SUSTAINABLE BAINBRIDGE

FOCUSED ON THE **ENVIRONMENTAL + ECONOMIC + SOCIAL** WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY



IMPACT REPORT 2026

CREATING A MORE SUSTAINABLE ISLAND
SINCE 2005

AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

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WEED WARRIORS = FOREST RESTORATION
Jeannette Franks

ZERO WASTE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
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COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN AND PROJECT ORGANIZERS

BI BEACH CLEAN-UP
Deb Rudnick

BI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA
Deb Rudnick

BI ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE
Maradel Gale

EARTH MONTH
Deb Rudnick & Diane Landry

FIX-IT FAIRS
Heather Dowey

THE REUSE DEPOT
Rachel Knudson, Gilian Engelson & Naomi Spinak

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NEWSLETTER & IMPACT REPORT EDITOR
Gilian Engelson

BAINBRIDGE BEACH NATURALISTS



Through hands-on outdoor education, ongoing species monitoring, and strong local collaboration, the Bainbridge Beach Naturalist program continues to foster stewardship, curiosity, and community connection along Bainbridge's shorelines. In 2026, the Bainbridge Beach Naturalists provided community education and intertidal exploration across Bainbridge Island. The program hosted 11 events, including four summer low tide explorations, one winter nighttime low tide exploration, a beach naturalist refresher, a Kitsap Regional Library low tide exploration, and support roles at the Earth Day Expo, Bainbridge Environmental Conference, and a Bainbridge Land Trust low tide exploration. We also monitored for sea star wasting disease on Bainbridge.

The low tide beach explorations engaged approximately 300 community participants and around 30 certified beach naturalist volunteers. The program partners with WSU Kitsap County Extension and collaborates with IslandWood, Kitsap Regional Library, and Bainbridge Island Land Trust.

PROGRAM LEADS: GAYWYNN COOPER & JANE HANNUKSELA

"We love seeing the joy in children's and adult's faces when they find critters and learn something new and interesting about them."

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND WATERSHED COUNCIL

PROGRAM LEAD: DEB RUDNICK

The Bainbridge Island Watershed Council (BIWC) stewards the watershed resources of our Island through research, education and advocacy. BIWC was focused on two major efforts over this past year.

With funding from the Bainbridge Community Foundation, we completed an environmental DNA study of Mac's Dam Creek on IslandWood's campus in partnership with Wild Fish Conservancy to understand the distribution of fish in this watershed prior to a planned removal of a check dam halfway up the watershed.

The other endeavor was a year-long photo and essay tour of many of our Island watersheds over the Oct 2025- Sep 2026 Water Year. If you missed joining us on those virtual travels, check out all 12 months at What's Your Watershed on our outreach and education page.



Wild Fish Conservancy's Aaron Jorgensen takes a water sample for environmental DNA testing on Mac's Dam Creek.

BAINBRIDGE SOLAR COLLECTIVE

PROGRAM LEAD:
KEVIN THOMAS

The Bainbridge Solar Collective (BSC), which was formed in fall of 2025, worked to support this year's Solarize Bainbridge program sponsored by COBI. BSC helped promote the four Solarize workshops, which were attended by more than 200 people, yielded requests for more than 350 assessments, and resulted in more than 70 new solar contracts for island homeowners. BSC also conducted its own guided solar tours of Bainbridge solar and battery installations, and it launched a monthly newsletter that chronicles the momentum behind solar on the island. BSC is working on a solar ambassadors program, education around balcony solar, ways to visualize progress on solar goals for BI, and on options for streamlining permitting for solar initiatives.





In its first year, the Bainbridge Solar Collective, working closely with COBI and Olympia Community Solar, played a pivotal role in promoting the Solarize Bainbridge program, which yielded more than 70 solar contracts on the island in 2026, exceeding the initial program projections by 137%!

