



DATE: July 8, 2021

TO: Programs & Administration Committee
Planning Committee/Recycling Board

FROM: Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager
Cassie Bartholomew, Program Manager
Michelle Fay, Program Manager

SUBJECT: StopWaste grants awarded in fiscal year 2020-21

SUMMARY

The Agency's guiding principles identify upstream (waste prevention) activities as an area of emphasis. Staff has been working on a number of programs that offer grants to support upstream activities including waste prevention, the switch to reusables, recovery for reuse, redistribution, and repair. This memo provides an overview of the Agency grants awarded in fiscal year 2020-21.

DISCUSSION

StopWaste takes several approaches to support and improve waste prevention, recovery, salvage, reuse, repair, and redistribution infrastructure in Alameda County. We have been providing grant funding specifically for entities implementing these types of activities for several years to ensure upstream infrastructure and services are available to Alameda County residents and businesses, and to help member agencies advance their sustainability goals. StopWaste funding provides an opportunity to both for-profit and nonprofit organizations to jump start an idea or advance concepts that encourage source reduction and reuse measures as a priority over recycling, composting, and landfilling.

In fiscal year 2020-21 we built on the success of last year's efforts to incorporate multiple grant projects into one solicitation process. Grant funding continued to be available in four different categories: Reuse and Repair, Food Waste Reduction, Reusable Transport Packaging, and Surplus Food Donation Equipment. Staff combined outreach for all grant focus areas to broaden the countywide reach and improve marketing efficiency. The grant opportunities were actively promoted to a variety of entities and regional partners and networks. Many "last mile" organizations were reached to ensure the groups rooted in and serving marginalized communities were aware of the Agency's funding opportunities.

These outreach efforts resulted in the largest funding request pool to date, with over 80 applicants requesting over \$1.3 million. Projects that addressed pressing needs in the community, those that increase the recovery of edible surplus food from commercial generators, as well as new grant applicants were prioritized for selection.

A summary of grants funded by focus area in FY 20-21 can be found in the table below, and a complete list of projects is provided in Attachment A. Staff will provide additional information, highlights, and introduce guest grantee presenters at the July 8 meeting.

Grant Focus Area	Total Amount Requested	Funded	# of Grants Funded
Reuse and Repair	\$834,620	\$276,500	25
Food Waste Reduction	\$372,940	\$247,285	14
Surplus Food Donation Equipment	\$55,109	\$34,885	5
Reusable Transport Packaging	\$61,348	\$26,689	4
TOTAL	\$1,324,018	\$585,359	48

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

ATTACHMENT A

StopWaste Grants Program – FY 2020-21

Reuse and Repair Grants *(25 projects totaling \$276,500)*

Grantee	Location	Amount	Description
2 A Good Cause, Inc.	Alameda County	\$15,000	2 A Good Cause, Inc., was established in 2006 to help nonprofit organizations meet their needs through creative reuse and repurposing, helping local nonprofits connect with businesses in order to meet their short and long term needs in both goods and service. Funds will be used toward the purchase of a box van to increase the collection and redistribution of goods and materials that would have otherwise ended up in landfill.
African People's Education and Defense Fund	Alameda County	\$6,000	The African People's Education & Defense Fund develops and institutionalizes programs to defend the human and civil rights of the African (Black) community. Funds will be used to secure warehouse space to house furniture which will be transformed into beautiful redesigned items to be sold at the Uhuru furniture store in Oakland.
Bio-Link Depot Inc.	Alameda County	\$8,500	BioLink Depot is a unique organization that provides millions of dollars' worth of donated laboratory equipment and supplies for free to educators and researchers, to promote scientific training for students. Funding will be used to purchase specialized testing equipment to ensure donated items are in excellent working condition prior to distribution to educators in need.
California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC)	Alameda County	\$5,000	CPSC's vision is that producers have the primary responsibility to establish, fund, and manage end-of-life systems for their product. Grant funding will expand StopWaste's Re:Source database to incorporate textile reuse and repair opportunities to divert a variety of textiles from the landfill.
Center for Environmental Health	Alameda County	\$20,000	The Center for Environmental Health's (CEH) mission is to protect people from toxic chemicals by working with communities, consumers, workers, government, and private sectors to demand and support business practices that are safe for public health and the environment. Funds will be used to create an audit of potential reusable foodware infrastructure in Alameda County school districts, host webinars on implementing reusables, connect schools to each other to share reusables best practices, and create and distribute reusable foodware case studies to move Alameda County school districts toward committing to transition to reusable foodware.
Civicorps	Oakland	\$10,000	Civicorps is a West Oakland-based nonprofit whose mission is to re-engage young adults, ages 18-26, to earn a high school diploma, gain job skills, and pursue college. They offer training in Environmental Management and Recycling as well as operate East Bay's only charter school designed to serve the needs of young adults. Funds will go toward paying 50% of internship wages for a Civicorps member to learn computer refurbishment skills. Internships are through their Conservation Career Pathways project at the Oakland Tech Exchange computer refurbishment center.
Clean Water Fund	Berkeley	\$20,000	ReThink Disposable, a program of Clean Water Fund, prevents waste before it starts by working with local governments, businesses, institutions, and consumers to switch from single-use disposable packaging to reusable foodware. Funds will allow ReThink to partner with Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) to replace harmful single-use foodware with non-toxic reusables to be used during daily food service, focusing initial efforts at BUSD elementary schools.
Community Impact LAB	Alameda County	\$10,000	Community Impact LAB strives to be a force for action and to expand opportunities that everyone, especially women and children, need to be impactful. Funds will support collection of donated textiles, fabric, toys, and baby supplies annually through the Baby Box and Baby Shower Programs, offered to vulnerable populations.

