



# Seattle REconomy

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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## **Letter From the Board**

To our makers, fixers, and DIYers; our environmentalists, sharers, and community builders; to our woodworkers, metal workers, and crafters; our landscapers, gardeners, and carpet cleaners; to our avid pressure washerers and laser levelers.

With your support, we believe we can change the world.

Seattle REconomy is dedicated to reducing our community's footprint and increasing our climate resilience through education and practical solutions. In the last four years we've created a reuse store, doubled our tool libraries, tripled our membership, and quadrupled our classes.

In doing so, we have become one of the world leaders in tool lending and community-focused waste reduction, and have saved the community millions of dollars and helped invigorate the circular economy in King County. Because of a very generous grant from King County Solid Waste's RE+ program, the Shoreline Tool Library is expanding its open hours from 12 to 30 per week. We will also be able to accept a wider range of materials at the Shoreline Tool Library. We are now partnering with Furniture Repair Bank, KidVantage, and Seattle ReCreative to begin accepting small furniture, children's goods, art supplies, and other various items. Our partnerships with governments, nonprofit organizations and the community continue to expand, and we continue to push toward long-term solutions for our locations to ensure we can provide stable access to our services.

And a lot more is coming. We expect 2025 to be a year of continued growth. In the next five years we plan to grow both libraries to have more tools, resources, and open hours.

We welcome you to join us in our mission. You can help by volunteering, donating and simply by telling everyone you know about this incredible resource. With all of us working together, we see incredible things on the horizon for our community. We are here, boldly making a difference, one step at a time.

– The Seattle REconomy Board

# IMPACT AND REACH

This year, we reached new heights in both our reach and our impact. We had the opportunity to grow physically, which has opened up our programs to a whole new community of people. And in adding a new library and a materials store, we're diverting even more potential waste from the landfill.

## Highlights

- **Opened a new tool library in Shoreline**
- **Hired first bike shack staff member and education manager**
- **Launched new website**
- **Expanded education program**

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



**35,000**  
Tool Loans



**\$19,278**  
Goods Sold



**240**  
Items Repaired



**600**  
Workshop Hours



**20,000 lbs**  
Material Donations

## EDUCATION

**99**

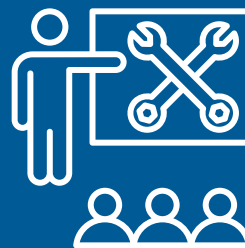
Classes Offered

**429**

Registrants

**29**

Topics



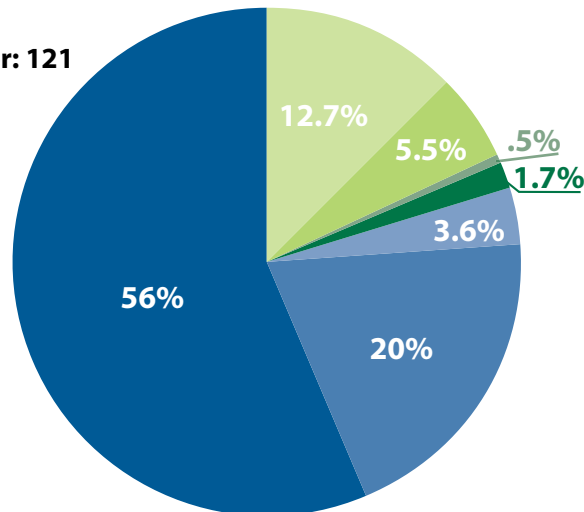
The Seattle REconomy community brings together people from all over Seattle and Shoreline. Our membership model prioritizes accessibility, with no one being turned away for lack of ability to pay. Community Supporter memberships help offset the operational expenses for this model.

Our programs run thanks to the support of a team of dedicated volunteers. Roles include committee work, staffing the tool libraries, outreach and more.

