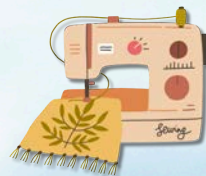
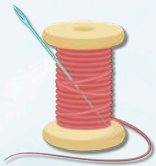


2025 ZERO WASTE TEXTILE EXPO REPORT



Solana Center
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

Zero Waste Textile Expo



Sponsored by



Funded in part by



In partnership with



By Erin Stone, Education & Community Engagement Manager
and Robin Fator, Marketing & Development Manager

*An educational event focused on the impact of textiles and fast fashion in
landfills, and on the many solutions that exist.*

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The Zero Waste Textile Expo was held on March 23, 2025, at the Encinitas Community & Senior Center in Encinitas, CA. Organized and presented by Solana Center for Environmental Innovation, in partnership with San Diego Fix It Clinic, sponsored in part by EDCO and funded in part by The City of Encinitas. We are grateful for the recognition from California State Senator Catherine Blakespear's office as a transformative community leader in creating cultural changes that will reduce textile waste.

This free event educated the community about the impact of fast fashion, clothing, and textile waste and the urgent need to move towards more sustainable fashion models. Twelve local organizations, businesses, and professionals in the textile and clothing design industry provided demonstrations, activities, upcycled goods for purchase, and inspiration for a more sustainable future in textiles.



EVENT OVERVIEW



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LOCAL VENDORS

The family-friendly event featured:

- Interactive educational displays about the environmental impact of natural vs synthetic fibers, environmental hazards, and landfilled textiles
- Clothing Swap
- San Diego Fix-It Clinic, with expert sewers to repair damaged clothing and textiles. The Fixit Clinic reported an increased demand for repairs at this year's event. Their volunteer sewists stayed busy throughout the expo.
- A very popular booth for family-friendly crafting with Be Creative.Zone
- A pledge station at the exit of the event, to encourage event attendees to reflect on future actions after learning at the event.



10 local vendors selling their sustainable textile goods, and providing education on their process:

- **CA Originals by Kathryn** - Selling locally handmade clothing & accessories made from vintage, recycled, repurposed textiles.
- **Custodians of the Sea** - Apparel made from salvaged and sustainable fibers
- **Be Creative Zone** - Guiding the crafting zone with hands-on demonstrations of the process of making rugs from old socks.
- **Best Coast Bags** - Selling bags, napkins, potholders, and other textile housewares from old jeans, upcycled shirts, fabric scraps, etc.
- **Goodwill Industries of San Diego County** - Offering a DIY craft: make a reusable bag out of donated t-shirts along with education on Goodwill's process for handling textiles and the importance of repurposing your textiles. They will also have small textile items for sale.
- **Muxu Creations** - Selling products that are made using only preexisting textiles: Patches made from reclaimed cotton with watercolor designs printed using water-based ink, zipper pouches crafted from swatches, art reproductions on reclaimed cotton, reworked denim jackets, start-to-finish jackets made from quilts, blankets, and other preexisting textiles.
- **The Bountiful Bag** - Upcycled merchandise made from San Diego plastic waste and excess textiles from the home decor industry and furniture showrooms.
- **Algenesis Corporation** - Showcasing BLUEVIEW plant-based and biodegradable footwear, with information on where attendees can purchase products.
- **Kornelija Art** - Selling upcycled, hand-painted clothes and clothing patches, as well as a patching station where event participants can bring in their old clothes and can either hand sew their own patches or request Kornelija to do so for them.
- **Purrfashion** - Handmade cat harnesses, cat collars, cat toys, and cat cushions, all upcycled from clothes and fabric scraps. All packaging is recyclable, and leftover fabric scraps are used as stuffing for cat toys.
- **Material Happiness** - Textile and fiber art creative reuse store including a selection of mending supplies, patch bundles, and kits. They will also share educational materials about mending and upcycling.



