Textiles is a growing waste stream ripe with opportunities for better materials management and promotion of repair/upcycle businesses aligned with textile reuse and repair. The volume of garments facing end-of-life have been identified to increase exponentially due to low cost “fast fashion” and decluttering trends that encourage closet cleanouts. Thrift stores that accept these textiles are at their capacity for managing damaged garments as the highest-and-best-use. Previous research showed thrifts are landfilling the damaged garments, even if a slight modification would render the garment sellable.

Grant activities will address this issue by expanding StopWaste’s Re:Source Database relating to the Textile Reuse/Repair, provide one page “primers” with information on why repair/reuse is important, how to do conduct basic repair functions, and describe opportunities to divert from the landfill.

Project outcomes will identify best practices and recommend gaps in funding to increase textiles waste diversion, while expanding opportunities for regional textile reuse, repair, and renovation, and allowing recycling business to thrive.