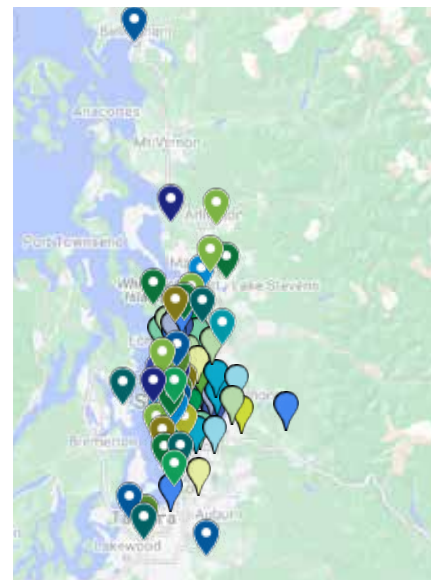


**COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS**

- General: 1859
- Student/Senior: 657
- Community Supporter: 121
- Lifetime: 57
- Monthly: 16
- In Kind: 183
- Other: 423

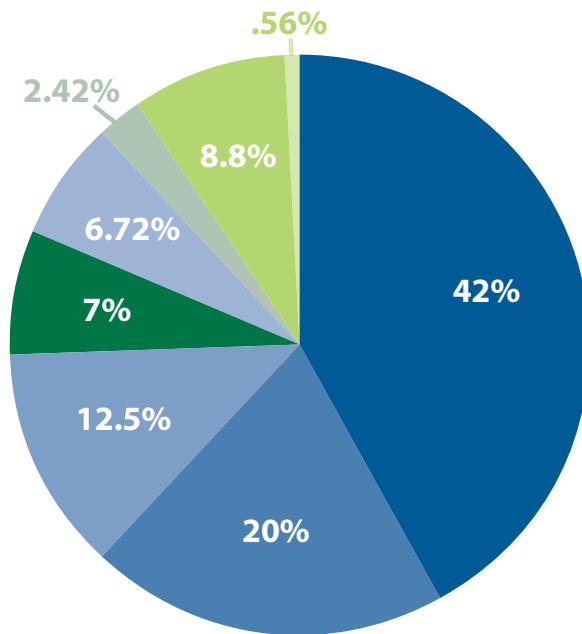


**MEMBERS BY LOCATION**



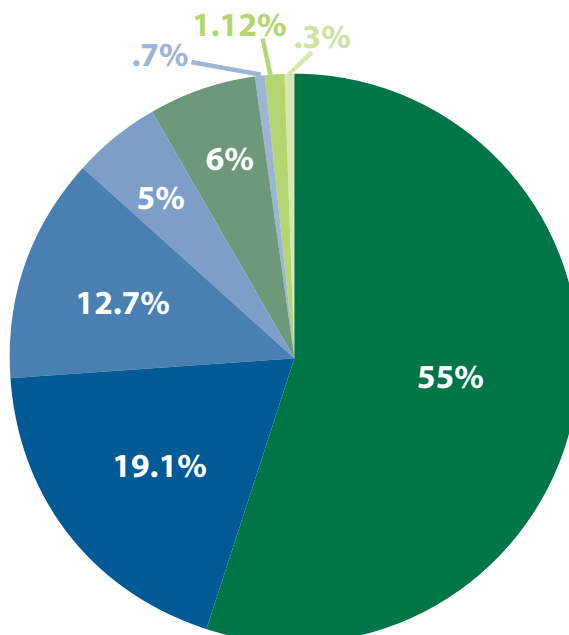
# FUNDING AND PROGRAMS

Seattle REconomy programs are funded through memberships, donations, grants, materials sales and events.



## INCOME

- Grants: \$148,239
- NESTL membership fees: \$69,704
- Shoreline membership fees: \$44,224
- Fundraisers: \$24,765
- Materials sales: \$23,282
- Classes: \$8,421
- Donations: \$30,968
- Matching gifts: \$2,000



## EXPENSES

- Staff wages: \$175,581
- Shoreline facilities: \$60,179
- NESTL facilities: \$39,410
- Shoreline buildout: \$15,000
- Fees and Insurance: \$17,707
- Event expenses: \$2,227
- Food and beverage: \$3,523
- Outreach: \$986

Seattle REconomy is anchored by its two tool libraries, in Shoreline and Northeast Seattle, and also supports additional programs that focus on a variety of aspects of a sustainable community.