REFASHION BAINBRIDGE

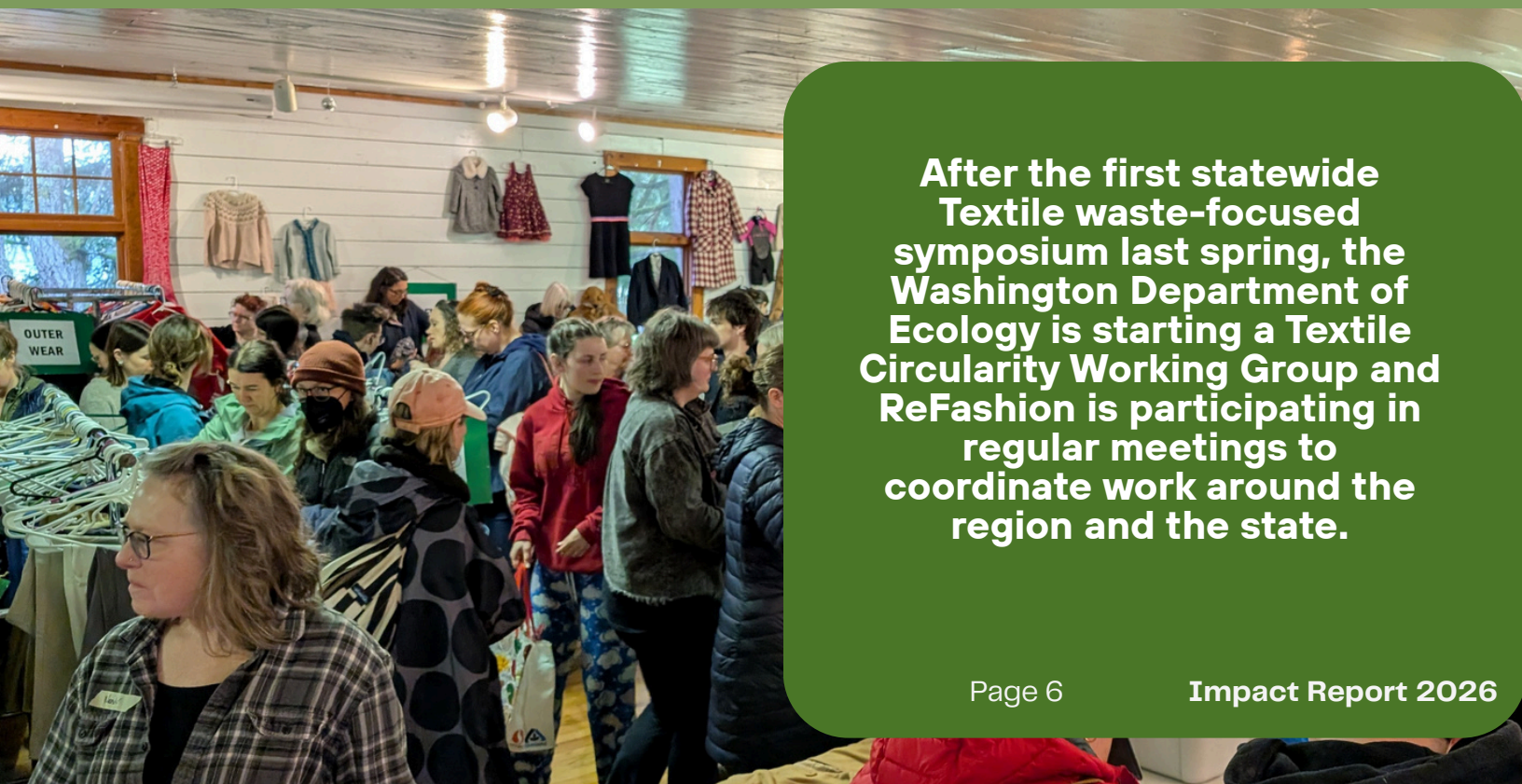


PROGRAM LEAD: NAOMI SPINAK

This year at our 10th Anniversary ReFashion Show, we sold 186 tickets for a very entertaining evening at the Bainbridge Island Art Museum. The show featured 20 artists, who created outfits from upcycled sweaters to ballgowns. As part of the commemoration of the past 10 years, BIMA also hosted a panel discussion of the Trashion to ReFashion programming, with a slide show and local artists and judges talking about the reason for the show, its impact, and the inspiration it has provided.

