

2022



Annual Report

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Reuse DC Overview

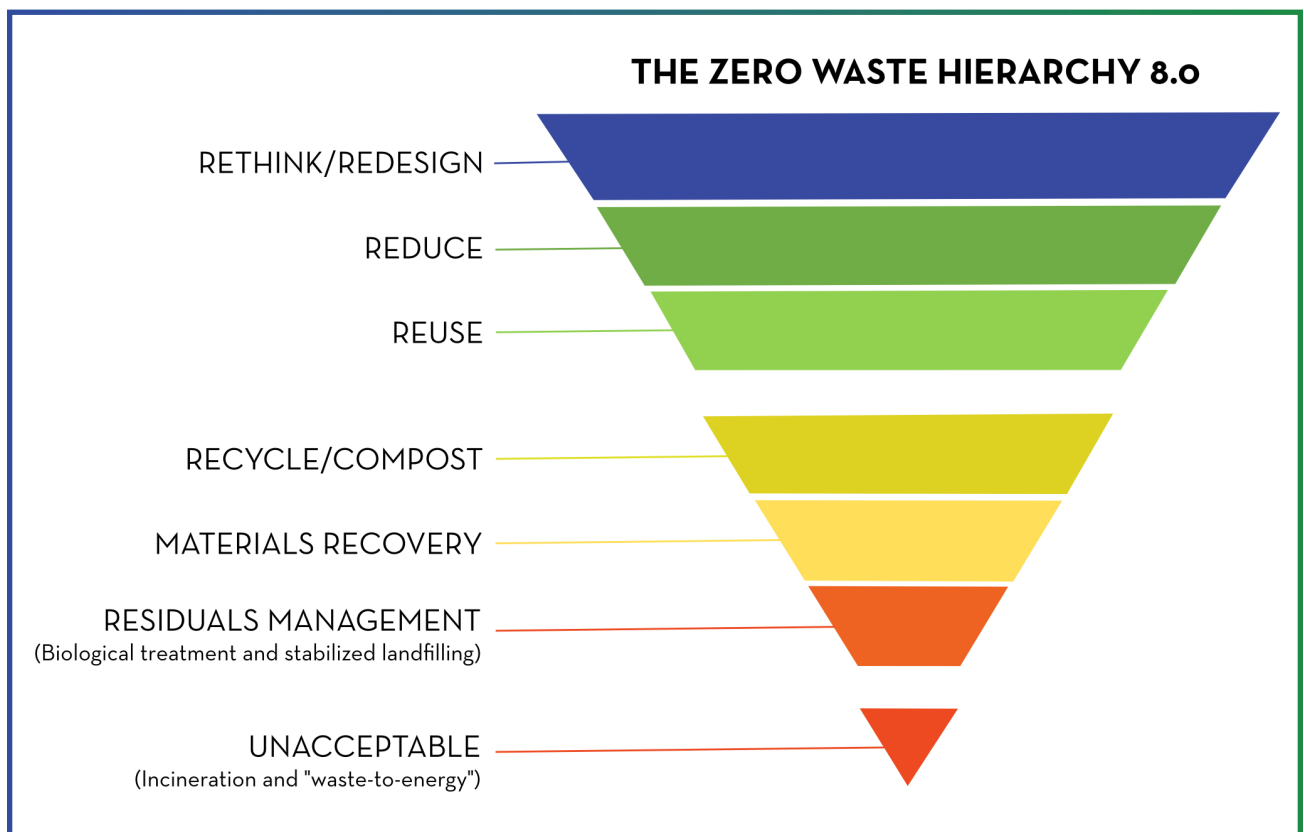
Reuse DC, a new District of Columbia Government program housed in the Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE), was established in 2022 to increase waste diversion from landfills and incineration by advancing donation and reuse infrastructure, programs, services, and public awareness. Reuse DC recognizes that donation and reuse is preferred over other forms of waste diversion because not only does it prevent waste, but it also provides valuable resources to those in need. The program's broad mandates were outlined in the *Zero Waste Omnibus Act of 2020*, and include website creation, public awareness, infrastructure, food recovery, emergency response, and grants.

