

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Seattle Public Utilities and WM Announce Recipients of 2024 ReThink Waste Grants

SEATTLE, Wash. (October 11, 2024) – Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and WM are teaming up for the sixth year in a row to invest \$10,000 in innovative stewardship projects in Seattle. This year, funds are going to four local organizations. The purpose of the grant program is to help community-based organizations advance waste prevention, waste reduction, recycling, and composting. SPU and WM are pleased to announce the following recipients of the 2024 ReThink Waste Grants:

Amigos de Seattle will receive \$5,000 for in-person workshops and a live radio show to educate and engage the Latino and South Park communities in waste prevention.

Diaspora Cafe will receive \$3,000 to promote a culture of reuse through reusable cups and bowls as well as a compost bin for their café garden.

Switchback Repair will receive \$1,500 to expand their outdoor gear repair service and gear maintenance education.

Sustainable Ballard will receive \$500 for the Ballard Tool Library, to maintain shared tools supporting local edible gardens and RainWise yards.

"The grants are investments in local organizations to jump-start sustainability in the communities we service," said Joe Camero, WM's Public Sector Manager for Seattle. "This year's recipients showcase the types of diverse waste prevention and waste reduction strategies available."

"Seattle Public Utilities is proud to support community-driven efforts that champion waste prevention, reduction, and recycling," said Jeff Fowler, Deputy Director of Solid Waste at SPU. "These local partnerships create a lasting and meaningful impact and together we're building a more sustainable future."

A selection committee including staff from SPU's Residential Solid Waste Outreach and WM chose the recipients from entries submitted by Seattle businesses and non-profits in WM's service area.

About WM in Seattle

WM is a leading provider of comprehensive recycling and environmental services in the Pacific Northwest and North America. WM provides innovative sustainability solutions and award-winning public outreach to educate and engage businesses and communities to reduce waste and improve recycling. To reduce emissions, WM uses the [EPA's Renewable](#)

[Fuel Standard Program](#) to allocate renewable natural gas (RNG) to WM trucks serving communities in Western Washington. For more information, go to wmnorthwest.com.

About WM

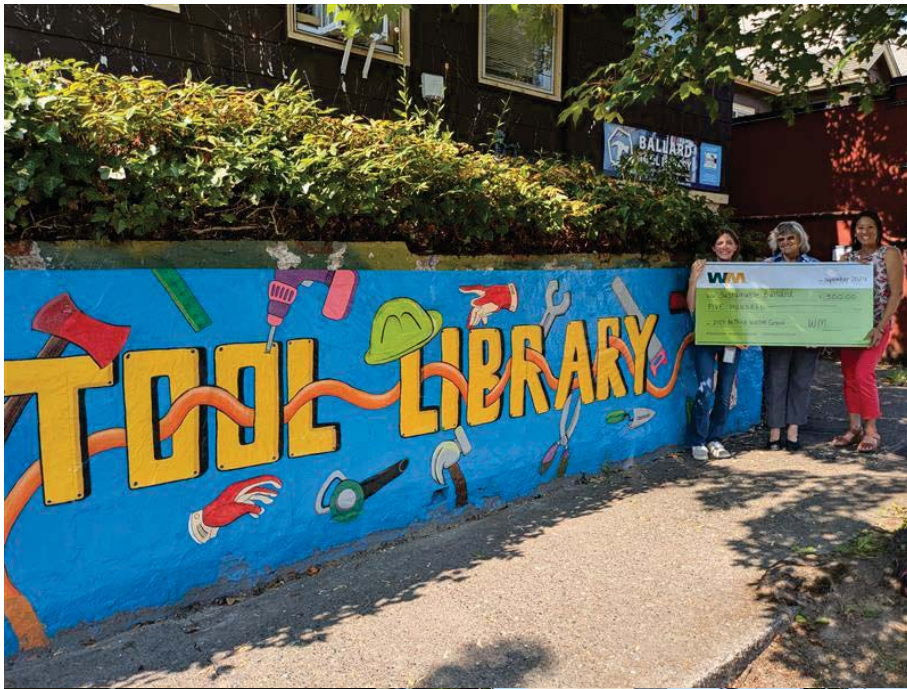
WM (WM.com) is North America's leading provider of comprehensive environmental solutions. Previously known as Waste Management and based in Houston, Texas, WM is driven by commitments to put people first and achieve success with integrity. The company, through its subsidiaries, provides collection, recycling, and disposal services to millions of residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout the U.S. and Canada. With innovative infrastructure and capabilities in recycling, organics, and renewable energy, WM provides environmental solutions to and collaborates with its customers in helping them achieve their sustainability goals. WM has the largest disposal network and collection fleet in North America, is the largest recycler of post-consumer materials, and is the leader in beneficial use of landfill gas, with a growing network of renewable natural gas plants and the most landfill gas-to-electricity plants in North America. WM's fleet includes nearly 11,000 natural gas trucks – the largest heavy-duty natural gas truck fleet of its kind in North America. To learn more about WM and the company's sustainability progress and solutions, visit Sustainability.WM.com.

About Seattle Public Utilities: Seattle Public Utilities fosters healthy people, environment, and economies by partnering with our community to equitably manage water and waste resources for today and for future generations. Every day, SPU delivers essential, life-sustaining water and waste services while protecting public health and our environment to ensure healthy, thriving communities. Learn more at: <https://www.seattle.gov/utilities>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Photographed left to right on September 5, 2024 at Ballard Tool Library: Anna Seweryniak (WM outreach and education coordinator), Marcia (Sustainable Ballard board member), Becca Fong (SPU single family residential recycle & compost outreach manager).



Photographed left to right on September 4, 2024 at Diaspora Cafe: Narita Ghumman (SPU community affairs strategic advisor), Dorian and Ian (Diaspora Café cofounders), Raven (Diaspora Café manager), and Anna Seweryniak (WM outreach and education coordinator).



Photographed left to right on September 4, 2024 at Amigos de Seattle: Socorro Medina (SPU recycling & composting multifamily program manager), Luis Amado (Amigos de Seattle executive director/founder), and Anna Seweryniak (WM outreach and education coordinator).



Photographed left to right on September 11, 2024 at SPU's North Transfer Station: Sally Hulsman (SPU solid waste contracts manager), Anna Seweryniak (WM education and outreach coordinator), Kay (Switchback Repair founder), Joycelyn Chui (SPU commercial sector solid waste program manager), and Mike Ramsay (SPU commercial sector solid waste program intern).