



SF Environment

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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco



CPSC
California Product
Stewardship Council SM



Goodwill
SAN FRANCISCO BAY

PRESS DETAILS

A press event will be held [in-person](#) at San Francisco State University on September 27th from 10 am to 12 pm at the Library events room (Lib 121) and [virtually](#) on September 28 from 10 am - 12 pm PT to share details and results from the garment repair pilot funded by the San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE) in partnership with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) and Goodwill of the San Francisco Bay. Hear from the partners, vendors, and immerse yourself in a display showcasing recovered finished garments.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Garments Repair and Reuse Pilot Succeeds in Diverting Textile Waste from the Landfill, Supporting Local Jobs, and Creating Beautiful Garments

(San Francisco, CA) Giving damaged or unwanted clothes a second life can bring big benefits to the planet and our community, as shown by a local repair pilot project funded by the San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE) in partnership with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) and Goodwill of the San Francisco Bay. The project hosted an open call for designers and brands to collaborate on repairing and renovating the large volume of damaged garments donated to Goodwill.

Currently, there is low awareness and very few options to repair, recover or reuse damaged garments so they often end up in local landfills. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) estimates that textiles are 3% of the total waste stream. Traditional thrift stores often can't take them as they are a cost burden so they end up in landfills or get recycled as rags in the industrial market. However, Goodwill sees many valuable, damaged items come through community donations and they wanted better options to get these damaged garments back into the community for reuse. Goodwill is positioned to support their sustainability goals, offer high quality affordable items to shoppers and to create local jobs.

The project addressed this issue by calling for experts and students from across the state who were willing to take in unwanted or damaged clothing and textiles to repair or upcycle to make new products. The project's goals are to strengthen California's sustainability efforts by increasing textile waste diversion and expanding opportunities for textile reuse, repair, and renovation while encouraging recycling businesses to thrive. This pilot project measured the volume of damaged goods entering the secondhand stream and mapped opportunities to repair and redesign the damaged garments into high-value, sellable items.

Garment cleaning and repairing are not new industries and typically these types of businesses are BIPOC-owned, but they have found repurposing clothes for commercial resale is an emerging industry in the Bay Area. Repair vendors such as *Savvy Cleaners* and *Designing a Difference*, along with San Francisco State University's fashion design students from the *Apparel Design and Merchandising program*, participated in the pilot project to provide their services to restore damaged garments.

With recent and future policies in play, California is striving to become a global hub for sustainable textile and garment production, including repair and redesign services.

Buying second-hand has [increased in popularity](#) since supply chain issues and tightening household budgets are driving consumers to find resale deals. You can find great fashion deals in secondhand stores and online on marketplaces such as eBay or other online clothing resale platforms. The strong partnerships developed from this project show how a successful textile recovery and repair system supports local jobs and keeps textiles out of the landfill. Find the full listing of repaired and redesigned garments for sale on [Goodwill SF Bay's eBay store](#).

Garment samples from the repair pilot will be on display at the press event and then travel as an exhibit coordinated in conjunction with CBU Productions according to the schedule below:

- SF State Campus Showcase - September 27th from 10 am - 12:00 pm at the Library in room Lib 121 ([Read More](#))
- Virtual Webinar - September 28th from 10 - 11:30 am ([Register Here](#))

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The **California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC)** is a nonprofit organization that represents a network of local governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses and individuals that support producer responsibility for end-of-life product management. CPSC educates public and private sectors about product stewardship; promotes and encourages sustainable practices by partnering with businesses, jurisdictions, waste and recycling companies, manufacturers and others; and recognizes companies that are leaders in waste reduction. For more information, please visit: <https://www.calpsc.org/textilestewardship>