



# 40

— YEARS —  
**RE SOURCES**

## **2022 Impact Report**

*We live and work on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish Peoples, including Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe, who have lived in the region from time immemorial. We acknowledge the Tribes' treaty rights, as well as our responsibility to uphold them, and we are grateful for the Tribes' enduring care and protection of the lands and waterways. 🌿*

*Photo: Herring by Hannah Gabrielson*



## 40 years reimagining what's possible

Photo: Jordan Steranka, Unsplash

**R**E Sources' 40th birthday is as good a time as any for some mid-life reflection. For us, this milestone comes at a watershed moment in history. At home and abroad, we can feel our long-held financial and law-making institutions buckling under the weight of an ongoing struggle for justice and restoration. The status quo of exploiting people and the planet for short-term profit is bankrupting us and the bills of centuries of degradation are coming due.

Our 40th anniversary prompts us to ask how to make the most of our time and efforts. One thing is certain, the spirit in which Bellingham Community Recycling was founded in 1982 still burns bright. We're still bucking convention, rolling up our sleeves and proving that a better way is possible. Our years have also made us wiser. We're time-tested, through big wins, tough losses and showdowns over the future of our region. Today, we are still responsive to community needs, and we're more strategic than ever. By prioritizing root problems and systemic changes, we create space for forward-thinking ideas to flourish.

Looking back on the past 40 years, it's easy to recount times when challenges facing our community felt impossible to overcome. Curbside recycling once sounded like a wild idea. Students learning about climate change in school was taboo not so long ago. People doubted whether a store devoted to material reuse would ever take hold. Going up against a giant financial institution like Goldman Sachs to defeat a disastrous coal terminal proposal once seemed like a longshot, but we did it with the leadership of the Lummi Nation. Likewise, we stood firm in adopting critical protections so that our parks, forests, rivers and shorelines did not succumb to pavement and industrial pollution. With your support, we held the line against the Trump administration's attempts to roll back clean water quality standards. More recently we accomplished the unthinkable, using smart policy to end the era of reckless fossil fuel expansion at Cherry Point.

Now look ahead 40 years. Make no mistake, there's never been a more consequential 40 years — hell, eight years — in human history. Our challenge is one of determination, but also imagination. Can we reframe what's possible? Can we imagine that today's upheaval is actually the emergence of an ecologically-restored, climate-resilient future for our region? We can and we must.

RE Sources envisions a healthy Salish Sea with recovering orca and salmon populations; schools, homes and businesses powered by affordable, efficient clean energy; restored wetlands, forests, rivers and lakes balanced with sustainable agriculture and forestry; waste streams replaced by closed-loop cycles; hopeful young people turning learning into action; and healthy, just and thriving communities. That's what you're helping bring into existence by supporting RE Sources. We know this future is 100% possible because we see signs of progress every day.

Thank you for advancing this work together. Your support matters more than you know. 



**Shannon Wright**  
Executive Director  
RE Sources







**615**

Fifth graders took on action projects with our support as part of Bellingham Water School



**3,700**

Contacts to lawmakers by our Legislative Action Team during the 2021 WA State legislative session



**130**

Teachers engaged in ClimeTime and other professional development workshops



**313**

Metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> offset by RE Store programs, equivalent to the the annual energy use of 40 homes



**400**

People spoke out in support of passing the Whatcom Climate Action Plan



**38**

Community scientists in the field tracked changes in shoreline species populations and habitat health



**1,900**

Hours of training and work experience racked up by RE Store Community Jobs Training Program participants



**3,000**

Pounds of trash cleaned from beaches, rivers and lakes


## Leveraging your support

Photo: Simon Bakke

**W**hen you donate to RE Sources, we leverage your support through public and private funds, deep relationships and expertise with the issues impacting our region. Your investment is amplified and it stays within the region, funding a team of experts to develop innovative solutions to Northwest Washington's environmental challenges. We also pride ourselves in offering solutions with broader, even national applications. For instance, ClimeTime, a state program we help lead, is recognized nationally and internationally as a model for climate change education. As you'll see in the coming pages, giving where you live pays dividends today and for generations to come. **Thank you for your generous gifts and steadfast confidence in our work.**

## Thank you to our Foundation Funders:

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship  
Bullitt Foundation  
Burning Foundation  
Charlotte Martin Foundation  
City of Bellingham, Public Works Dept.  
Darby Foundation  
Dudley Foundation  
Elizabeth A. Lynn Foundation  
H & H Evergreen Foundation  
Harder Foundation  
Harvest Foundation  
Horizons Foundation  
Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation  
Keta Legacy Foundation  
Lucky Seven Foundation  
Lummi Indian Business Council  
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

Medina Foundation  
Northwest Fund for the Environment  
Patagonia  
Peach Foundation  
Peg and Rick Young Foundation  
Riverstyx Foundation  
The Russell Family Foundation  
Satterberg Foundation  
Superfeet  
Sustainable Path Foundation  
Sustainable Whatcom Fund  
Swinomish Indian Tribal Council  
Temper of the Times Foundation  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund  
Washington Federal Bank  
Washington State Dept. of Ecology  
Whatcom Community Foundation  
Whatcom County Health Dept. 



