  
IN SUSTAINABILITY



pixel.frame



 CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
CLUB  
*Boston*





August 2022

Eric Sargent

completed

## Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies

Cambridge Judge Business School  
Executive Education  
University of Cambridge



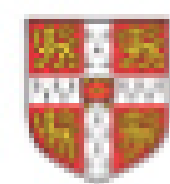
**Allison Wheeler Heau**

Director of Open Programmes  
Cambridge Judge Business School  
Executive Education  
University of Cambridge



**Jane Davies**

Director  
Cambridge Judge Business School  
Executive Education  
University of Cambridge



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Judge Business School

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**Executive**Education





CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
C L U B

*Boston*

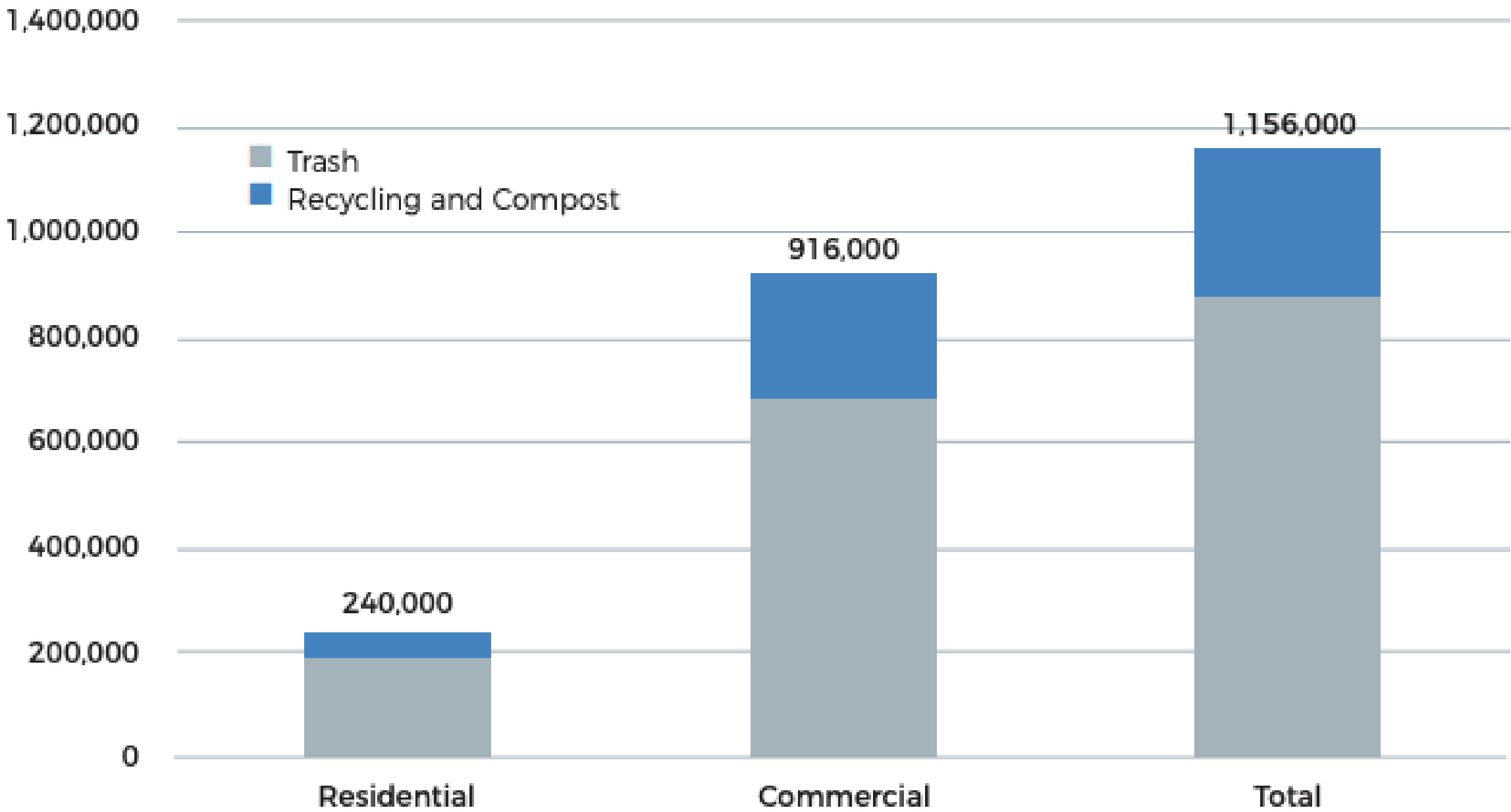
# Status of Waste in Boston \*

1,156,000 tons of waste annually

Only 20% of annual residential sector waste in Boston currently diverted from disposal