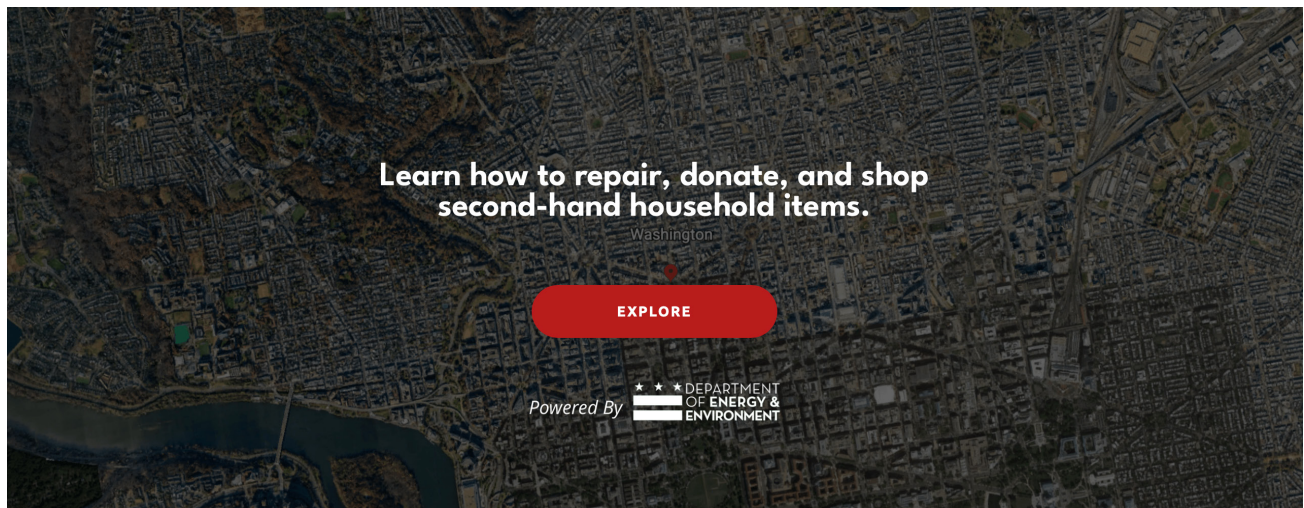
DOEE is required to report Reuse DC's accomplishments and activities annually. This report covers calendar year 2022, the program's first year of activities.

The first year of the program's highlights include:

1. The official launch of the program and its website, [Reuse.dc.gov](https://reuse.dc.gov)
2. Establishment of the donation and reuse grant program
3. Hosting of awareness campaigns promoting sustainable options around donation and reuse
4. Relaunching the ReThread DC and support for Fix-it DC

The Department of Public Work's Office of Waste Diversion is responsible for developing the District's Zero Waste Plan, has adopted by the Zero Waste International Alliance's waste hierarchy ([zwia.org](https://www.zwia.org)). The hierarchy describes policy, strategies, and programs starting with the highest and best at the top to the lowest use of material resources at the bottom. Reuse DC is an important part of the District's waste solution, as reuse sits near the top of the hierarchy.





[Reuse.dc.gov](https://reuse.dc.gov) launched in September 2022 and serves as the District's hub for learning where to repair, donate, and shop for second-hand household items. The website was created through a collaboration between DOEE and the District's Office of the Chief Technology Officer and it makes seeking out reuse in the District easier and more convenient. In the first three months, the website had over 20,000 page views and 8,000 visits to the website.

The website features a web-based searchable directory of 126 (and growing) reuse entities. Users can search for places to repair, donate or shop second-hand in 24 product categories.

We need your help! The directory and events page is only useful if it stays current. See a missing reuse entity on the directory? Know about a reuse event that should be listed? Let us know via the submission forms on [Reuse.dc.gov](https://reuse.dc.gov) or email reuse@dc.gov.

Search Entities

Results

Clothes Encounters LLC
202 7th Street Southeast
Washington, District of Columbia 20003

Current Boutique
1318 14th Street Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20005

Dress for Success
1533 9th Street Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20001

Ella-Rue
3231 P Street Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20007

Fia's Fabulous Finds
806 Upshur Street Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20011

Frugulista
3055 Mount Pleasant Street Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20009

Donation and Reuse Grants

Reuse DC makes grants available for donation and reuse projects through a partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Trust and DOEE's Small and Accessible Grant Program. In 2022, Reuse DC awarded \$64,000 in grants to the following eight organizations:

A Wider Circle

\$8,500 to support the Essential Support Program, which provided donated beds, furniture, and home goods to more than 170 households in the District during the grant period.

Common Good City Farm

\$10,000 to launch the Preservation Workshops, a series of adult education classes that focused on reducing waste and maximizing dollars through the practice of food preservation and mending.

Community Forklift

\$10,000 to create the "Monumental Reuse" engagement campaign to highlight the environmental dangers of excess building waste and share ways to reduce and divert these materials from the waste stream.

Frontline Gig, Inc

\$7,000 to estimate reuse potential in illegal dumping via a park waste characterization.

ShopReuse LLC

\$9,892 to support an information campaign about second-hand construction material opportunities, including direct engagement with individuals working in construction.

The Fresh Food Factory Market

\$10,000 to support the purchase of reusable bags and a freezer to aid in preservation of food donations.