- **Event Loans and Reservations:** Our inventory of essentials for putting on an event gives members a way to throw a great party without buying what they need to put it on. The libraries have supplies including tables, chairs, catering equipment and dishes. The option to reserve these materials is unique to the tool libraries because events are often date-specific.
- **Workshop:** The Workshop at the NE Seattle Tool Library is a place for members to work on projects with a knowledgeable shop steward. The space is equipped with a large SawStop table saw, 12" compound sliding miter saw, band saw, drill press, router table, jointer, planer, spindle sander, scroll saw, and various hand tools.
- **Materials Sales:** Seattle REconomy has a second use building materials store at the Shoreline Tool Library location. The goal is to divert materials from the landfill and reduce the consumption of new items.
- **Bike Shacks:** The NE Seattle and Shoreline Bike Shacks are places for Tool Library members – regardless of prior bike repair experience – to work on their bikes with a friendly volunteer bike mechanic. The space is equipped with many bike repair tools, a repair work stand and parts available for purchase.
- **Seed Library:** The Seed Library strengthens access to food resources in the community and keeps rare and diverse seeds in circulation. Its unique collection of donated seeds supports many edible gardens.
- **Classes:** Our open-to-the-public classes focus on DIY skills, home ownership education, and supporting recreational interests.

*"Truly revolutionary and useful idea. I wish I knew about tool libraries ages ago. I use this all the time. Staff is super helpful, too!"*

*— Tool Library member*

# ABOUT US

Seattle REconomy is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit working to reduce our community's footprint and increase our climate resilience through education and practical solutions. We do this through a variety of mechanisms: building sharing-focused programs, offering skill-building classes, supporting community-building activities, and more.

## Values

- **Celebration:** We recognize the role of community in acknowledging the seasons and our passage through them. We take time to celebrate our place, our relationship to one another and the gifts we are given.
- **Communication:** We communicate regularly about the activities of the organization, and are transparent in our decision making processes.
- **Creativity:** We acknowledge the role of creativity in bringing about change, and design activities which engage the whole person.
- **Inclusiveness:** We aim to include all members of our neighborhood, regardless of race, age, religion or economic status. We communicate across generations in conversations about sustainability and resilience.
- **Relationship to nature:** With respect for the connectedness of living things, we find active ways to promote an ecologically and socially just future.
- **Respect:** We listen respectfully and participate as fully as we are able. We seek and integrate feedback about our organization on a regular basis.

## History

Seattle REconomy started in 2008 as Sustainable NE Seattle. Three NE Seattleites, Susan Gregory, Joann Kerr and Carol Kibble, passionate about making a contribution to solving the climate crisis, created the organization to harness the power of community to reduce our collective impact on the planet. Sustainable NE Seattle focused on food and also established the now-foundational NE Seattle Tool Library. In 2023, Sustainable NE Seattle rebranded as Seattle REconomy to illustrate its broadened focus, both in terms of geography and philosophy.



We are guided by a board and two tool library steering committees made up of volunteers, while a staff of 8 (and growing) keeps us running smoothly.



**Board**

Chair Justin Avellar, Member Robin Blomster, Founder and Member Joann Kerr, Founder and Treasurer Susan Gregory, Member Ryan Abe, Executive Director Josh Epstein. Not pictured: Member-at-Large Rachel Boy (ret. October 2024)



**Staff**

From left to right: Executive Director Josh Epstein, Marketing Manager Anna Marie Wing, Materials Manager Ava Lim, Shoreline Volunteer Manager Peter Schmalzer, Education Manager Rebecca Roush, Bike Shack Manager Colin McElory (on computer), Operations Director Anna Wilson, and NESTL Coordinator Marlee Blue (with Dylan!).