Fixit Clinic	Alameda County	\$5,000	Fixit Clinic organizes community repair events in Alameda County and throughout the United States. Funding will allow Fixit Clinic to continue to provide support to the many local Fix It Clinics in Alameda County to be held both in person and online.
Help Berkeley Inc.	Albany, Berkeley	\$10,000	Help Berkeley is a nonprofit, grassroots, frontline organization whose mission is to deliver affordable, subsidized and free meals to seniors and others at-risk for COVID 19. Funds will be used to partner with reusable foodware service provider to develop, implement and refine reusable foodware pilot for recipients of meals.
Higher Ground Neighborhood Development Corp	Oakland	\$10,000	Higher Ground Neighborhood Development Corp provides comprehensive after school programming, designed to provide the essential scaffolding a child needs to navigate the school community. Funding will be used to purchase used bikes, as well as build bikes from scratch, to develop a bike lending and repair enrichment program where students will be exposed to new skills and career potential in repair and reuse.
Loved Twice	Alameda County	\$10,000	Loved Twice believes every newborn baby deserves to have clothes for their first year of life—one of life’s basic necessities. Loved Twice provides clothing for newborns in need with quality reused baby clothing. Grant funds will be used to collect gently-used baby clothes, sort the garments into boy and girl wardrobes-in-a-box, and distribute them exclusively through social workers in hospitals, shelters, and clinics.
Make It Home	Alameda County	\$10,000	Make It Home’s mission is to furnish homes of families and individuals transitioning out of crisis or homelessness with donated, gently used, repurposed furnishings and household goods. Fund will be used to coordinate with Alameda County Social Service agencies, and offset costs to transport and furnish homes to those in need in Alameda County.
Mannequin Madness	Alameda County	\$10,000	Mannequin Madness provides retailers with a financially beneficial and environmentally friendly way to discard their unwanted store fixtures and mannequins that would otherwise go to landfill. Funds will be used to increase materials collected for reuse and resale and increase capacity to reach non-English speaking communities in Alameda County to create a new customer base.
Muir Products	Alameda County	\$17,000	Muir Products builds automated dispensers that streamline the dispensing of products to simplify the customer refill process. The automated system will make it easier for Alameda County residents to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics by providing streamlined systems to refill their own containers at local shops. Funds will be used to pilot two refill systems at local refill entities: Fillgood in Albany and ReUP Refill in Oakland.
Rebuilding Together East Bay-North	Alameda County	\$10,000	Rebuilding Together creates community partnerships to rejuvenate neighborhoods through the rehabilitation of homes owned by low-income homeowners and non-profit facilities that serve low-income communities. Funding will go towards the purchase of a new box van that will increase materials collected for reuse and repair instead of sending to landfill/recycling.
Resource Area For Teaching (RAFT)	Alameda County	\$10,000	The Resources Area for Teaching (RAFT) provides materials, kits, and curriculum for students and teachers using salvaged and reusable materials donated by companies and manufacturers. Grant funds will provide 2,500 activity kits and online education curriculum to support learning for Title 1 schools. In addition, funds will help secure and collect material donations from Alameda County manufacturers for reuse in their large warehouse and educational kits.
Robot Garden	Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton	\$5,000	Robot Garden is a nonprofit makerspace located in Livermore that facilitates informal STEM learning opportunities including repair through classes and outreach events. Funds will be used to recruit and train high school students to repair products with a primary emphasis on electronics repair and reuse. Students will become repair coaches at Fix it Clinics in the Tri Valley area over the course of the school year.