Only 25% of annual commercial sector waste in Boston diverted from disposal

**FIGURE 1: BOSTON'S RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ANNUAL TRASH, RECYCLING AND COMPOST TONS**



Source: Perlmutter Associates 2018, derived from Boston Public Works Department "FY 17 Actual Tonnages and Tip Fee by District;" Mass DEP "2017 Solid Waste Data Update" (includes MSW, C&D and Non-MSW disposal); California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery "2014 California Commercial Generator Waste Study" (Tons Per Employee Per Day).

\* Boston Zero Waste Plan: [https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/imce-uploads/2019-06/zero\\_waste\\_bos\\_recs\\_final.pdf](https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/imce-uploads/2019-06/zero_waste_bos_recs_final.pdf)

meetup



**DDIY:**  
don't do it yourself  
MAKING IS BETTER WITH OTHERS



 **VENTURE CAFÉ**  
Connecting innovators to make things happen  
CAMBRIDGE

**cic**

**eventbrite**



3 Volunteers

2 Hour Workshop

20+ Attendees

For every Circular Initiative, add: Initiative (4-5 words), Location, by Name of Organization, Type of Organization

**CITIES**  
buildings, infrastructure, mobility, logistics, energy, waste management

**CONSUMER PRODUCTS & ELECTRONICS**  
mobile phones, computers, hygiene products, toys

**FASHION & other textiles**

**FOOD & BEVERAGES**  
Including agriculture and restaurants

**MANUFACTURING**  
equipment, furniture, paper, plastics, chemicals, mining

**OTHER**  
Financial services, tourism, healthcare, professional services

## DESIGN

e.g.: design for disassembly, c2c, ...

Example: Ooho edible water bottle, London, by Skipping Rocks Lab (startup)

## RESOURCES

e.g.: biodegradable materials, renewable energy, clean processes, no hazardous chemicals, clean packaging, ...

Example:  
A building constructed out of fully re-useable components, London, by ARUP (business)

## BUSINESS MODELS

e.g.: product as a service, rent, re-sell, lease, ...

## PRODUCT LIFE EXTENSION

e.g.: reuse, share, redistribute, donate, repair, remanufacture, ...

## WASTE AS A RESOURCE

e.g.: recycling, compost, energy from waste

Try to identify initiatives from different Type of Organization

- **Business:** Corporate, SME, startup
- **Education:** University, research institute, school
- **Government:** Local, national, regional, international
- **Investment:** VC Fund, accelerator, incubator
- **Support:** Consulting, media, non-profits, recruiting, associations, events
- Individual

# Relevant Topic Areas In Boston

## Cleantech

MASSACHUSETTS  
CLEAN ENERGY  
CENTER®

CLEAN  
TECH  
OPEN

Greentown  
Labs

Leading  
Cities

## Circular Economy

CIRCULAR ECONOMY  
CLUB  
Boston

MAPSC

ReThink  
Disposable  
STOP WASTE BEFORE IT STARTS

## Zero Waste

MassDEP  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Environmental Protection

just zero

ZERO WASTE BOSTON

## Entrepreneurship

EforAll  
Turning Dreams into Businesses

IMPACT  
HUB Boston

MASS VENTURES

Startup  
BOSTON

## Workforce Development

BGS  
Browning the Green Space

LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
MASSACHUSETTS

Mayor's Office of  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT

## Manufacturing

FORGE

wim | women in  
manufacturing®

MASSACHUSETTS  
TECHNOLOGY  
COLLABORATIVE

This is for demonstration purposes only. This does not capture the total list of players in each category.

