



DATE: December 9, 2021

TO: Programs and Administration Committee

FROM: Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Reuse and Repair Stakeholder Workgroup and Grantee Highlight

SUMMARY

StopWaste convenes the Reuse and Repair Stakeholder Workgroup, which is comprised of Bay Area-based reuse, repair and redistribution leaders from both the nonprofit sector and private industry. The group works on best practices and policies that advance the recovery, reuse and distribution of recovered and repaired materials. At the December 9 Committee meeting, staff will provide an overview of the workgroup and highlight one of the participating organizations, Oakland-based Tech Exchange.

DISCUSSION

For over a decade StopWaste has provided funding and support to the reuse and repair industry in Alameda County to create and retain reuse and repair infrastructure and services. In 2017, staff convened the first Reuse and Repair Stakeholder Workgroup to engage organizations involved with reuse, repair and redistribution of goods to gain a better understanding of the opportunities and barriers that currently face the industry.

The quarterly meetings provide an opportunity for the local industry to meet one another, leverage current work and create industry partnerships.

Early in the pandemic, the workgroup transitioned from in-person networking meetings to virtual so that members could continue to collaborate, share funding opportunities, as well as other resources specific to the industry. Informal virtual tours were incorporated into the video calls, which allowed workgroup members to view facilities and provided a great way to stay connected and understand other businesses.

At the committee meeting, staff will provide additional information about the workgroup and introduce a guest presenter from Oakland's Tech Exchange to share more about their work on providing free refurbished computers and digital literacy training to low-income families.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.