RRRcomputer.org	Hayward	\$15,000	RRR's mission is to promote digital inclusion through the repurposing of computing devices for the next generation. Funding will enable RRR to provide 50 reclaimed high-quality MacBook laptops; provide coding classes and technical support to students from disadvantaged backgrounds at Hayward's Tennyson High School.
Sparkl Reusables	Oakland	\$20,000	Sparkl Reusables provides a reusable foodware system to eating establishments in the Bay Area. Funding will be used to partner with the City of Oakland, Cocina Del Corazon, and others to convert bulk meal delivered in disposables to reusables. Sparkl's initial focus will be on meals delivered to immigrant families in Oakland.
The Friends of the Oakland Public Library (Friends)	Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont	\$10,000	Friends of the Oakland Library's mission is to advance the role of the Oakland Public Library as a vital community resource. Funds will be used to assist Friends in the continued collection, sale and redistribution of used books and will help offset loss of revenue due to store closure as a result of Shelter in Place orders.
The Plant Exchange	Alameda County	\$10,000	The Plant Exchange's mission is to divert large amounts of usable plants from the landfill /organics stream by developing partnerships with retail/wholesale distributors and contractors who provide The Plant Exchange with donations of unused plants. Funds will be used to offset costs of facility expansion which will allow for increased inventory and provide additional space for new tenants working in the reuse and repair industry.
Three Stone Hearth LLC	Alameda County	\$15,000	Three Stone Hearth is a sustainable model for community-scale food preparation. Since its founding in 2006, they have packaged their food in returnable, reusable packaging. Funds will be used to continue this effort by improving cleaning and sanitation of reusable foodware as well as developing processes to increase meal delivery customer returns of reusable foodware.
Transition Berkeley	Berkeley	\$5,000	Transition Berkeley's mission is to bring the community together to build a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient future for Berkeley. Funds will be used to continue offering the Reuse and Repair class to both Berkeley Independent and Berkeley Technology High Schools. Curriculum focuses on waste stream education, product design for reuse, circular economy, and repair. Class will provide practical hands-on learning about how to diagnosis and repair electronics, small appliances, bicycles, clothing, and furniture.
Waterside Workshops	Alameda County	\$10,000	Waterside Workshop's Street Level Cycles program is a youth job-training program that repairs and sells discarded bicycles, and provides a free do-it-yourself public bike repair shop. Rebuilt bicycles provide transportation for low-income youth and adults, and bicycle sales help support their free education programs. Funds will support staff for operations and youth instruction.

Food Waste Reduction Grants (14 projects totaling \$247,285)

