



# Climate Conversations Reuse

St Mark's Creation Care Ministry

March 2023

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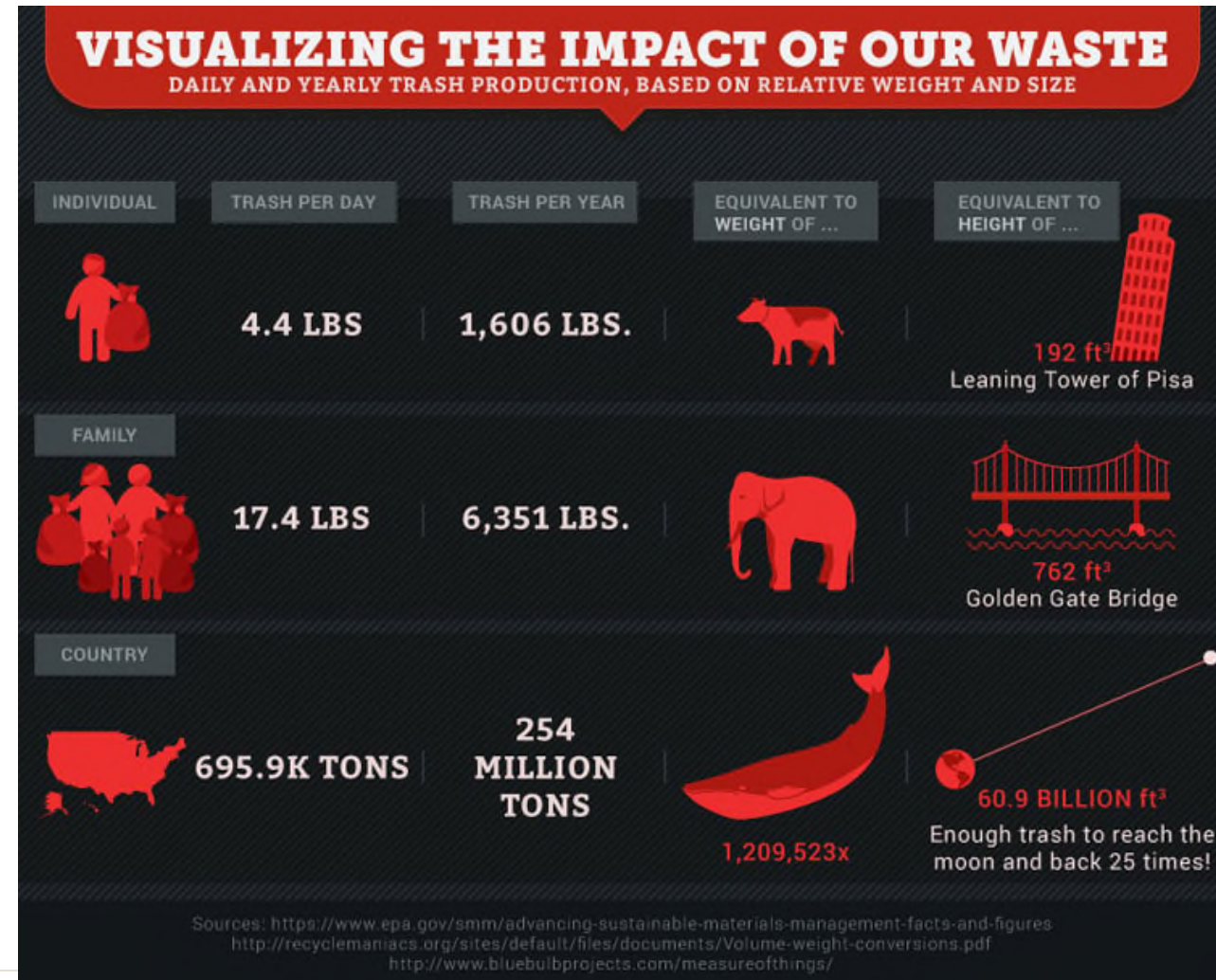
# Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer
- A Framework to Reuse
- Discussion
- Opportunities to Give and Receive to Reuse
- Sharing and Q&A
- Closing Prayer

# Waste in the US is Enormous

The total amount of waste includes:

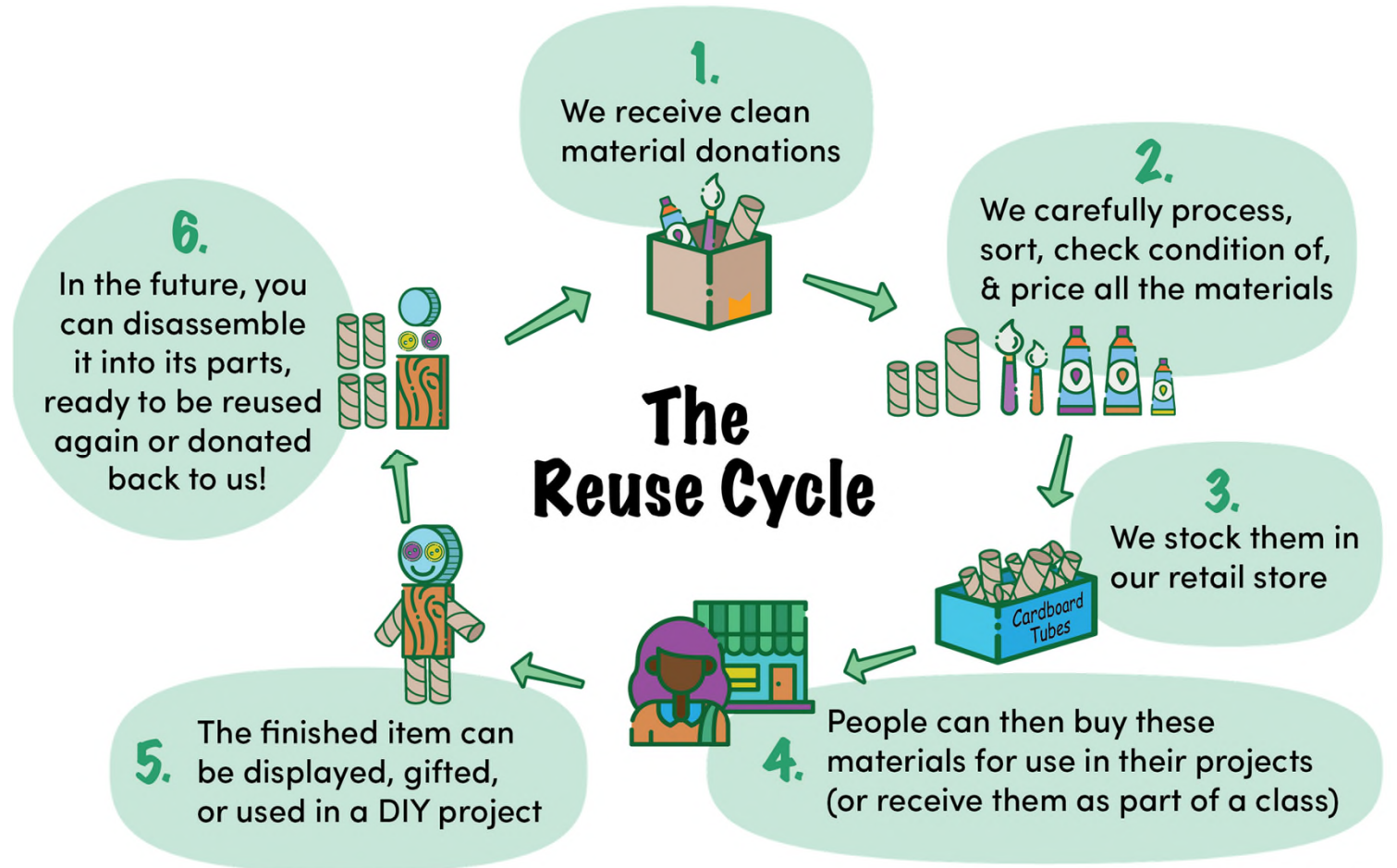
- Clothing: 11.3 million tons/year, or 81.5 pounds/person, or 2150 pieces/second
- Furniture: 9.6 million tons/year
- Appliances: 3.7 million tons/year
  - 5% of small appliances are recycled
- 2.4 million tons of carpets
- Other (electronics, luggage, sporting goods): 23 million tons
- (1 million tons ~ 150,000 elephants)



Source: <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/durable-goods-product-specific-data>  
<https://recyclist.co/blog/making-sense-of-big-numbers-in-a-big-industry/>