We were lucky to get another grant from Rotary to sponsor a Rotary Remix category, as well as have many other island businesses continue to support the show. We highlighted the winning entries at an exhibit at the Windermere office in July, as well as displayed some past ReFashion outfits at Bainbridge Arts and Crafts in Winslow earlier in April.

In addition to the show, we ran two more successful clothing swaps at the Filipino American Hall, where we took in and redistributed more than two tons of clothing for the community, with leftover clothing going to local nonprofits.



After the first statewide Textile waste-focused symposium last spring, the Washington Department of Ecology is starting a Textile Circularity Working Group and ReFashion is participating in regular meetings to coordinate work around the region and the state.

WEED WARRIORS = FOREST RESTORATION

PROGRAM LEAD:
JEANNETTE FRANKS



Inspiring more and more people to remove ivy

From **Weed Warriors** to now **Weed Warriors = Forest Restoration –** rebranding is tough! But voices at Sustainable Bainbridge meetings, as well as the volunteers at Weed Warriors = Forest Restoration events, agree that identifying ourselves as habitat restorers is important.

We have been volunteering at Bloedel every month since August 2025. For 2026, with anywhere from 5 to 15 volunteers working monthly, that gives us a rough total of 120 volunteer hours. The national value of a volunteer hour is $36.14. Therefore, our contribution to forest restoration at Bloedel is approximately $4,336!! And that's not counting travel time, mileage cost, parties, and cookies, not to mention writing this report and a monthly newsletter.

We plan to continue our efforts at Bloedel Reserve, one of the largest protected forests on Bainbridge Island, and we deeply appreciate the support that Sustainable Bainbridge and Bloedel have given us through supervision, recognition, and community participation...and those convenient restrooms.

ZERO WASTE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

PROGRAM LEAD:
DIANE LANDRY

We hosted a well attended movie, *The Plastic Detox*, that inspired the formation of a county action group, Kitsap Pushing Back on Plastic.

Our Tableware Lending Library and metal recycling are going strong! With Jane Martin and Barbara Ochota respectively leading the way, they and their helpers have devoted approximately 800 and 306 hours to these initiatives.

Around 300 events utilized washable ware from the Lending Library, thereby avoiding buying new or using disposables, while saving money for their organization or themselves in the process. Meanwhile, folks purposefully set aside almost 2000 pounds of household metal for the BI Senior and Community Center collection bins, recognizing that their old keys, random hardware, aluminum yogurt lids and much more can be endlessly recycled instead of going into the trash and being buried in a landfill.

Zero Waste also helped people sort compostables and recyclables at four community events. Plus, we continue to maintain a handy, locally focused Reuse/Recycle Guide online.





COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS



Photo above: Thanks to Smallwood Construction for showing up and cleaning up the Agate Pass area!

BI BEACH CLEANUP

PROGRAM LEAD: DEB RUDNICK

Thank you to the more than 70 participants who showed up along our Island's shorelines to participate in the 11th Annual Bainbridge Island Beach Cleanup! This annual event takes place in partnership with Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, a global event that occurs each fall. We could not do this work without our many partners who help make it happen: Bainbridge Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District, Bainbridge Parks & Trails Foundation, Bainbridge Disposal, the City of Bainbridge Island and IslandWood.

BI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

PROGRAM LEAD: DEB RUDNICK

Sustainable Bainbridge is one of several partners in the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). The CWMA is a multi-stakeholder group of Island public land holders and environmental organizations working cooperatively to accelerate best practices and coordination to reduce the impacts of invasive plants on our Island. We have met 4 times this year, primarily focusing on roundtable discussions to share resources and knowledge with each other and amplify each partner's efforts on this issue. For 2026-2027, our chair will be Heidi Urish with the Bainbridge Parks & Trails Foundation. Sustainable Bainbridge hosts the CWMA website, where Island residents can find lots of information about invasive weeds on Bainbridge Island and what all of us can do to help!