Grantee	Location	Amount	Description
Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League	Alameda County	\$20,000	The Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Activities League's (DSAL) mission is to build on natural, human, social, economic, built, political, and cultural capital to create safer, healthier communities. Funds will support DSAL's social enterprise, Dig Deep Farms, and their Food Hub distribution facility to operate efficient aggregation, sorting, processing and packaging of recovered food for distribution to food-insecure residents.
Arsola's Distribution Center and Community Services	Alameda, Emeryville, Oakland, San Leandro	\$20,000	Arsola's Distribution Center and Community Services is a nonprofit community organization that provides safe, comfortable, stable housing, food access, and support services to bring about social, behavioral, and economic growth and advancement for individuals struggling to build a better way of life. Funds will support Arsola's food pantry program in East Oakland, which recovers over 350,000 lbs. of food annually to feed roughly 8,600 individuals and families each month.
Berkeley Food Network	Alameda	\$20,000	The Berkeley Food Network (BFN) is an innovative, community-centered organization that brings expanded food assistance services to food-insecure Berkeley residents. BFN's goal is to ensure that all Berkeley residents are free from hunger and have access to affordable high-quality, healthy food. Funds will be used to grow the Food Recovery Program, which currently rescues 40,000+ lbs. of food each month, as well as purchase reusable transport equipment and containers for food rescue and distribution.
Berkeley Food Pantry	Albany, Berkeley	\$15,000	The Berkeley Food Pantry provides families with adequate sustenance and nutrition at times when bills for food, rent, health care, and other items overwhelm them. Funds will support the Pantry at Your Door project, which provides bimonthly food deliveries directly to the homes of at-risk populations, such as elderly, disabled, and low-income families with young children.
Common Vision	Alameda, Oakland	\$12,500	Common Vision contributes to the creation of a healthy and just society by growing school gardens and school children, by teaching new ways for people to live in harmony with the planet and each other, and by healing the earth. Funds will be used to support the Schools as Food Hubs project, which includes operationalizing food recovery and redistribution of food from large generators, food waste reduction education at schools and homes, and utilizing school farms as central hubs for local food system networks.
Daily Bowl	Alameda, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Dublin, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, Oakland, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Union City	\$20,000	Daily Bowl's mission is to recover surplus food that would otherwise go to waste and rapidly redistribute to local food pantries and agencies catering to our less fortunate and hungry community members. Funds will be used to glean produce and prepared food from commercial establishments, grocery stores, and eating establishments and distribute to local non-profit food pantries and places of worship.
Essential Food and Medicine	Alameda	\$15,000	Essential Food and Medicine works to build collective immunity by providing essential holistic, immune wellness juices, smoothies, and natural medicines for our unhoused neighbors, frontline workers, residents over 65 years of age, non-citizens, formerly incarcerated and the immunocompromised and mobility limited residents. Funds will be used to increase capacity to recover, then process, preserve and transform surplus edible produce and other foods into juice, smoothies, and healthy nutritious meals for members of unhoused communities, seniors and non-citizens.

Food Shift	Alameda County	\$20,000	Food Shift develops practical solutions to reduce wasted food, feed communities, and provide jobs. Food Shift's social enterprise recovers overlooked food from waste to provide nourishing food for overlooked neighbors overcoming food insecurity. Funds will support Operation Together Phase II, originally launched at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in response to the rise in food waste and food insecurity, the project gleans and redistributes overlooked food as food assistance for our most vulnerable neighbors.
Hively	Alameda County	\$9,785	Hively is a multi-faceted social services agency with a 44-year history of providing supportive resources and services so everyone in our community can thrive. Funds will be used for a new refrigerator, freezer, transport and storage supplies, and staff time for its Food Pantry program which retrieves and preserves surplus food for distribution to families in need.
Hope 4 the Heart	Alameda County	\$20,000	Hope 4 the Heart serves local low-income families by providing food, produce, diapers, and household items. Funds will be used to support the food recovery program that collects and redistributes over 3 million pounds of rescued food per year to feed over 16,000 families every month.
Mandela Grocery Cooperative	Oakland	\$15,000	Mandela Grocery Cooperative is operated, centrally governed, and democratically controlled by its worker-owners, and aims to nourish the community with healthy food, wellness resources, and collective ownership. Funds will be used to increase from once to twice a month the Sunday Service program, which upcycles surplus food from the store and other donations to create healthy meals for the local unhoused community.
One Nation Dream Makers	Dublin, Fremont, Hayward, San Leandro, Union City	\$20,000	One Nation Dream Makers mission is to help veterans and others in the community to restore hope and get their lives back on track and to become positive forces in their communities. Funds will support expansion of the food recovery and distribution program, increasing the number of food donations and growing distribution beyond the current Dublin and Hayward sites.
Tri-Valley Haven	Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton	\$20,000	Tri-Valley Haven creates homes safe from abuse and contributes to a more peaceful society one person, one family, and one community at a time. Funds will be used to maintain the on-site Food Pantry operations as well as expand the number of grocery rescue sites and Mobile Food Pantry efforts.
Washington Hospital System	Fremont, Hayward, Newark, Union City	\$20,000	Washington Hospital System's mission is to meet the health care needs of their District residents through medical services, education, and research. Funds will be used for a plate heating and holding system for meals served to patients, which keeps food hot during transport and delivery to avoid the common wasting of cold food by patients.