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PROBLEM WITH FAST FASHION

Textile Facts and Figures

- The average American throws away over 80 lbs of clothing annually
- 95% of worn/torn textiles can be recycled
- Only 15% is donated or recycled; the rest is landfilled
- Like food, landfilled textiles release methane
- Like plastics, we are sending our problem “away” to other countries
- Textile industry is resource intensive – using water, energy, raw materials
- Fast fashion is contributing to increased demand for new clothing – GHG footprint
- grew by 23% from 2000 to 2015
- Synthetics are toxic in waste streams and incineration
- < 1% of clothes are made with recycled material and many are made of plastic derivatives

THE FASHION INDUSTRY
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
NEARLY 10% OF ANNUAL
GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS
= TO ALL EMISSIONS
GENERATED BY THE EU
> THAN ALL INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS AND MARITIME
SHIPPING COMBINED

30% OF THE BILLIONS OF
PIECES OF CLOTHING PRODUCED
EVERY YEAR WILL NEVER BE SOLD
AND ARE LIKELY SENT
TO A LANDFILL OR INCINERATED

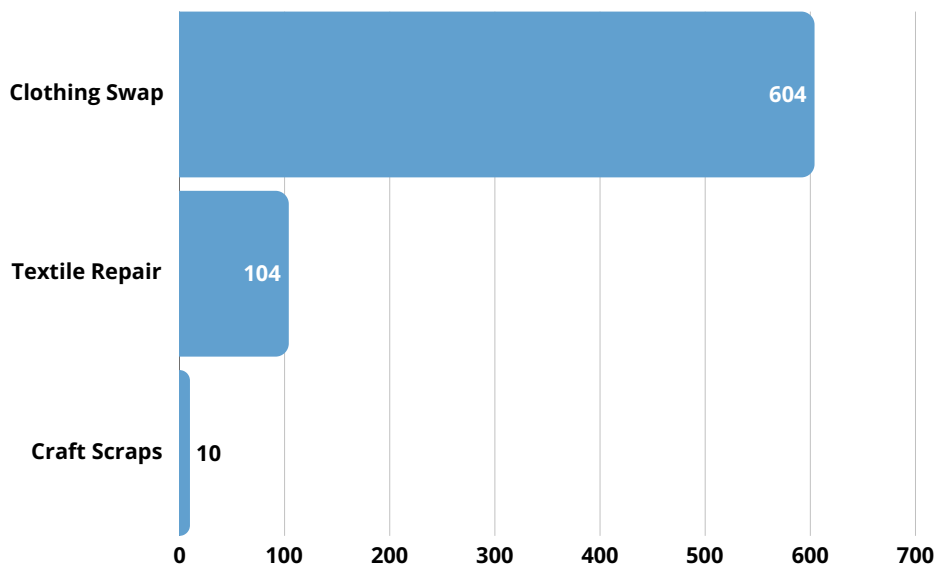


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Textile Expo Impact

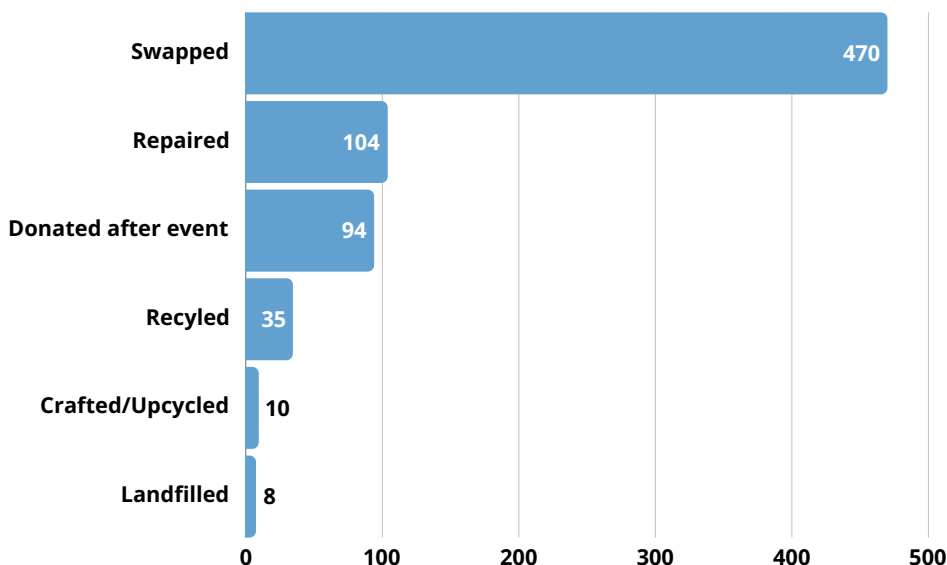
INCOMING POUNDS OF TEXTILES



The event collected 718 pounds of textiles from the community. Of that, **99% was diverted from being landfilled**. The below charts show the breakout of incoming textiles as well as the diversion pathways.

210 community members attended the event, more than doubling the turnout from the same event last year. In addition, 31 volunteers assisted at the event itself, as well as 13 additional volunteers who assisted with the preparation and post-event activities. 6 Solana Center staff members worked on the coordination, execution, and follow-up of the event.