**Organizational partners**

Around Again  
 Build Lake City Together  
 Cascadia Consulting  
 City of Lake Forest Park  
 City of Shoreline  
 Furniture Repair Bank  
 GeerGarage  
 KidVantage  
 King County

Puget Sound Energy  
 Recology  
 Refugee Artisan Initiative  
 Reuse Consulting  
 Ridwell  
 Seattle Office of Economic Development  
 Seattle ReCreative  
 Shoreline Chamber & Windermere  
 Shoreline Community College

Shoreline Library  
 South King Tool Library  
 Start Sustainability Consulting  
 WA State Department of Ecology  
 Wrasse Consulting  
 YMCA of Greater Seattle  
 Zero Waste WA

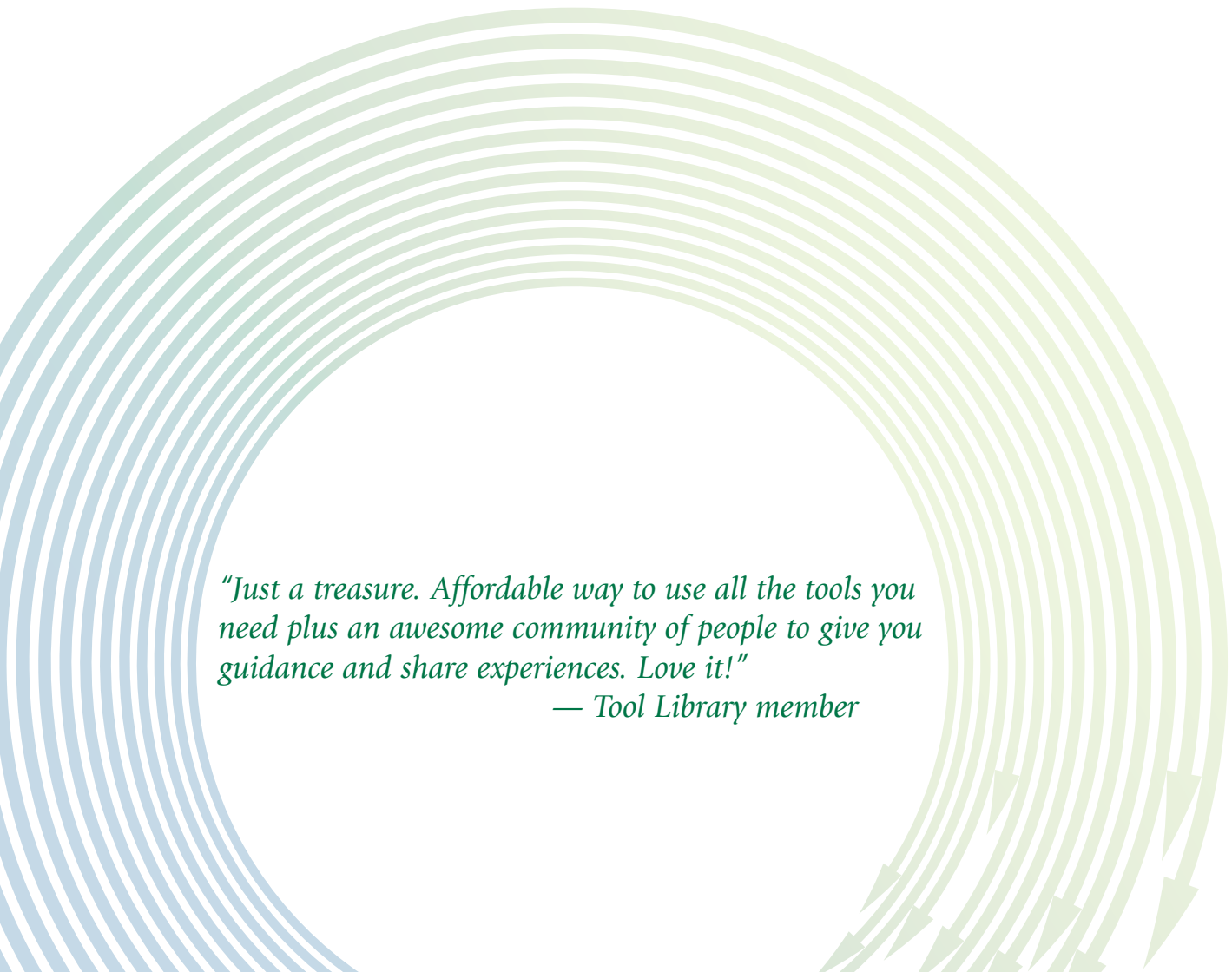
# LOOKING FORWARD

Seattle REconomy is on a path of growth! Our goals for the next two to five years include:

- **Secure funding for Development Director**
- **Expand space and time we're open for building materials**