## At last, an end to fossil fuel expansion at Cherry Point

- After a decade of advocacy from thousands of RE Sources supporters to limit fossil fuel expansion at Cherry Point, Whatcom County became one of the first refinery communities in the U.S. to permanently prohibit new fossil fuel refineries, piers and transshipment facilities. This first-of-its-kind policy offers refinery communities throughout the U.S. a roadmap for how they can prevent the expansion of the fossil fuel industry, and expedite the transition to a clean energy economy.


## More game-changing wins for Northwest Washington

- **Cut single-use plastics in Bellingham through passage of a stronger city-wide policy** — even stronger than state plastic rules — setting a new bar for other cities to follow to protect our local lands and waters from increasing pollution.

- **Launched the Green Team Network**, helping students identify the areas where their schools can reduce their impacts on the environment by providing the knowledge and tools needed to develop and implement student-chosen, student-led sustainability projects.

- **Helped secure a strong Whatcom County Climate Action Plan**, including funding for a paid full-time staffer to work on county climate initiatives. The plan is a crucial tool for making progress on local projects that will impact (or be impacted by) climate change.

- **Advocated for state funding for an adjudication — a vital process for clarifying legal water rights — in the Nooksack River watershed**, where water rights and usage have been undetermined for decades. Knowing exactly who has rights to how much water is a vital baseline for making choices about this shared resource and protecting salmon, agricultural needs and treaty-protected fishing rights.

- **Reduced future pollution discharges into the Salish Sea by strengthening pollution standards for 58 of Washington's wastewater treatment plants**, supporting joint efforts by ally organizations. These plants are the biggest human source of Puget Sound's excess nutrient pollution problem. 

## 2021 Milestone Victories

*Photo: Orca swims by a Northwest refinery, by Hannah Gabrielson*



# More ways you made a difference in 2021

“

Through North Sound Stewards, I was able to see new shorelines and bond with new people over a shared love of the sea.

—Cameron Sokolowski,  
North Sound Stewards community  
science volunteer




Photo: Simon Bakke, RE Sources

## Advocacy

- **Launched our Climate-Resilient Northwest Washington initiative** highlighted by a multimedia StoryMap. This interactive guide outlines bold investments in natural climate solutions, which can help our communities withstand and bounce back from the heat waves, floods and other climate impacts already stressing our region.
- **Helped pass vital bills in the Washington state legislature**, such as funding for a critical water rights process (an adjudication) in the Nooksack watershed, setting a Clean Fuel Standard and better incorporating environmental justice in decision making with the HEAL Act.
- **Led a virtual Water Lobby Week along with ally organizations**, during which dozens of supporters held meetings with state representatives and senators to talk about priority legislation that would end harmful seabed mining, help clarify legal water rights, safely reuse gray water and more.
- **Increased investments in conservation and climate resilience** through the Conservation Futures Fund, raising roughly \$100,000 in additional funding per year for Whatcom County to protect valuable open space as our region grows and changes.

## Science, monitoring and community engagement

- **Launched Beach Stewards**, a new volunteer opportunity as part of North Sound Stewards, our community science program. We trained people to talk with beach visitors about tidal life and offer tips on taking care of the high-traffic, fragile places on which our wildlife and our tourism economy rely.
- **Created a water quality baseline** to help address pollution as our region changes over time by systematically collecting data on dozens of local waterways that no other entity is monitoring closely.
- **Conducted weekly patrols of dozens of local waterways** to watch for sources of pollution, helping clean up contamination and reporting pollution violations to ensure safe water for people and wildlife.
- **Held tours of historically contaminated cleanup sites** along Bellingham's waterfront. Through three in-person tours and two virtual ones, participants learned about past industries' impacts on the bay and how community comment is a key part of the Department of Ecology's cleanup process. 