POUNDS DIVERTED IN EACH PATHWAY

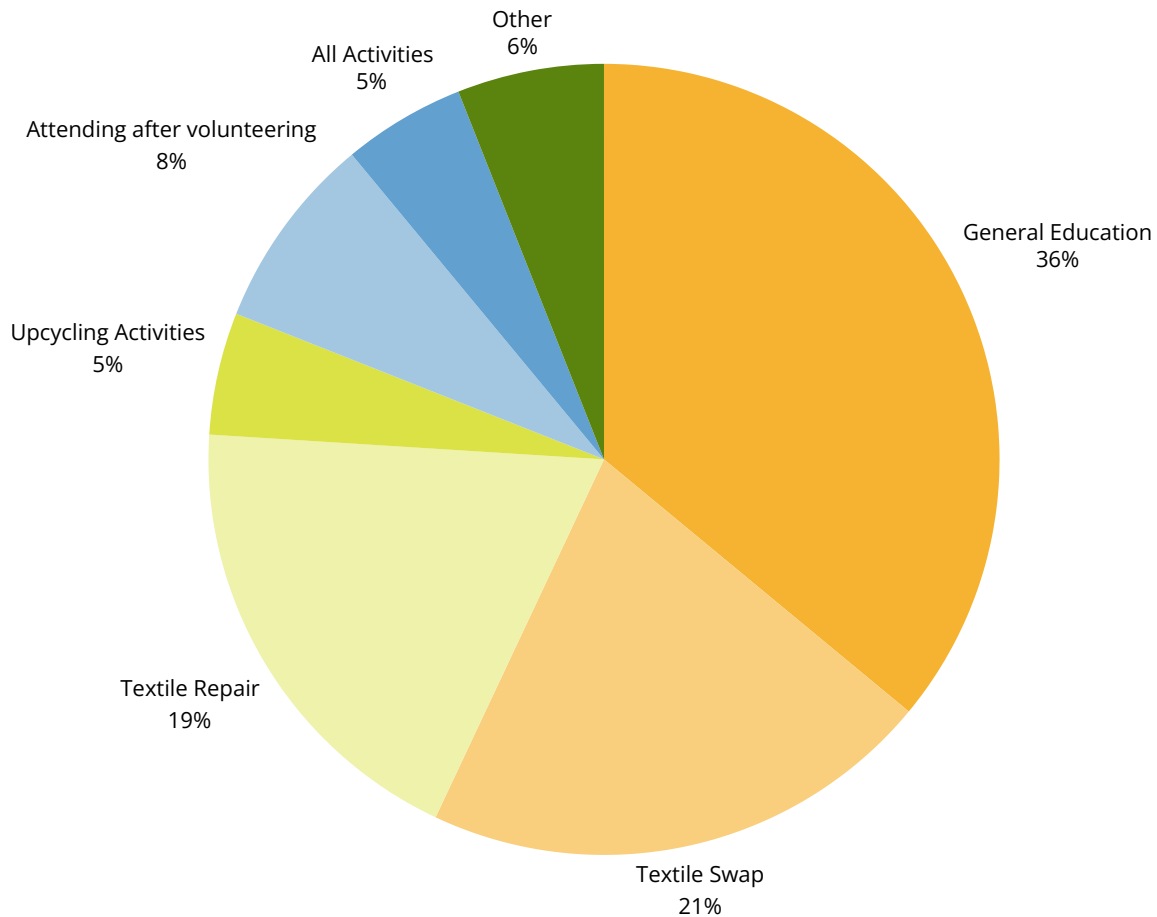


Attendees were primarily residents of the City of Encinitas, although 12 other local jurisdictions were present as well. Event attendees were surveyed upon entry, and we have determined that we were able to meet the primary goal they highlighted:

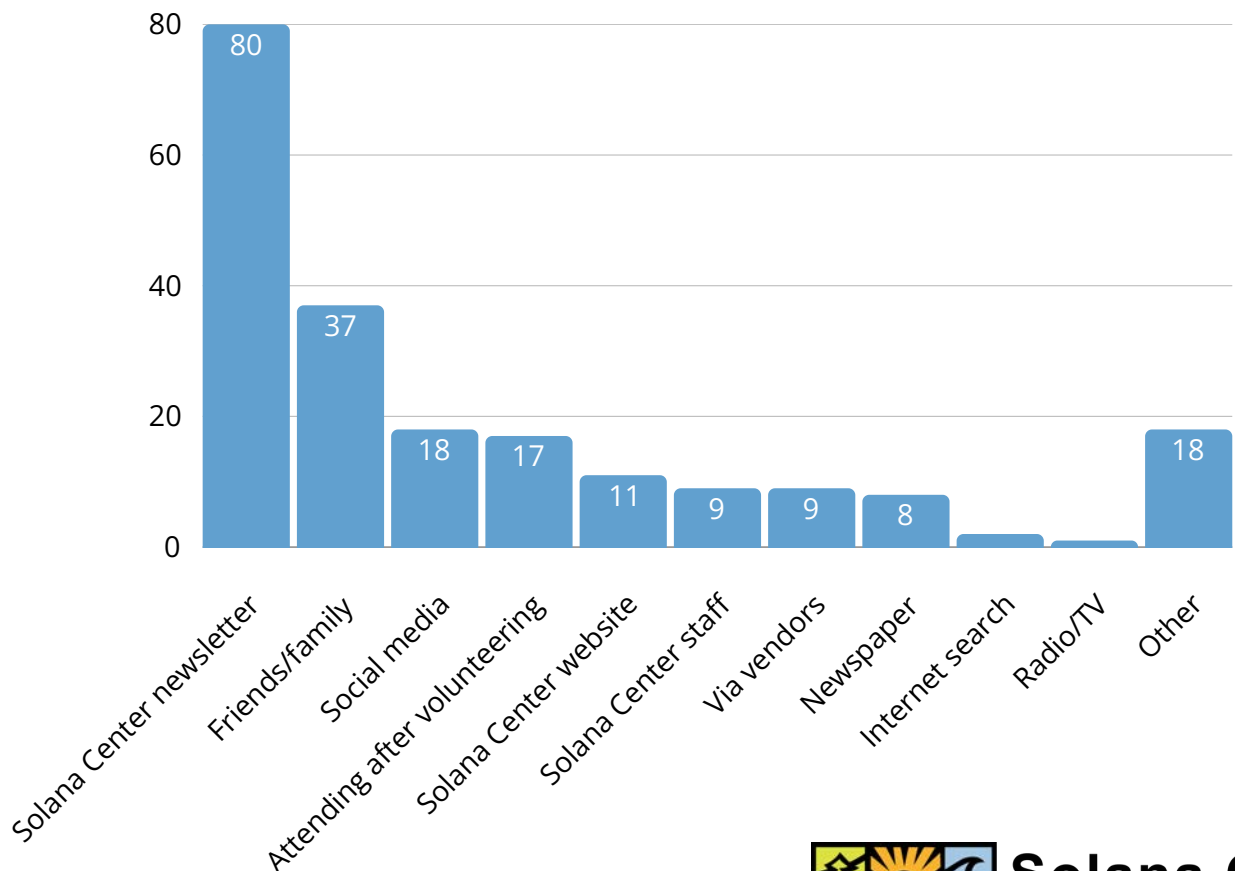


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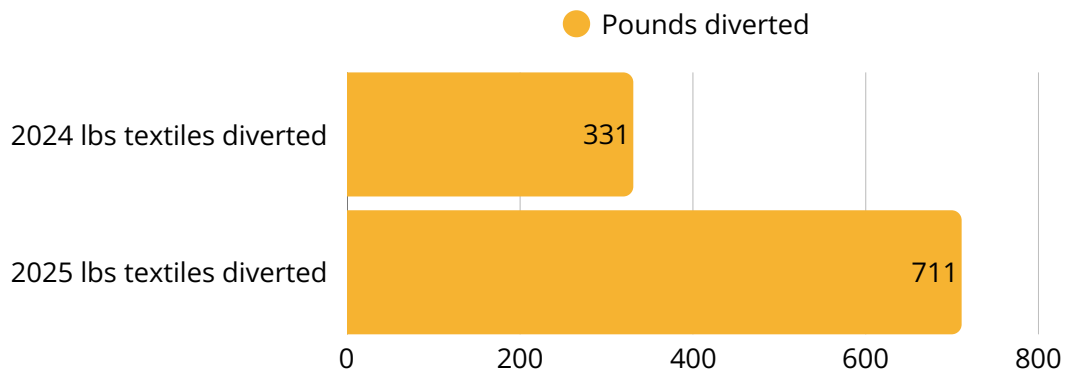