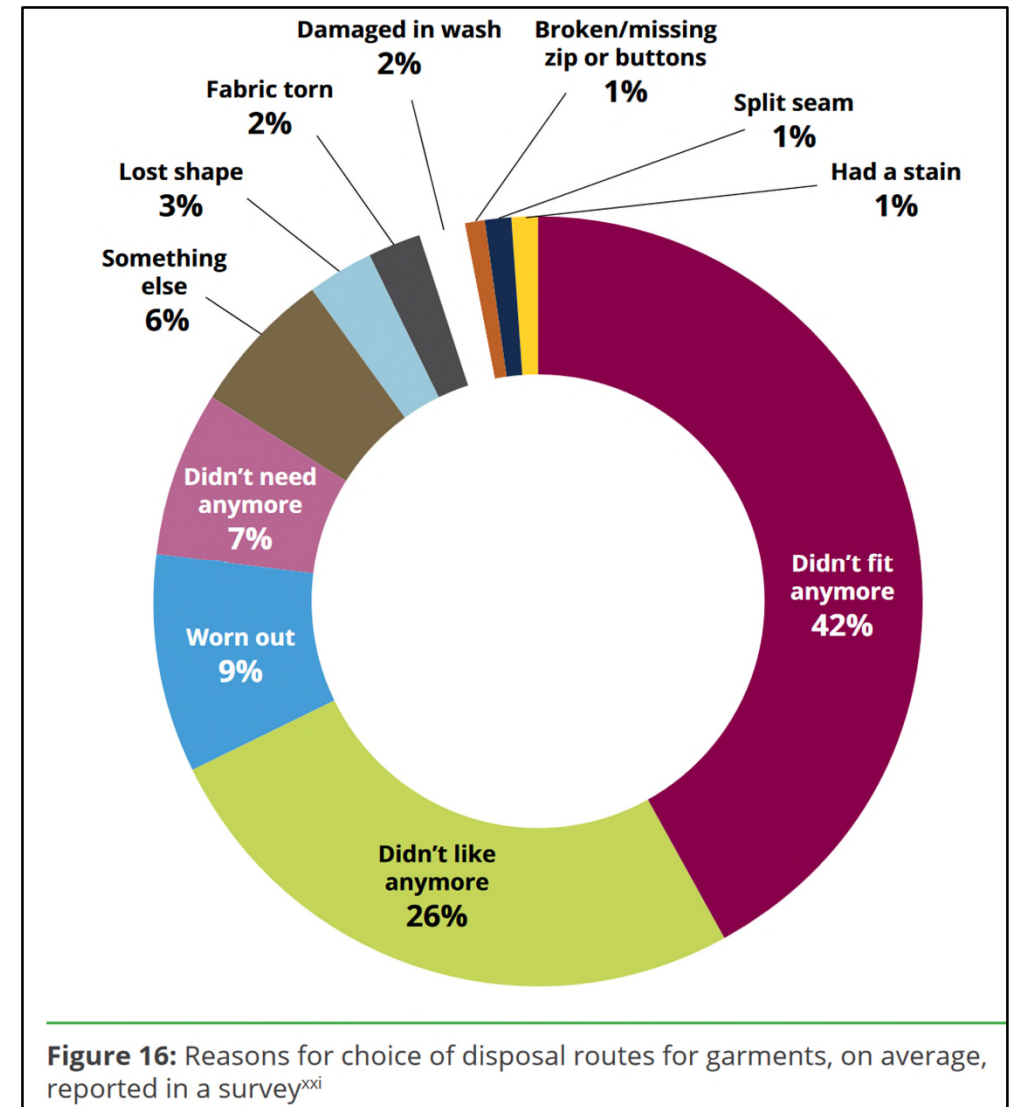
# An Alternative is to Reuse

- Reuse is taking old items that you might consider throwing away and finding a new use for them
  - Reusing or adapting old items also avoids energy costs, carbon emissions & recycling inefficiencies
- Creative reuse is repurposing a manufactured item or material for a new function



