

Reuse and Repair

Endorsing a circular economy approach to waste reduction means moving away from recycling as the answer to managing materials, and moving to reusable items instead of single use and/or recyclable items. Reuse is considered “upcycling,” or extending the life of an item in its same form with minimal processing.

StopWaste has taken several approaches to support and improve the reuse, repair, and redistribution infrastructure in Alameda County.

Grant Funding

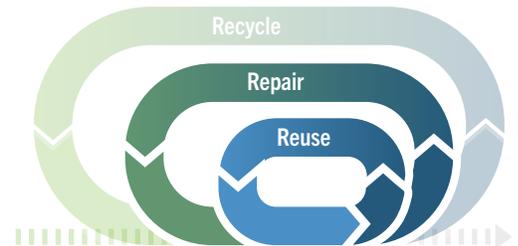
Over the past 10 years, StopWaste has provided close to \$1 million in financial support to organizations reusing and redistributing materials that may have otherwise been landfilled. Grants of up to \$50,000 focus on reuse (including reusable foodware and transport packaging), redistribution, deconstruction, repair and edible food recovery.

Reuse and Repair Stakeholder Working Group

Last year, we started to connect reuse, repair, redistribution, and deconstruction entities to learn from each other. Feedback from this group helps refine our grants program and ensure that a viable reuse infrastructure remains in the county. The group provides an opportunity to share resources and have a collective local voice on reuse and repair issues.

Partnerships

In addition to the Reuse and Repair Stakeholder Group, StopWaste is a part of the Bay Area Deconstruction Network, NexGen Foodware Workshop, and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Collectively, these groups are working to build infrastructure for reuse/repair/redistribution and demonstrate the climate benefits (greenhouse gas reductions) from these activities.



Like recycling, repair and reuse minimize the need for virgin materials and reduce the amount of material sent to the landfill. Both are preferable alternatives to recycling, since it requires substantially fewer resources to reuse or repair an item than to recover and process the materials into something else.



Targeting the four million propane canisters disposed of in California every year, a grant from StopWaste in coordination with the California Product Stewardship Council helped fund a campaign offering free refillable propane canisters in exchange for empty disposable canisters. For more information visit RefuelYourFun.org.