- **Double our current membership to over 6,000**

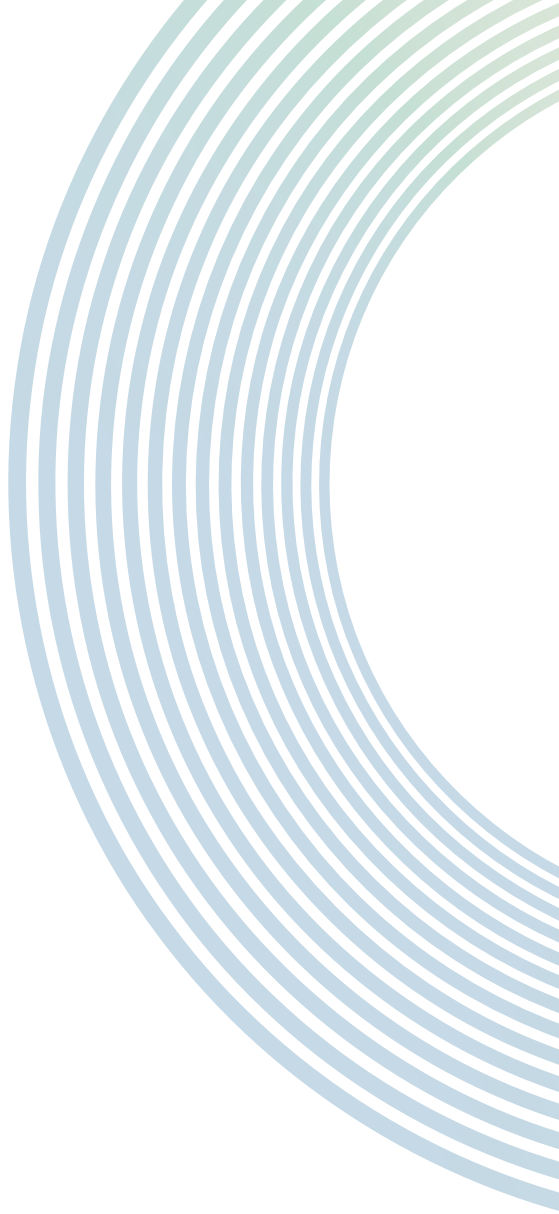
## How to help

- The best thing you can do is help us **SPREAD THE WORD!** So many of our new members come via word of mouth.
- If you would like to **DONATE**, please visit [www.seattlereconomy.org](http://www.seattlereconomy.org).
- And we always need **VOLUNTEERS!** There are so many ways you can participate, including as a tool librarian, instructor, fixer or outreach team member. Visit <https://seattlereconomy.org/volunteer/> to learn more.
- Is your organization aligned with our values and goals? Maybe we can organize an event together. **PARTNER** with us!



*"Just a treasure. Affordable way to use all the tools you need plus an awesome community of people to give you guidance and share experiences. Love it!"*

*— Tool Library member*



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