The Salvation Army National Capital Area Command

\$2,500 to pilot food rescue from three major food retail locations.

Three Part Harmony Farm

\$6,731.09 to triple cold storage capacity via solar power and prevent produce spoilage.



Community Forklift's Monumental Reuse engagement campaign.



Common Good City Farm's food preservation workshop.

Fix-It DC and ReThread DC

Fix-It DC

DOEE's community repair event program relaunched in spring of 2022. Volunteer coaches and participants learn together as they examine broken household items and attempt to repair them. The events encourage a culture of repair and reuse over buying new, and empower residents both as participants and as volunteer repair coaches. In 2022, eight events were held in partnership with the Labs at DC Public Library at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. In total, 167 attendees participated and over 672 pounds of material was repaired and diverted from the trash.



A Fix-It DC coach and participant working together to fix an item.

ReThread DC

In 2022, Reuse DC relaunched DOEE's ReThread DC initiative, which provides residents and visitors with resources for decreasing the impact that their clothing (and other textiles) have on the environment. ReThread DC partnered with the community for the following four events:



ReThread DC hosted a Swap Fair at the DC State Fair

Swap DC at DC State Fair

Swap DC hosted a free clothing swap event at the 2022 DC State Fair, located at Gateway DC in Congress Heights. The swap had 104 visitors attend the event, with 78 donating clothes and 10 receiving customization to upcycle their new finds.

Sustainable Fashion Policy 101

In partnership with Remake, Climate Classes DC, and GW Sustainable Fashion, Reuse DC participated on a panel discussion and tabling with local sustainable organizations at the GWU Textile Museum on September 24, 2022. The event highlighted how policy coupled with individual action can be a mechanism for transformative change within the fashion industry.

Climate Classes' Swapping for the Holidays: 'Tis the Season of Re-Gifting

On December 17, 2022, the holiday clothing swap encouraged circular methods of consumption and gift-giving during the holiday season. Attendees were encouraged to donate or swap items in good condition in exchange for new items for themselves or someone else. The event also included presentations on upcycling clothes, the value of tailoring, sustainable gift-wrapping, and textile recycling. The event was held at the Slow Down Market in Dupont Circle. Event partners included Climate Classes, CircleVibeDC, DOEE, The Fashion Connection, Remake, Tribute, Slow Down Market, Goodwill, Bitter Grace, and SCRAP.

Bitter Grace's Textile Recycling Drive

Partnering with ScrapNYC, Bitter Grace hosted a clothing recycling drive. The drive included an event on National Recycling Day (November 15th), which brought District residents together to discuss the environmental impact of textiles. They collected 6,500 pounds of clothes for reuse and recycling.

University Green Move-Out

During student move-out, countless items are hastily discarded. During the rush to leave campus, students often see the trash can as the only option for items they are not taking with them. Green Move-Outs help to solve this problem by establishing places on campus where students can donate their unwanted but still usable items. In 2022, DOEE supported District colleges and universities in establishing or reestablishing their Green Move-Outs by hiring temporary staff to assist in the management of donated items.

University Participants

Catholic University

Collected over 600 clothing and home good items during move-out, which were crucial in establishing Cardinal Closet, an on-campus thrift store in Fall 2022.

Gallaudet University

Collected material from residence halls in an effort to increase diversion during move-out.

Georgetown University

Reestablished its annual Move-Out Drive, where it collected 67,650 pounds of material for donation.



Assisting Georgetown University with their Move-Out Drive.



Collecting items for Catholic University's new on-campus thrift store.



Gallaudet University increased diversion efforts during move-out.

Outreach Campaigns

Sustainable Materials Management Mailer

DOEE sent a mailer in September 2022 to 200,000 households with information on the Donation & Reuse and Product Stewardship Programs. The mailer served as an announcement of the donation and reuse directory at [Reuse.dc.gov](https://reuse.dc.gov). Additionally, the mailer was used to receive responses to the Donation and Reuse Survey (See page 11 for results).

Holiday Campaign

Reuse DC brought awareness via social media to residents about various opportunities to engage in donation, reuse, and repair-centered actions in their communities to encourage zero waste behavior during the holidays. This campaign allowed DOEE to direct the public to utilize the newly launched donation and reuse directory at [Reuse.dc.gov](https://reuse.dc.gov). Tips included shopping for unique second-hand gifts at local thrift stores and repairing cherished items to gift to friends and family.

Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July is an international awareness campaign to bring attention to the issue of single-use plastics and challenge individuals to take action to avoid single-use plastic items in the month of July. In 2022, DOEE highlighted on social media tips to for reducing plastic consumption.