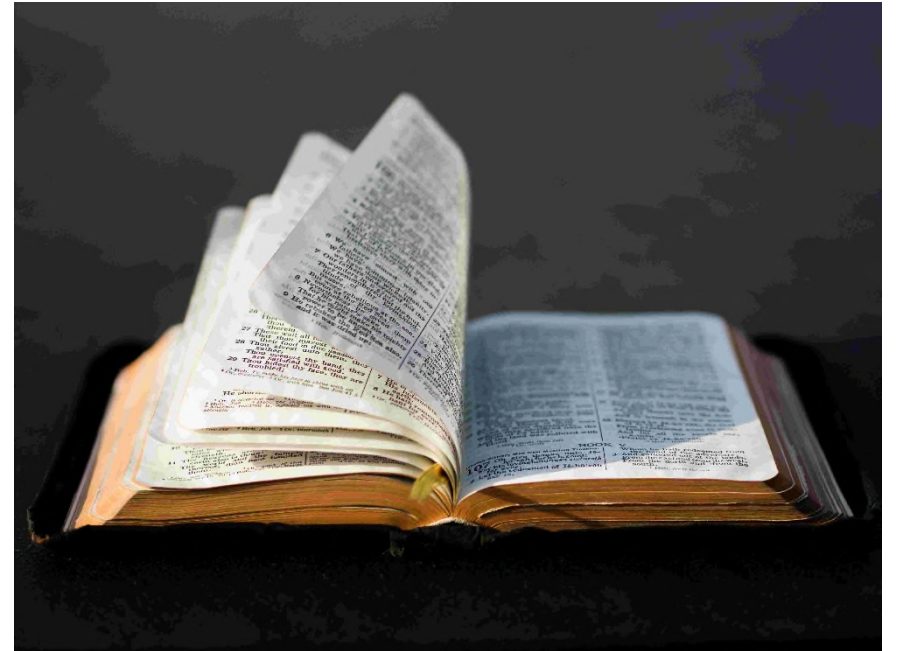
# Fashion - A Case Study in Waste & Reuse

- Fashion causes 10% of CO2 emissions
- Clothes washing and care causes 1/3 of clothing's carbon footprint
- Extending the active life of 50% of clothing by 9 months could save 8% of carbon, 10% of water, & 4% of waste per metric ton of clothing, per [WRAP](#)
- [Love Your Clothes](#) encourages better purchase, care, repair and disposal of clothing