Surplus Food Donation Equipment Grants *(5 projects totaling \$34,885)*

Grantee	Location	Amount	Description
Dorothy Day House	Berkeley	\$3,550	Dorothy Day House's mission is to provide a caring presence, sustenance, and shelter to those in-need among us. Funds will support expansion of an existing food rescue program and will be used to purchase food transport containers and a two-door refrigerator to rescue and store more food to feed the residents at Camp Horizon in Berkeley. The equipment will help them increase their food service needs by 30%.
HOPE Collaborative	Oakland	\$5,835	HOPE Collaborative's mission is to advance racial, economic, and health equity in Oakland through community-driven food and neighborhood initiatives. Funds will be used to purchase equipment to extend the shelf life of recovered food and expand their recovery and redistribution efforts by allowing them to work with more partners and use their other resources to support community led mutual aid efforts.
Interfaith Sharing Inc.	Livermore	\$5,500	Interfaith Sharing Inc. is an all-volunteer food pantry serving working families, immigrants, seniors and the unhoused. Interfaith Sharing will build on its existing food rescue program capacity by 12,000 pounds of food through 2021. Funding will be used to purchase a refrigerator/freezer in order to rescue and store more food to feed people in the unincorporated areas of Livermore.
Irvington Presbyterian Church Outreach Ministry	Alameda	\$10,000	Irvington Presbyterian Church Outreach Ministry is committed to addressing systemic poverty by helping to eliminate food insecurity. The Outreach Ministries will build on its existing food rescue program capacity by increasing the amount of guests served by 150 a week to 175-200 within the next eight months. Funding will be used to partially fund a walk-in refrigerator in order to rescue and store more food to feed people in Irvington and surrounding areas of Fremont.
San Lorenzo Family Help Center	Alameda County	\$10,000	San Lorenzo Family Help Center's mission is to eliminate hunger within the local community, while partnering with churches, schools, neighboring businesses, government agencies, local neighbors and volunteers. Funds will be used to purchase a glass door refrigerator and freezer to store and distribute cold foods, as well as a pallet jack scale for transporting and receiving large donations.

Reusable Transport Packaging Grants *(4 projects totaling \$26,689)*

Grantee	Location	Amount	Description
Agricultural Institute of Marin	Hayward, Newark, Oakland	\$10,000	The Agriculture Institute of Marin currently manages seven Certified Farmers Markets in the Bay Area (San Francisco, Alameda, and Marin Counties), a mobile market, and provides hands-on educational programs to thousands of children and adults about the connections between the environment, agriculture, and health. Grant funds will be used to purchase approximately 875 more reusable plastic totes and distribute them to eight new farm participants to transport produce to farmer's markets in Oakland, Hayward, and Newark. It is estimated that the reusable totes will prevent the purchase, use, and disposal of more than 6,600 lbs. of cardboard boxes annually with an estimated cost savings of over \$6,000/year.
Elder Care Alliance Community Mercy Retirement & Care Center	Alameda County	\$7,320	The Mercy Brown Bag Program, a project under the Elder Care Alliance Community Mercy Retirement and Care Center, coordinates the distribution of nutritious groceries to over 8,000 older adults twice a month, free of charge. Funds will be used to purchase 40 reusable pallet wraps to replace plastic wrap used to secure pallets of groceries for transport to 90 senior facilities throughout Alameda County. It is estimated that the reusable pallet wraps will prevent the purchase, use, and disposal of 27,500 lbs. of plastic wrap each year, equivalent to 17 miles of plastic, with an estimated cost savings of \$1,000 per year in avoided plastic wrap purchases.
Sankofa Garden	Oakland	\$5,000	Sankofa Garden is a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing community wellness, nutrition, and food access through food growing, education, empowerment and celebration of multicultural heritage. Community green spaces are leveraged to address food security as a basic human right and not denied to our most vulnerable populations. Funds will be used to purchase 250 reusable totes and four reusable pallets to transport produce from Worm Whisperer Farm in Sacramento to the Oakland Sankofa Garden residents. It is estimated that the reusable totes and pallets will prevent the purchase, use, and disposal of 13,270 lbs. of cardboard boxes and 640 lbs. of wooden pallets annually with an estimated cost savings of \$25,600 per year in avoided waxed cardboard box and pallet purchases.
Uhuru Foods & Pies LLC	Alameda County	\$4,369	Uhuru Foods & Pies builds commerce by and between African people worldwide by putting control of food, food production and distribution into the hands of Black people through baking and selling pies. Funds will be used to replace approximately 1,500 cardboard boxes and 7,200 linear feet of packing tape annually with 300 reusable totes to transport handmade pies from the bakery into retail locations in Alameda County. It is estimated that the reusable totes will prevent the purchase, use, and disposal of more than 900 lbs. of cardboard and packing tape annually, with an estimated cost savings of \$2,200 per year.