Sustainable DC's first professional sports ambassador, Washington Spirit player Anna Heilferty, promoted a ticket giveaway with the Washington Mystics and Washington Spirit to residents that posted photos of themselves going plastic free alongside the hashtag #PlasticFreeJuly.



DOEE's Sustainable Materials Management programs sent mailer to District households.



Sharing resources on how to have a more sustainable holiday season.



Other DOEE Reuse Grants

In addition to DOEE's Donation and Reuse Grant program, the District has two other grant programs that promote reuse. They include:

Ditch the Disposables

A new Zero Waste Act grant program that provides financial assistance to food-serving businesses and organizations in the District to transition from disposable to reusable foodware. In addition to reducing waste from single-use foodware and food service items (e.g., cups, plates, utensils, etc.), such a transition helps entities save money and can create better dining experiences. In the first round of grants awarded in spring 2022, DOEE awarded 15 grants totaling \$211,598, including two awards funded by DC's Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Learn more about the projects at Ditch the Disposables webpage: doee.dc.gov/disposables.



Green Building Innovation

DOEE expanded its existing green building innovation grant program to offer funding to projects working on deconstruction and reuse. Through this program, funds were awarded to Community Forklift, a local nonprofit organization that collects and distributes secondhand building materials, furniture, and other household goods. Community Forklift is using the funding to expand their deconstruction program, which works with homeowners and contractors to salvage valuable building materials and appliances from homes prior to renovation or demolition. Community Forklift surveyed building professionals that work in the DC area regarding interest and knowledge of deconstruction. The survey results will be used to inform their marketing and outreach efforts.

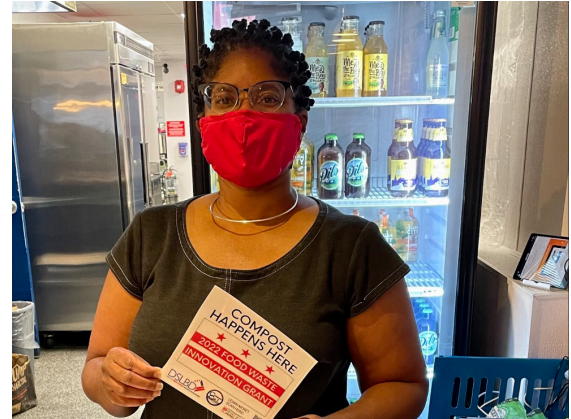


Community Forklift offers free pickup for large donations and deconstruction projects.

Fighting Food Waste

DSLBD's Food Waste Innovation Grants

The District's Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) launched the Food Waste Innovation Grants to provide financial grants, free food scrap collection, and technical assistance to District food businesses to support the reduction of food losses, diversion of edible food, and processing of food scraps into composting. Twenty-three food businesses received a total of \$300,000. The grants were lauded as one of the largest city investments to fund food businesses to reduce food losses, maximize food use, divert edible food to consumers, and process food scraps into compost.



Food Waste Innovation Grants supported businesses in reducing their food waste.

NRDC's Food Matters Program

The District participated in the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Food Matters Regional Initiative starting in 2020. The program involved grant funding to the District for food waste reduction, food rescue and recycling projects, technical support, and information sharing across participant cities. In 2022, the District continued to advance food recovery through Food Matters. Specifically they:

- Supported non-profit Food Rescue US in surveying and analyzing data from their network to improve operations in the District.
- Highlighted five small businesses and Food Waste Innovation Grant winners through the website RescueDish.
- Created a live training for District Government staff on the connection between food and climate change.



Survey

DOEE surveyed residents to learn more about participation and interest in donation and reuse in the District and shape the future of Reuse DC. The survey received over 200 responses from across the city. A QR code to the survey was included on a mailer about DOEE's sustainable materials management programs to nearly 200,000 residential addresses in the District in fall 2022. The survey results will be used to determine Reuse DC programing and priorities.

Key Findings

Participation in Donation/Reuse:

75% of respondents had donated a household item in the last six months.

54% had purchased a second-hand item in the past six months.

43% reported having received a donated or free household item in the last six months.

Challenges when donating:

37% Knowing where to go

28% Time

27% Transportation

Challenges when looking for second-hand items:

32% Knowing where to go

26% Time

23% Transportation

What Item Do Residents want to Donate

40% have donated or interested in donating clothing.

21% have donated or interested in donating kitchen items.

Books were frequently listed in the “**other**” category.

When Donating/Giving Away Item

Important

- The item is going to a good cause.
- Convenient location and hours.

Not Important

- Being able to claim a tax deduction.
- The item is going to someone in my community.

This online poll was not statistically representative of the District's population and there are important limitations to consider when reviewing the results.



REPAIR | DONATE | SHOP

Contact Reuse DC at reuse@dc.gov
or (202) 535-2600

