


## San Francisco Textile Repair Pilot

In collaboration with




CalRecycle identified textiles as the fifth most common material in California’s single-family residential disposal waste stream. In 2020, CPSC worked with Goodwill funded by San Francisco Environment Department to sort and characterize post-consumer garment unsold at the retail store, finding 44 unique fiber types and 275 unique fiber blends in two days. In 2021, the same partners launched a textile repair project, also funded by San Francisco Environment Department, to pilot a repair program for damaged garments. The pilot showcased the opportunities in landfill diversion and opportunity for innovative material management by 1) Redesigning and repurposing unusable garments; 2) Sewing rips, tears, hems, and patches; and 3) Deep cleaning and textile surface repair.

### Results and Analysis



The 2020 study characterized 2,092 post-consumer garments. 90.15% were deemed resellable. The study identified 899 unique brands, 44 unique fiber types & 275 fiber blends.



The 2021 repair pilot repaired 876 garments for resale at GoodWill and diverted 815 lbs of garments from landfills. The repair includes cleaning, mending, and redesigning.

To promote green businesses and local jobs, the pilot collaborated with

- **Savvy Cleaners**, a locally owned, certified California Organic/Clean cleaner,
- **San Francisco State’s Apparel Design and Merchandising (ADM) program**,
- **Designing a Difference**, founded by an alumnae from the SFSU’s ADM program, for repair and redesign.



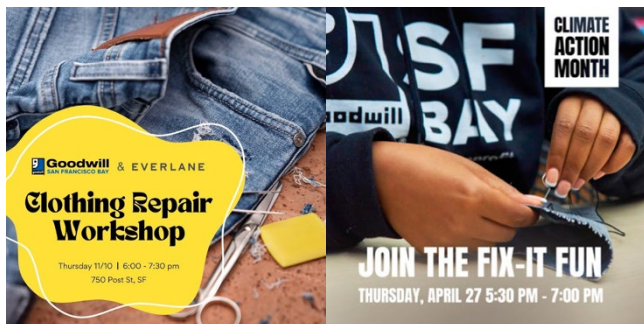
**Savvy Green Cleaners**



DESIGNING A DIFFERENCE



Of the total garments, **702 were sold on the Goodwill of San Francisco Bay eBay account**. The lowest priced item sold was \$9.99, while the highest priced item sold was \$260. In general, the repaired items sold for more than they were listed, but not all the garments sold, so the grand total of sales was less than the total spent on repairs.



**Engaging with the Community:** To showcase the redesigned garments from the students in the ADM program, an exhibition was hosted on San Francisco State University campus on September 27th, 2022. Designs were also displayed at the **Bridging of the Bay Merger Celebration on Treasure Island during the Week of Goodwill**.

Clothing repair workshops were hosted at Goodwill in collaboration with CBU Productions and Everlane.

The project also hosted a “**\$20 off any repair service for San Francisco residents**” event in December 2023 in collaboration with Savvy Cleaners to encourage garment repairing before buying new in the holiday season.

## GHG Footprint for Repaired Garments in the San Francisco Pilot Project (2023)



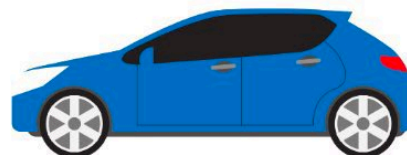
Natural fabrics:  
1.1 lbs. of fabric = .002 tons CO<sub>2</sub>

Synthetic fabrics:  
.56 lbs of fabric = .02 tons CO<sub>2</sub>



876 Garments Repaired.  
815 lbs of textiles diverted.

**Reduced 8.61 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>**



1.9 gasoline-powered  
Passenger Vehicles  
Driven for One Year



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### Recommendations:

#### EXPAND THE HUB

- ✂ Expand the repair business database by locating more textile processors, especially those capable of handling various fiber types at different scales, and textile-to-textile recycling.

#### EXPAND EDUCATION

- ✂ Encourage hiring sewing professionals and hosting mending workshops at thrifts and clothing stores to meet the increasing demand for personalized clothing and thrift shopping, empowering customers to mend their own garments and request customization at purchase

#### INCENTIVIZE INVESTMENT

- ✂ Advocate large-scale buyers and government agencies to invest in reuse and repair and promote repair businesses.
- ✂ Advocate for green purchasing programs that promote circularity; for example, buying materials that are easier to repair and/or are recyclable.
- ✂ Encourage brands to repair damaged garments and offer them for sale.

#### SUPPORT POLICY CHANGE

**SB707 (Newman)** focuses on reuse and repair of unusable textiles. The proposed legislation, supported by SF Environment Department, holds garment producers accountable for offering repair and recycling services for garments when they are no longer wanted by the consumers using the “Expanded Producer Responsibility” model. Its global precedent-setting repair component will support California’s local garment businesses, including washing and upcycling businesses, and bring circular manufacturing jobs to the state. California’s network of thrift and secondhand businesses will be utilized to collect unwanted textiles for sorting and recycling. The proposed program will incentive more brands and retailers to offer repaired, upcycled, or recycled garments.

- ✂ Actively **support SB 707** in 2024 as the bill progresses closer to passage.
- ✂ Introduce a **local textile recovery ordinance** using one of CPSC’s draft models.

For more information on textile recovery pilots and policies in California, check out:

<https://www.calpsc.org/cpsc-textilestewardship>