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS

BI ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

LEAD: MARADEL GALE

The 2026 Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference: Rising Seas, saw more than 100 community members, local and regional organizations, jurisdictions and agencies gather together to discuss the science and impacts of sea level rise and what it means for us as an Island community and region. The plenary session was followed by a series of workshops on various aspects of sea level rise. The conference is co-sponsored with EcoAdapt, Bainbridge Island Land Trust, IslandWood, and the Bainbridge Island Parks and Trails Foundation. This year the City of Bainbridge Island and the Bainbridge Island Metro Park and Recreation District were also part of the planning team.

The annual Helmuth Cup award for Environmental-ist of the Year was awarded to Mike Cox for his work on energy conservation and solar adoption on the island.

EARTH MONTH

LEADS: DEB RUDNICK AND DIANE LANDRY

The SB Earth Month page serves to highlight environmental events by local organizations or businesses that occur primarily on Bainbridge Island in April and its shoulder weeks. This past year our site featured 46 different activities and educational opportunities offered by 31 groups that helped folks connect with our natural environment and do good things for the earth.

Earth Month was featured in a monthly column as part of an environmental series in the *Bainbridge Island Review*.



COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS



FIX-IT FAIRS

LEAD: HEATHER DOWEY

Fix-It Fairs have become a community staple in 2026! Thanks to a fabulous collaboration with Bainbridge BARN, three fairs were held over the year. A volunteer group of over 30 fixers and menders helped over 200 community members repair or mend a large variety of items, including household appliances, jewelry, lamps, and unusual family heirlooms. In addition to keeping items out of the waste stream, the events also help build a strong reuse ethos in our community. We look forward to continuing these events in 2027!

THE REUSE DEPOT

LEADS: RACHEL KNUDSON, GILIAN ENGELSON, & NAOMI SPINAK

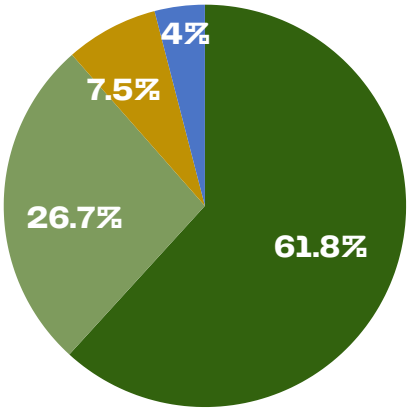
In 2026, The ReUse Depot has moved from idea to reality: one place dedicated to lending, mending, and reuse. It became its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit in August. We are grateful for the unwavering support of Sustainable Bainbridge as our fiscal sponsor over the past year. Volunteers logged 1,000 hours of preparation; the team was selected for the Washington State Department of Ecology and Commerce's NextCycle Circular Accelerator Program, and initial funding came from Sustainable Bainbridge, the Bainbridge Community Foundation, and private donors through One Call for All.

In a community survey that drew almost 150 responses, 93% said the ReUse Depot would be a valuable community resource. Five kids' clothing and school supply swaps this summer brought together families from Bainbridge and North Kitsap. The team is finalizing its first home and anticipates opening early in the new year.

2026 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

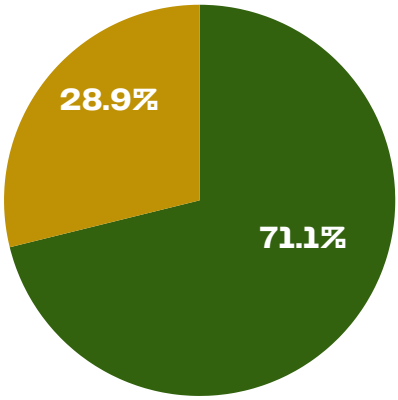
1-1-26 to 11-17-26

REVENUE



Donations	$34,647
Grants	$15,000
Program Revenue	$4,182
Interest	$2,261
Total Revenue	**$56,090**

EXPENSES



Programming	$21,067
Operations	$8,544
Total Expenses	**$29,611**

CONTACT US

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