## Expanding Sustainable Schools programming

- **Teamed up with partners to lead Whatcom County's biggest-ever year for climate education through the state's ClimeTime program.** We equipped 86 teachers with tools to incorporate climate impacts affecting Washington communities into their lessons and classrooms. We also engaged 42 teachers in additional professional development workshops covering food waste, pollution and in-classroom action projects.
- **Expanded our Youth for the Environment and People (YEP!) program** to 9th-12th graders in Skagit County for the first time in partnership with North Cascades Institute. Students developed leadership skills by organizing and promoting two tree-planting volunteer work parties in Whatcom and Skagit Counties.
- **Helped 615 fifth graders take on action projects** including caring for a storm drain in their neighborhood or on school grounds, litter cleanups, and art projects educating others on water conservation and stormwater pollution as part of the Bellingham Water School program.

## Education

“

YEP! really helped me get used to new people and a new environment. It's helped me want to get out in the community and impact it in a good way, making me grow as a person.

—Sebastian,  
High school YEP! 2021 participant

## Building community, cutting waste at The RE Store

- **Grew the Community Jobs Training Program**, welcoming 10 interns and trainees, hosting 26 volunteers, and providing 11 trial work experiences for adults with disabilities. Together, trainees racked up over 1,900 hours of training and work experience. Most importantly, the program touts an 80% job placement rate.
- **Launched the Revision Division Design Build Training Institute**, which teaches upcycled design and carpentry to underserved individuals and students.
- **Built 441 pieces of hand-crafted furniture and home furnishings** from reclaimed and used building materials via The Revision Division.
- **Salvaged nearly half a million pounds of material for reuse so it didn't go to landfills**, thanks to The RE Store Salvage Crew's careful deconstruction work, along with the Store's Manufacturing Waste Diversion Program. 🌱


## The RE Store

Photo: Samantha Hale

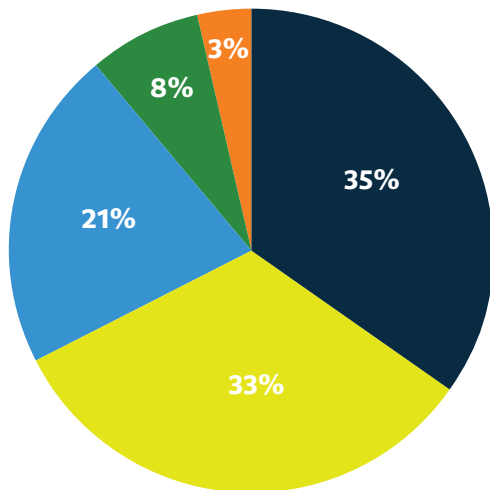


# Financial Report

**2**021 proved to be a year of financial rebound and growth following the challenges of 2020. We were able to make investments in expanding staff benefits and augmenting our budding reserve fund. Thanks to our hundreds of dedicated donors, we increased giving from individuals by 20% over 2020, raising a total of \$555,000. Foundation revenue also increased slightly, and grants and contracts from state and local government sources stayed steady year over year. Despite the ebbs and flows of the pandemic, The RE Store built back its customer base and saw moderate income growth over 2020.

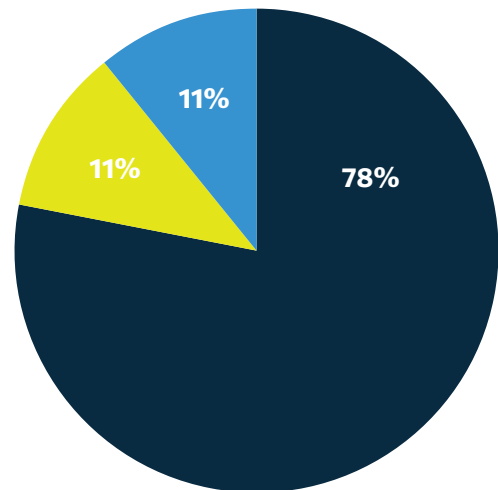
With reference to overall 2021 expenses, we were prudent in our spending and curbed expenditures where possible with the largest expense going towards staff salaries and benefits. If you wish to receive a copy of our 2021 990 Tax Filing, please reach out to Development Director Mary Humphries at [maryh@re-sources.org](mailto:maryh@re-sources.org). 

## Revenue



- 34.9% RE Store sales and services
- 32.6% Foundations and trust grants
- 21.4% Individual donations
- 7.6% Government grants and contracts
- 3.5% Special events

## Expenses



- 78% Programs (RE Store, education/advocacy)
- 10.9% Development
- 11.1% Administrative support

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**RE SOURCES**

**Join Us.**



RE Sources

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