# Current Technology Areas - Examples

## Recycling

- ChopValue - Chopsticks
- Rstream - Waste Sorting
- Valis Insights - Scrap metal recycling
- MacroCycle - zero carbon plastics recycling
- Graff Inc. - textile waste recycling
- Scrapp LLC - recycling barcode scanner
- Rezzi - Smart bins
- Magnomer - Magnetic Inks

## Reusables

- USEFULL - Cups and Containers
- Redi - Sanitization tech
- Bevi - IOT beverage dispenser

## Product/Materia

- Sublime Systems - Low Carbon Cement
- Ascend Elements - batteries made from spent lithium batteries

## Organics

- Flow - biodigestores
- Black Earth - composting
- Mori - food preservation enhancement
- Divert - data to prevent food waste
- Brewers foods - spent grain into crackers
- Pero Renewables- Biobased plastics from agave and oysters

# Levers for Change - Examples

## Policy

- Extended Producer Responsibility
- H.B847/S.B534 - Bill and fund for small business transitioning to circularity
- Advocacy Orgs
- Deconstruction ordinance



## Innovation

- Incubators - Greentown Go
- Academic- Materials and Design (D3 Labs)
- MassCEC Tech-to-Market Funding



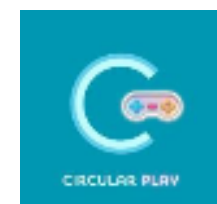
## Small Business

- Refill stations
- ReStores
- Repair shops
- Zero waste stores
- Thrift stores



## Education

- MIT Certification Programs
- Rethink Disposable
- Circular Cities Week
- Circular Play



# Gaps In Current Ecosystem

- Common shared definition and metrics
- Inventory of who is active in ecosystem
- Affordable land for commercial and industrial use
- Data and research on the circular economy ecosystem
- Creating strategic intersections between programs/organizations
- Housing affordability for attracting and retaining talent
- Driving design as a key lever for circular economy

# Gaps In Entities

- Lack of focus within existing entities on circular economy
- Local investment fund dedicated to circular economy
- Organization to coordinate regional solutions
- Philanthropic dollars for non-profits working on circular economy
- Enabling infrastructure like wash hubs

# Circular Cities Week!

Goal: Bring together at least 60 stakeholders and amplify the story of circular economy in Boston