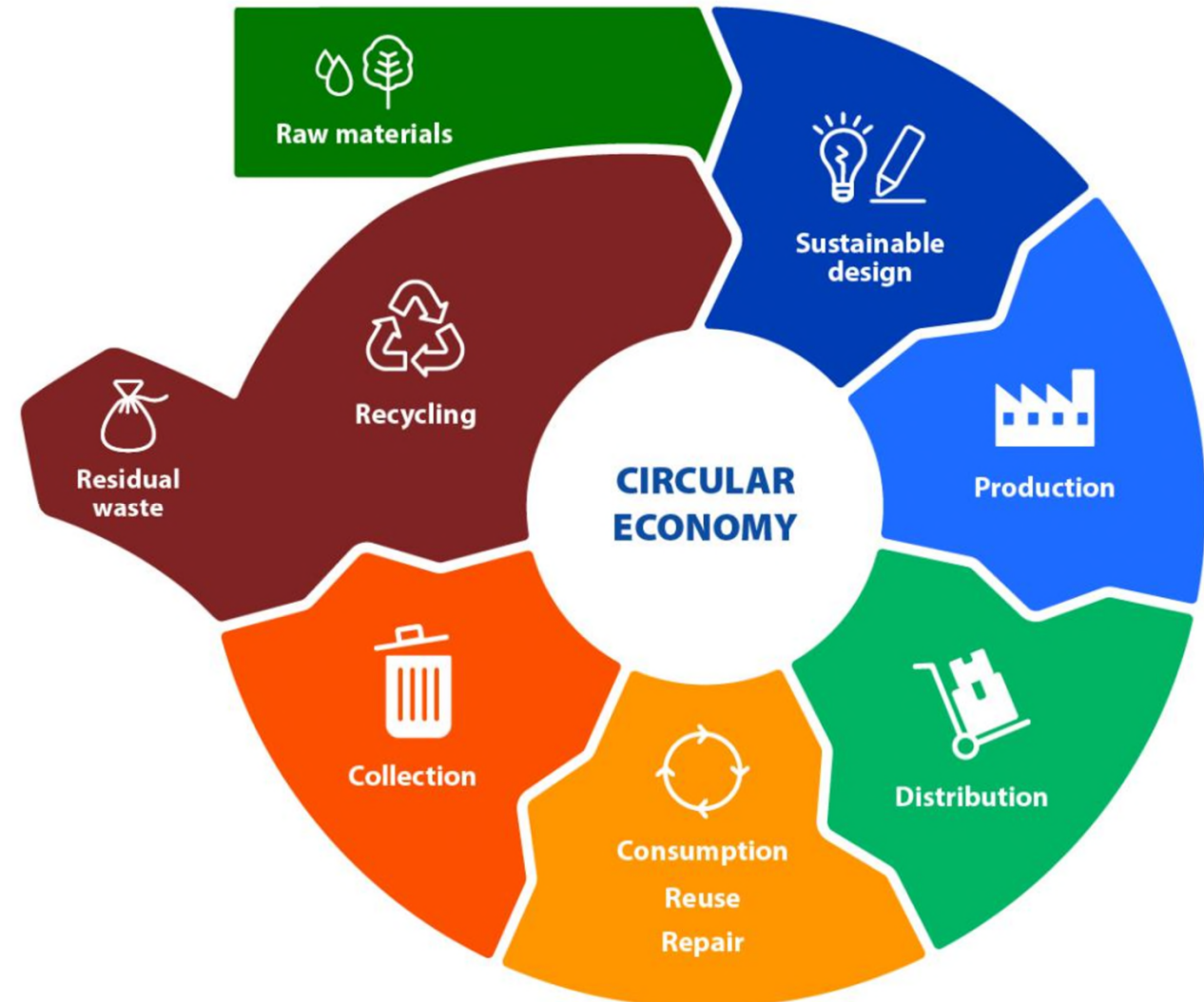
# A Spiritual Framework

- Matthew 4:21 - He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them
- Isaiah 58:7,12 - Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them... Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities.
- 1 Timothy 6:18: Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share



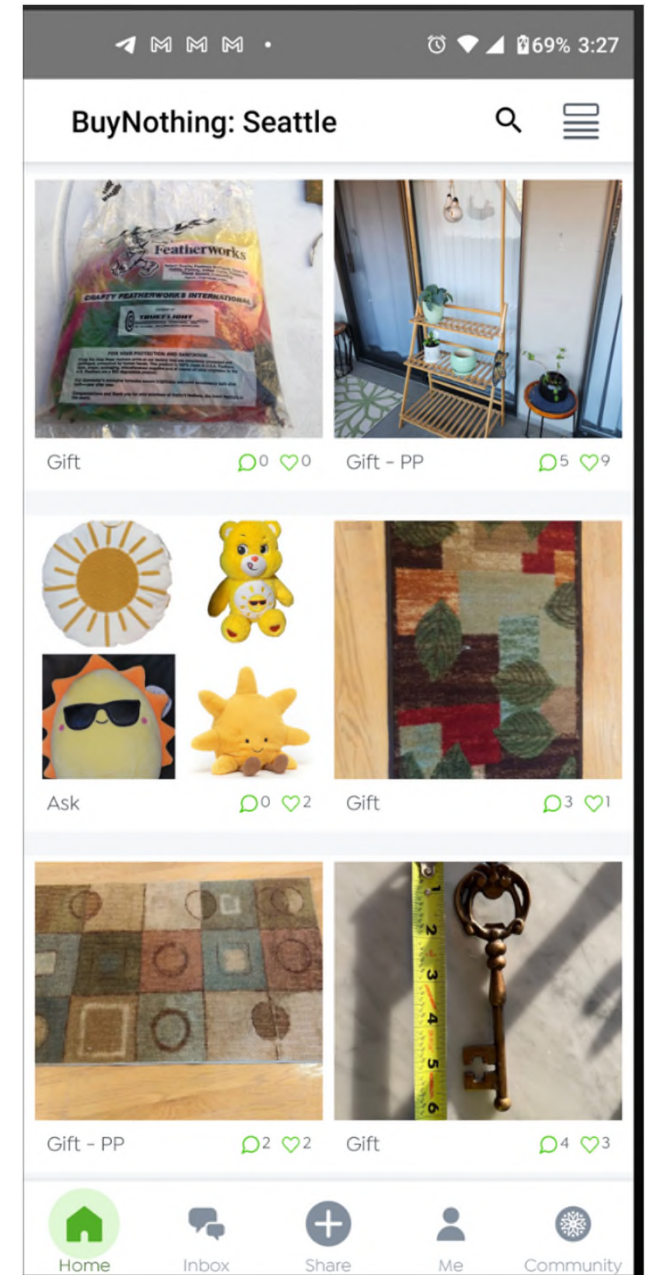
# One Alternative is a Circular Economy

- A circular economy keeps materials, products and services in circulation for as long as possible
- It involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling materials and products as long as possible so their life cycle is extended
- Clothes, scrap metal, obsolete electronics and more are returned to the economy or used more efficiently
- A circular economy could address 70% of global greenhouse emissions.