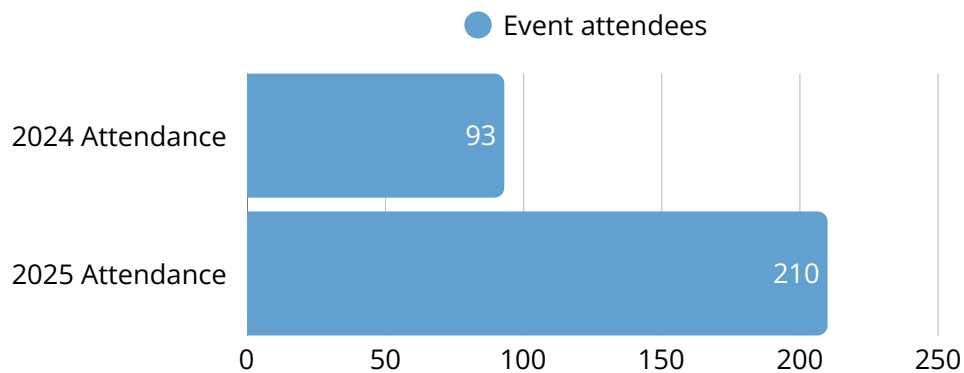
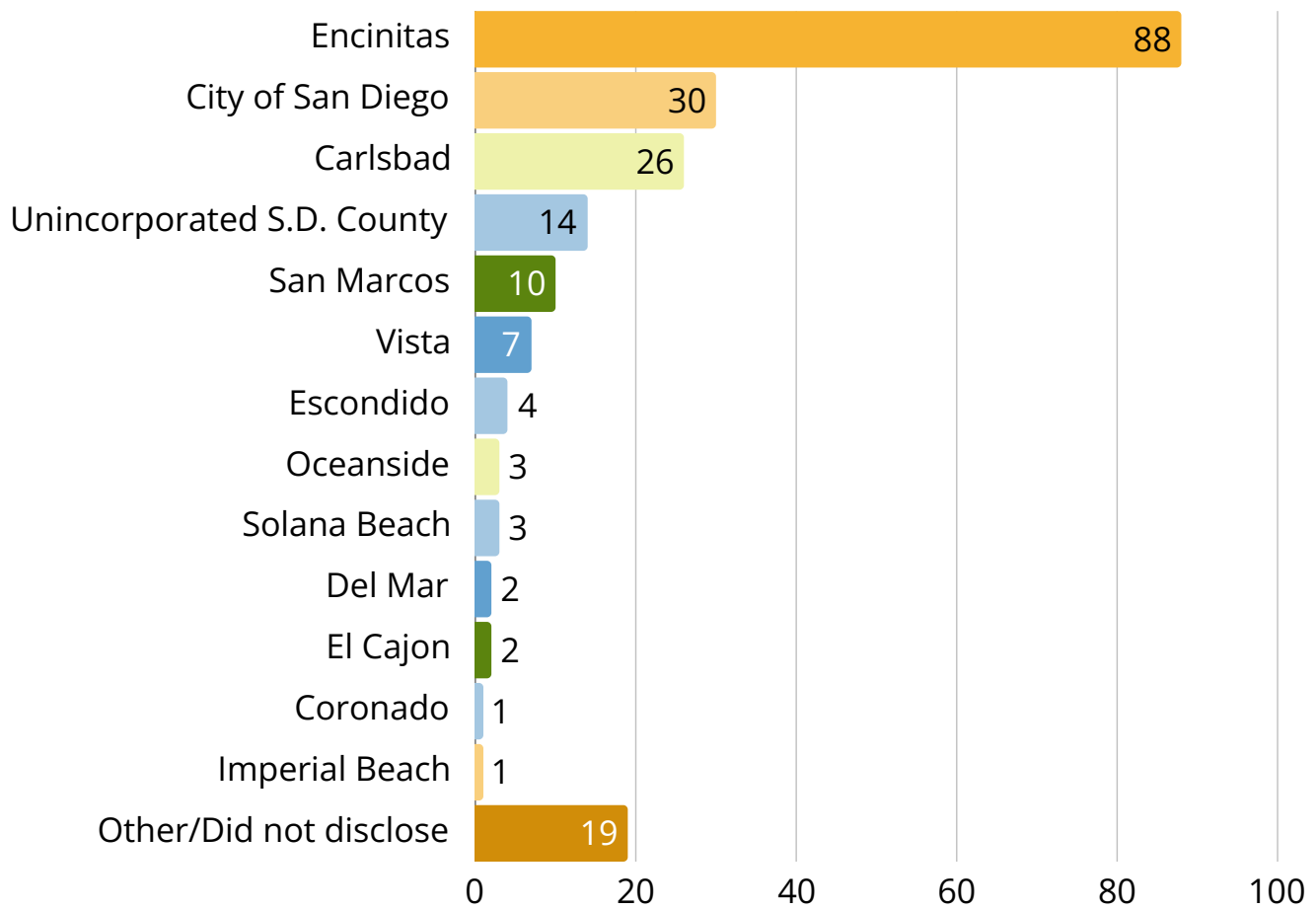
Primary reason for attending

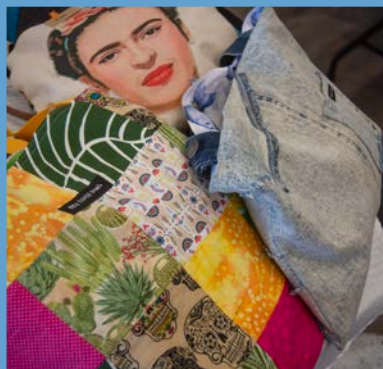
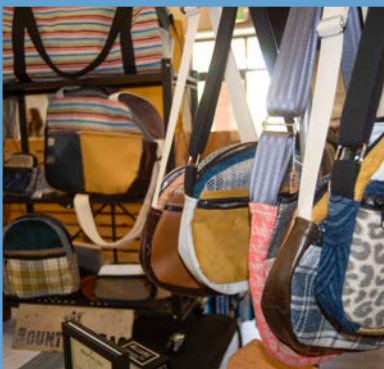


How did you hear about this event?



Attendee breakdown by residence





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