# Circular Cities Week 2022



51 people



\$200



3 Events



7 partners



Food Waste and the Circular Economy



Circular Economy 101 and Mapping the Circular Economy in Boston



Construction in the Circular Economy



# Circular Cities Week 2023



106 people



\$4,000



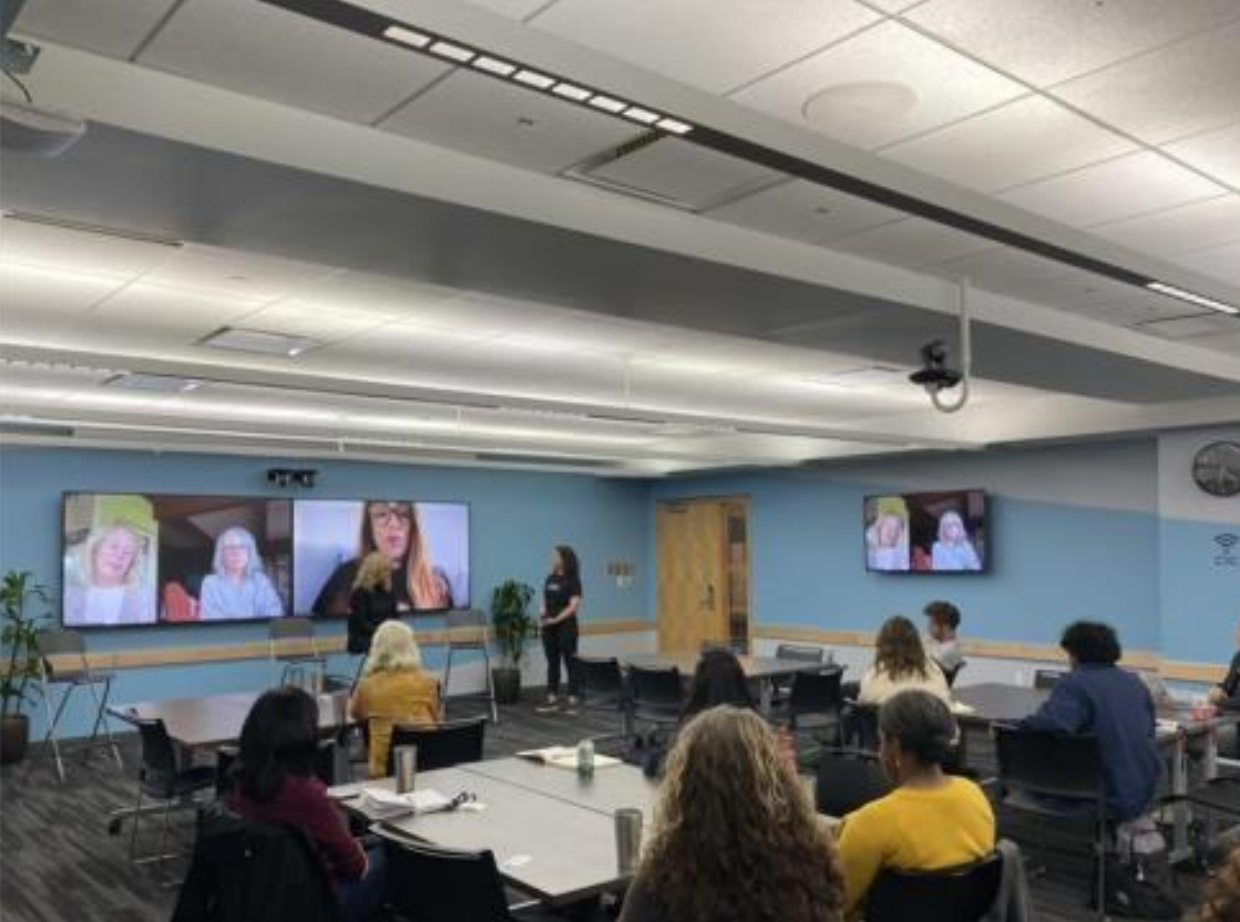
4 Events



14 partners



Circularity in the Food Industry:  
Finding the Value in Waste



Evaluating MA Policy for Circularity  
and Sustainability



ChopValue Microfactory Tour, Free  
Sushi, and Panel Discussion



# Circular Cities Week 2023



120 people



\$8,000



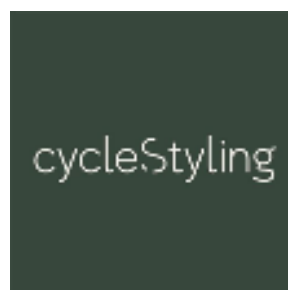
4 Events



25 Partners



Defining Circularity



Driving Circularity



Demonstrating Circularity



# The Wicked Circular Market



Spaces like the Wicked Circular Market help to show what is possible for circularity in Boston!



## Goals

- Provide opportunities for people to engage beyond shopping/purchase
- Convene and connect related businesses
- Build on local culture/holidays/traditions to reduce waste

## Vendors

- Zero waste stores
- Upcycled clothing
- Reuse services
- Repair services

## Activities

- Candy wrapper recycling
- Collaging
- Learning/lightning talks/workshops
- Plant propagation

# Our Impact



60+ members



30+ Events



42+  
partners

“...cannot end the day without thanking the Circular Economy Community in Boston. It is among the most thoughtful, kind, compassionate, mission driven, and communal communities I've ever been a part of...”

- *Wicked Circular Market Attendee*



“...Along with getting to share our vision for how Redi Technology, Inc. can promote the sanitary reuse of personal containers, we got to meet many other businesses, non-profits, and individuals that are dedicated to reducing waste and building a thriving circular economy.”

- *Market Vendor*

# How do we do it?

## Start Small and Organize!

- One-on-one networking
- Momentum and small events
- Forming committee
- Building infrastructure
  - Website, social, newsletter etc.
- Recruiting volunteers
- Fiscal sponsorship

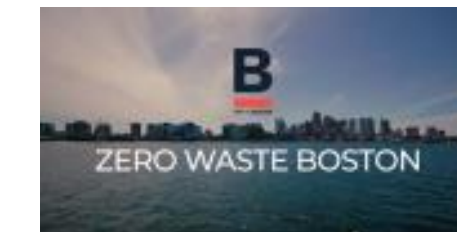


# Vision for Circular Economy Ecosystem in Boston

## Cleantech



## Zero Waste



## Entrepreneurship



## Workforce Development



## Manufacturing