# An Option is Buy Nothing

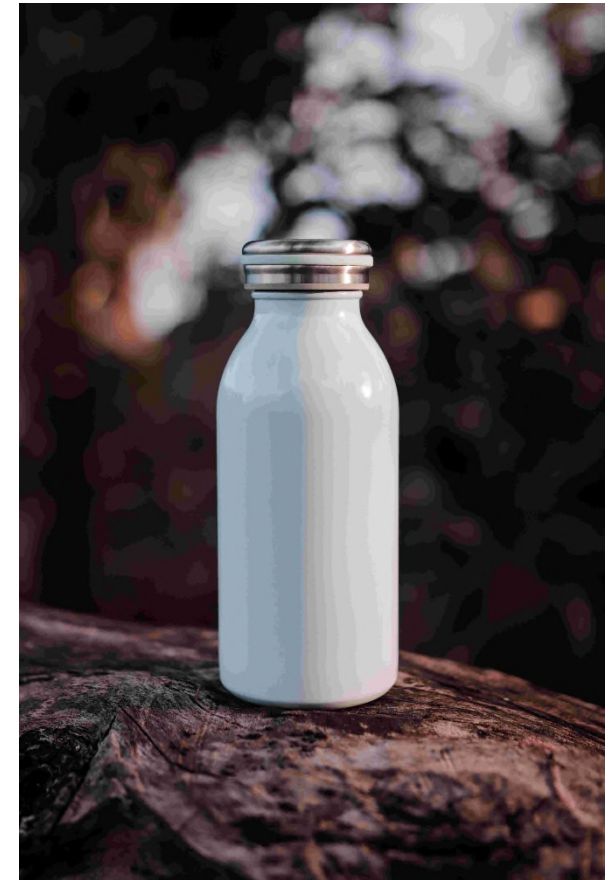
- BuyNothing is a gift economy on a hyperlocal scale that brings neighbors together through sharing and community
  - Share physical items, self & time
- Process
  - Community settings & address
  - Give, ask, share and thank, freely
    - Avoid buying things
  - Connect with neighbors





# The “Rules of Reuse”

- 1) Bring your own
- 2) Avoid single use at home
- 3) Upcycle
- 4) Give or donate
- 5) Sell it
- 6) Choose ‘Reuse’ before you buy new
- 7) Repair, refurbish or recover
- 8) Choose pre-loved items



# A Framework for Reuse - Buying

- Reuse your own items instead of buying
- Rent or borrow instead of buying
- Buy used items to reduce waste as well as emissions created by producing new materials or disposing of them
- Buy and use reusable items instead of disposable, including napkins, water bottles, travel mugs, straws and utensils
- Do you even need to own the item in the first place?



# A Framework for Reuse – Repair/Repurpose

- Maintain and repair products such as clothing, tires, digital devices, garden tools and appliances so they won't be thrown out and replaced as frequently
- Learn to repair items
  - A little know-how or friendly help makes it easier
- Reimagine, to create new uses for old items
- Rethink, Reuse, Repair\*



# A Framework for Reuse - Donations

- Donate unused clothing, electronics and building materials to make sure others can reuse them too
- Many organizations accept donations
  - Goodwill
  - Salvation Army thrift stores
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - Assistance League
- Or, re-sell: Give unwanted items another life by advertising or posting them
- Platforms include Craigslist



# Discussion & Breakout Session

Questions:

- How can you reframe your purchasing to consider more 'reuse'?
- What else can you do to make reuse easier?
- What do you do to reuse items?



