

LEGISLATIVE

Batteries! Do you have a big ol' pile of used batteries in your storeroom or garage? Good news! We now have a terrific, best-in-class, battery recycling (SB5144) law in Washington. Battery manufacturers will organize and pay for easy, convenient, and free recycling take-back locations all over the state. A big thank you to Senator Derek Stanford and Representative Chipalo Street who led the bill. The law is so good because it covers all battery chemistries and addresses all sizes of batteries.



Plastic! Newly elected Representative Sharlett Mena did a fabulous job leading environmental bills, including her bill (HB1085) which reduces plastics in three ways: requires refill stations in new buildings, phases out mini toiletries (shampoos, conditions, lotions and soaps) at hotels, and bans the most problematic styrofoam-fill docks and floats and requires a study of the rest.



Compostable Products! It's often not obvious where compostable "to-go" foodware should go, and, to make it even more confusing, our compost facilities all have different rules. Representative Amy Walen shepherded HB1033 that created a taskforce which will make policy recommendations so that we can move quickly toward developing a statewide policy.



Looking forward to 2024 with recycling, compost, right to repair, mercury bulbs, EV batteries and more on deck!

PRECYCLE 2023

In partnership with Seattle Good Business Network, and with strong support from the state and other sponsors, we hosted the 2nd PreCycle Innovation Challenge, a circular innovation bootcamp and competition. This program supports early-stage startups that are working to advance a circular, regenerative, and just economy. The program culminated in a virtual Innovation Summit on May 15, showcasing regional circular innovation initiatives.



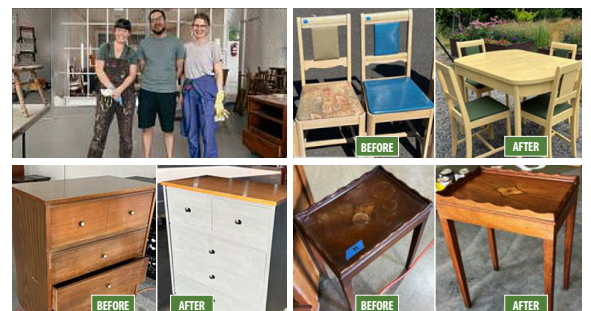
HELPING BUSINESSES SHIFT TO REUSABLE, DURABLE FOODWARE:

With support from King County RE+, we did outreach to hundreds of restaurants, coffee shops and other food businesses across the county, providing mini-grants to switch from disposable foodware to real plates, glasses, cups, utensils, sauce cups (\$500) and dishwasher upgrades (\$1500). This is about a norm shift!



THE FURNITURE REPAIR BANK IS TAKING OFF!

In addition to super well-attended fix-it fairs in 2023, our new Furniture Repair Bank, spearheaded by Xenia Dolovova, became housed at a warehouse in the SODO area of Seattle. Hard-working fixers and other volunteers repaired, sanded, stained, painted, and re-sewed/re-upholstered damaged furniture which was then provided to recent refugee families and other families in need. Take a look at the wonderful before and after photos!



AND SO MUCH MORE...

2023 activities: Litter Assessments, Litter Summit, Testing for toxic phthalates in products, Sustainable K-12 cafeterias, Research about compost collection, moving to the new office/warehouse, and a series of fun tours of the King County Cedar Grove Landfill...

Thank you to all!



Cedar Hill Landfill Tour, October 2023