



## Annual Report 2022

*Dear Community of Friends and Supporters,*



This year we celebrated 10 years - a whole decade of incredible community and innovative sustainability programming in our beautiful Metro region! Our programs have continued to grow and evolve, but our mission remains true to our goals of **collaboratively creating a more equitable, inclusive, and effective recycling and waste prevention system in our region.** Please read on for highlights of our accomplishments this past year!



### Sustainability Education Programs

#### Youth:

Our youth programs this year returned to being fully back in person in March, and although we are still taking many COVID precautions, they grew with new partnerships with [The Rosewood Initiative](#) and [Rose CDC](#)! We are thrilled to offer our after-school and childcare programs to over **500 youth** in partnership with these incredible organizations and **14 Home Forward** apartment sites. We also continued to partner with [Portland Free Play](#) and started a new partnership with [Rising Tide Wellness](#), which comes on site to lead incredible youth yoga, as well as [The Bookmobile Babe](#), bringing culturally relevant books to youth of all ages. We also led a summer camp on each Home Forward housing site this summer, all of which were extremely successful.



### Environmental Promoter Program:

Our Environmental Promoter program, which offers recycling and waste prevention training and paid fellowship opportunities for multifamily housing residents in partnership with [Metro](#) and local governments, was hybrid (online and in person) this year. Over **15 adults and 9 youth** graduated from the program. This year we were able to foster even more relationships in the New Columbia community, including with [Village Gardens](#), Village Market, and [SOS](#) (Somali Services of Oregon). We are working with all of these organizations again this year and just launched our third round at New Columbia this month with our Recycling 101 presentation. This was led by Amii, one of our returning Environmental Promoter mentors! Stay tuned for a video that was taken by and for some of the promoters with support from Jordan Karr-Morse of [Eyes and Ears, LLC](#). Environmental Promoters reached over **5,000 community members**, led hundreds of presentations and projects relating to waste prevention, recycling, and healthy homes, and their input helped create and pass the new **Modernizing Recycling Bill** this year.



### Multifamily Outreach Programs:

Our Multifamily Outreach program in partnership with the City of Gresham and the City of Portland is thriving. We handed out new reusable recycling bags to residents living in supportive housing communities, led dozens of recycling workshops with the Recycle or Not kit (given to us from Metro), and continued to pilot innovative Bulky Waste collection programs in partnership with the City of Portland, [Frog and Toad Hauling](#), [Junk It Junk Removal](#), and [City of Roses Disposal and Recycling](#) that collected an estimated **6,000 pounds** of trash. This year, we will be piloting a redistribution program of reclaimed furniture and are very excited about its potential! We were even given an award for these efforts at the Association of Oregon Recyclers conference this year!

We also started a new program to replace decals on enclosures all over East Multnomah County, funded by Metro. Our dynamic team has paved the way for these services.





**Ground Score Association** is a peer-led initiative of Trash for Peace. It is an organization of informal recyclers, dumpster divers, and other environmental workers who create and fill low-barrier waste management jobs. This year, we provided **over 30 formal payroll jobs** for those facing work and housing insecurity. Perhaps the largest accomplishment this year, apart from sustainably growing all of its programs, is the transition from most of the program participants from Independent Contractor into formal employment by coming onto



payroll. As a result, a handful of our staff have been able to move into stable housing. We also moved into a new warehouse that in partnership with Frog and Toad, Junk It, and our Multi-family Outreach programs, will become a hub for Reuse and Repair. Thanks to funding from Metro, we will be piloting mending and carpentry workshops, and our partners will be opening a new thriftstore - stay tuned for more about this exciting space, as well as to see how the Ground Score Association will continue to evolve and grow into its own organization.

### The People's Depot

**The People's Depot**, Ground Score's independent bottle redemption service born during the Covid-19 pandemic, served over **300 people each week** (98% of whom self-identify as houseless), and generated regular work for over **10 people** who sorted cans and bottles at our site in the Central Eastside daily Monday through Friday. The program collected over **350,000 cans and bottles** each month and provided just under **\$400,000** to canners in our community. It also helped divert over 50% of all of those cans and bottles from the trash!

### G.L.I.T.T.E.R — which stands for Ground Score Leading Inclusively Together Through Environmental Recovery

Ground Score's **G.L.I.T.T.E.R program**— which stands for Ground Score Leading Inclusively Together Through Environmental Recovery — provided litter collection and tent-side waste collection services for houseless camps across the Portland Metro Region, cleaning up over **900,000 pounds** of waste and providing **7,200 individual shifts** for dozens of Ground Score workers.



### Bioswales:

Our unique **Bioswales** project, which is a collaborative effort between the Central Eastside Industrial Council, Bureau of Environmental Services, and Central City Concern, also

continued to thrive. We continued to provide litter collection services, but also conservation and stewardship opportunities by planting trees and launching our tree care program.

### **Fiscally Sponsored Programs**

We started an extremely exciting new venture this year - supporting new and/or growing organizations by being their fiscal sponsor, which means supporting their overall administrative, financial, and liability oversight. We are thrilled to have these two organizations join us this year and we could not be more proud of the work they accomplish in our region.

[Repair PDX](#) - Since 2013, Repair PDX has been working to spread Repair culture through monthly repair events and so much more.

[Common Good Project](#) - This project is organized by Jenn Louis, a renowned Chef and cookbook author, and organizes tent-side trash services and provides food and other goods to members of the houseless community.

### **Overall Budget expenditures**

We are so grateful to [Truly Bookkeeping](#) for taking over our payroll and finances this year. Our growth has been large and quite the undertaking, and we would not be where we are without their support! We also are thrilled to have **Alice Rotsztain** promoted to Associate Director. Alice, previously our Community Programs Manager, has such an incredible wealth of experience in program and project management, mentorship, and a passion for social and environmental justice.

Our budget exceeded just over \$1.8 million dollars this year, and is predicted to grow to about \$2.5 Million for 2023. The vast majority of our work is accomplished with people power (we grew to over 50 employees this year), hence the reflection that the majority of our budget is spent on people! Here you will find the main categories of our budget and the percentage of expenditures allocated throughout the year.

<b>PROGRAM ITEM</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE PERCENTAGE</b>
Personnel (payroll + taxes and benefits)	79%
Personnel (Independent Contractors)	1%
Program expenses	10%
Administrative (including rent, bookkeeping, and legal fees)	10%

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023**

We are so excited about the year ahead. More collaborations, more partnerships, more strategies towards collectively achieving a sustainable future through community-based, peer-led, and peer-run programs. We cannot wait to launch our repair and reuse programs in partnership with [Thuja Studios](#), we will be piloting more reuse, repair, and redistribution of large household items, we will be launching a carpentry program, continuing to advocate for inclusive policies and work with policy-makers, creating more innovative youth curriculums, expanding our Environmental Promoter program to support it being led in Somali, sharing recycling and waste prevention resources in community-based ways across the region, and so much more.



### **THANK YOU!!!**

We could not accomplish this incredible work without support from our funding partners and supporters. Home Forward and their Community Services team, Metro's Waste Prevention and Environmental Services team, the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Bureau of Environmental Services, and Impact Reduction Team, Guerreras Latinas, Portland Free Play, the City of Gresham's Recycling and Solid Waste team, OBRC, 99 Girlfriends, The Garth Family Foundation, the Central Eastside Industrial Council, Hygiene 4 All, PPOP, Junk It Junk Removal, Frog and Toad, City of Roses Disposal and Recycling, Rising Tide Wellness, SOS, Village Gardens, The Rosewood Initiative, Eyes and Ears, LLC, and of course, incredible individual donors like YOU!!



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