Home ReSource
2017
This is bigger than us
Dear Friend,

In 2017, Home ReSource continued to make a very intentional transformation into a community sustainability center that addresses the kinds of societal transformations needed to ensure a thriving, just, creative, engaged, and environmentally responsible community.

What does sustainability mean anyway? We recognize that the word is overplayed in speech and title while often underused in action. We offer this definition: “Sustainability does not borrow from the future or the collective to pay the present or the few; sustainability nourishes the now while ensuring a tomorrow as vital with possibility and richness as any other moment.”

At a time when many of us feel challenged to have a meaningful impact on significant issues of our day, including climate change, poverty, and an increasingly polarized political arena, Home ReSource is working locally, in connection with amazing customers, supporters, organizations, and collaborators, to lead the way in building an effective, community-based culture of sustainability. This report will describe many of the ways we are doing that.

We recognize that this important work IS bigger than any of us, and collectively, joyfully, and hopefully, with our share of dirt and grit and as many used toilets as we can sell, we are building a better tomorrow.

Thanks for being part of our community,

Katie

WITH YOUR HELP, WE ARE...

People + Community + Materials

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Volunteer of the Year
Volunteer of the Decade

Energy Corps Member
Work Programs Practicum Student
Work Programs Coordinator

Chief Upcycling Engineer
Grand Poobah of Special Projects
Materials Acquisition Coordinator
Deconstruction Manager
Deconstruction Site Supervisor

Energy Corps Members
Work Programs Practicum Students
Work Programs Coordinators

Jenni Galbavy
Jaia Kattelus
Zayne Sharrard
Cameron Wilkes

2016-2017 Energy Corps Members
2017 Work Programs Practicum Students
2017 Work Programs Coordinators

2017 Youth Interne
reducing waste

24
deconstruction jobs completed, including the Missoula Mercantile

47
jobs provided to Missoulians, not including work program participants

907
tons of material kept out of the landfill

45,949
individual retail transactions

131
volunteers gave 717 hours of their time to Home Resource

$5
most common sale amount
In 2017 over 50,000 Western Montana residents across the demographic spectrum shopped, donated, and volunteered in support of our mission. Our reuse specialists helped keep almost two million pounds of material out of the landfill and in the community, building a culture of reuse and keeping materials affordable for everyone.

We carried, schlepped, heaved, pushed, moved, wiggled, and lifted materials of all kinds, including tens of thousands of pounds of materials from the Missoula Mercantile alone. In its last year under the Home ReSource roof, our deconstruction crew worked diligently to salvage this important piece of Missoula history and ensure that it’s bones and the history they carry would be spread around the community in the form of new trim, decorative glass, beams refashioned into bedside tables, and the thousands of other projects in Missoula businesses, homes, and institutions.

In September, we spun-off the deconstruction operation (which no longer needed a nonprofit home) to long-time manager Jason Nuckolls, where it is now thriving in the for-profit world as Montana Deconstruction Services.

This year we also helped launch ZERO by FIFTY: Missoula’s Pathway to Zero Waste. Together with the City of Missoula, we hosted community listening sessions, visited model Zero Waste communities, and drafted Missoula’s Zero Waste plan. Big things are coming in 2018, we can feel it.

VOTED ‘BEST GREEN BUSINESS’ FOR THE 3RD YEAR
Work Programs & Materials Giving

Since 2007, we have brought more than 300 folks facing barriers to employment into our organization, providing them with the training, mentoring, and support they need to move forward. **20 people gained job-skills training, a paycheck, and a professional reference while in our Work Programs in 2017.** They ranged from high school students earning school credit to adults looking to re-enter the workforce after a major life change. Community partners—organizations and donors alike—helped us strengthen this program to serve participants better in 2017.

We know we are just one part of a community full of people and organizations doing good work. And just as the community supports us with materials donations, we give what we have to others in need through our Materials Giving Program. We donated $17,299 of free or discounted materials to more than 97 nonprofits, schools, and community events in 2017.

These programs reflect our belief that **a truly sustainable economy includes everyone.** We are committed to sharing the resources we have (materials, compassion, creativity, knowledge, and skills) to continue modeling a successful and inclusive green business with diverse programs focused on mutual need, respect, and purposeful, supportive community engagement.

97 Nonprofits Received $17,299 Worth of Materials

Sustainable Local Economy
Our Zero Waste & Education Programs emerged from a shared understanding that education is essential to achieving Zero Waste goals and that partnerships are crucial to moving the needle toward a sustainable future. 2017 was the year we worked to strengthen our partnership with Missoula County Public Schools, ensuring more students got ZWAP!ed in our 5th grade Zero Waste Ambassadors Program, (ZWAP!) and more youth, teachers, and administrators would have a say in the district’s sustainability as we started developing a district-wide Zero Waste Plan with the help of our shared Energy Corps Service Member. A record-breaking number of 5th graders participating in ZWAP! means more students than ever took the framework to make sustainable choices back to their homes and out in to the world.

We also worked with dozens of Missoula organizations to provide shop safety, reuse, and job-skills training to youth and adults in how-to workshops led by Steve Nelson, our Grand Poobah of Special Projects.

In September, everyone’s favorite educational building event–SponCon–was one for the books. Teams brought their A-game and created some of the most beautiful, functional, amazing items to date–many featuring material from the deconstructed Mercantile. Their effort and creativity led to our most successful auction yet. Thank you to everyone for your contribution to these events, be it labor or a donation!

737 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN ZWAP!
In 2017 we maintained 2016’s growth-year income and staffing levels, increased wages and benefits, and received more donated materials than ever before.

Our deconstruction crew undertook their biggest job yet—the Missoula Mercantile, and our annual Banquet & Benefit Auction raised more money for our Community Sustainability Programs than ever before. Thank you for your part in that!
THANK YOU

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