# Shop with Reuse in Mind

- Use devices, clothes and other items as long as possible
  - Avoid the latest release
- Buy upgradable computers and cellphones
- Avoid single-use items
  - Paper towels, diapers, Ziplock bags, plastic wrap
- Buy used renovation supplies from places such as Habitat ReStore
- Buy extra food from businesses
  - [TooGoodToGo](#)



# Reuse Food

- Tea leaves for broth or compost
- Coffee grounds for pest control, scouring pads & rose or tomato fertilizer
- Coffee ground or tea leaf cookies
- Eggshells for seedlings, compost, bird food and Christmas decorations
- Banana bread



# Use Reusable Items

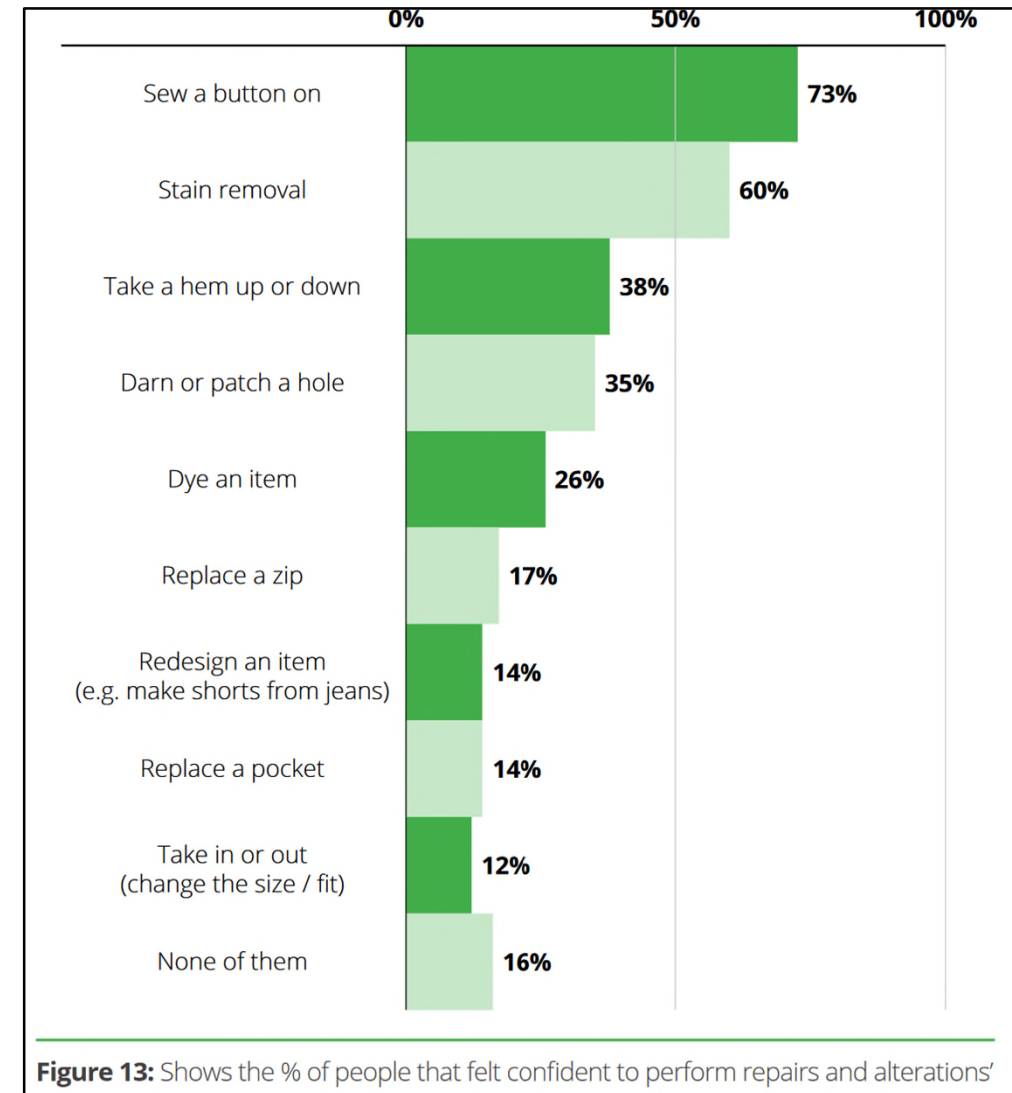
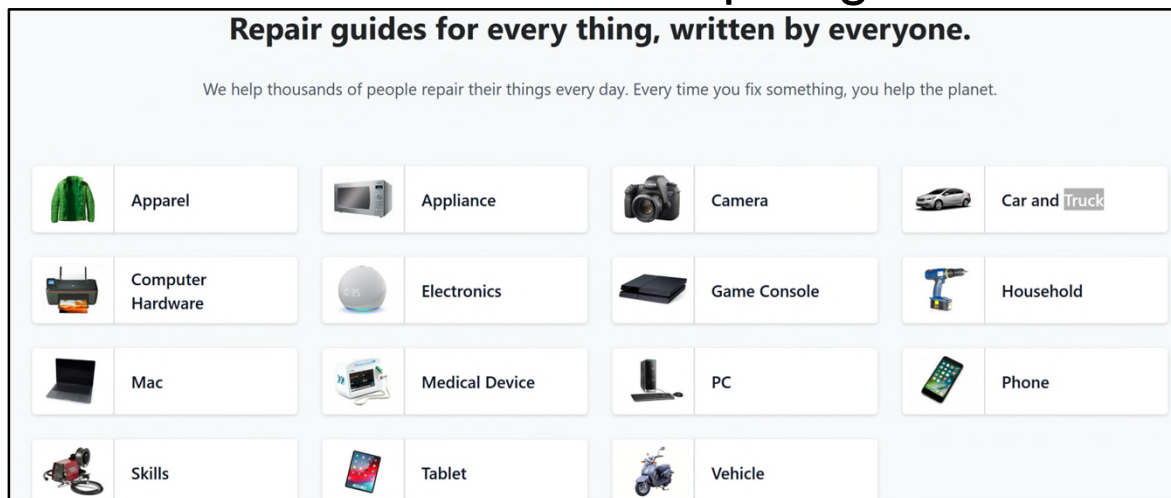
- Reusable water bottle
  - Using a disposable water bottle a day for a year results in the same climate pollution as driving 147 miles
- Reusable shopping bags
- Reuse clothes in different ways and places





# Repair your Devices, Tools and Gadgets

- Fix your phone
- Sew
- Re-finish furniture
- Sharpen knives and garden tools
- Learn on YouTube with how-to videos
- Check out [ifixit.com](http://ifixit.com) for repair guides



# Repurpose Creatively

- Repurpose things for a “second life”, such as turning glass food jars into pen holders or old clothes into dust rags
- Wooden pallets become tables
- Use old bicycle wheels for garden trellises
- Turn a tire into a tire swing
- Wrap gifts in newspaper
- Turn boxes or magazine pictures into cards
- Crafts



# Creativity

- Turn wine bottles into candle holders
- Use old shopping bags or magazines as gift wrapping
- Turn old sheets into rags
- Tear old towels into strips, tie them in knots and create a new toy for your dog
- Use empty plastic soda bottles or glass jars as planters for flowers and herbs
  
- Before you dump it: Can it be fixed?



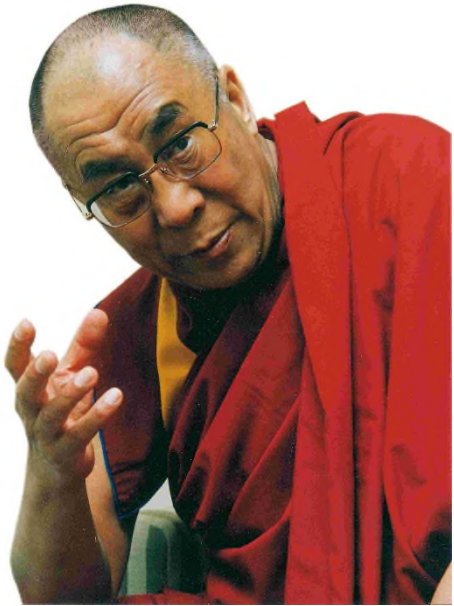
# Sharing, Discussion and Q&A

## Questions

- What ideas for 'reuse' resonate the most?
- How can you learn to repair and repurpose?
- What else can we do to reuse?



# Make a Difference



*Anyone who thinks that they are too small to make a difference has never tried to fall asleep with a mosquito in the room – Dalai Lama*

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead*



I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.

— *Mother Teresa* —

AZ QUOTES

# Closing Prayer

*Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth:*

*Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world;*

*Where we waste, give us discipline to conserve;*

*Where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care.*

*May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things, for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*

