



Waste Services,  
Reuse Centre DIY Thursdays

Edmonton

**Reducing Waste One Workshop  
at a Time: Leveraging Community  
Skills for Sustainable Reuse at  
the Edmonton Reuse Centre**

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We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this great land and express our appreciation for their hospitality, for the manner in which they care for the land and for the opportunity we have to create a unified community that is centered around the oneness of humanity.

# Outline

## Implementation of Community-Based Skill-Sharing Workshops

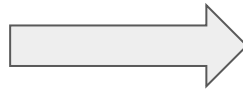
- Mission and History of the Reuse Centre
- DIY Thursdays: A Model for Municipal Waste Reduction
- Community Engagement and Behaviour Change Inspiration

# The Reuse Centre: Edmonton's Circular Economy Resource

The Reuse Centre evolved from Garbage and Reuse Fairs.

The Reuse Centre opened as a two-year pilot project in 2007.

Within 7 years, the program was scaled up and relocated to its current location in 2014.



# Benefits of Relocating

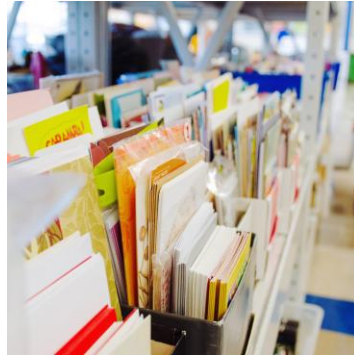


*Larger facility*



*Increased accessibility and parking*

# Types of Accepted Items



# Benefits of Relocating



*Added a programming space*



*Began booking educational programs and birthday parties*

## Time to Refocus

Our Covid closure allowed the Reuse Centre to evolve again. Upon reopening, many changes were made including:

- Operational changes
- Mandate shift
- Room usage requirements implemented
- Programs added and removed

## Introducing DIY Thursdays

DIY Thursdays is one answer to the combined issue of residential waste and the Reuse Centre's new mandate.

DIY Thursdays is a weekly workshop series featuring skill-sharing, specifically sustainability skills. They are volunteer-led and free to attend. The workshops highlight the variety of skills one can use to reduce their waste at home.

## DIY Thursdays Presenters

The process to becoming a DIY Thursdays presenter starts with social media promotion encouraging interested individuals to sign up using an online form.

Presenters are typically adults enthusiastic about waste reduction and willing to share the skill with others.

DIY Thursdays is a collaborative effort between Reuse Centre staff and the presenter.

## DIY Thursdays Participants

Participants are also passionate about waste reduction and building their skills.

- Enthusiastic about waste reduction
- Reuse Centre Regulars
- Typically 12 and up

## DIY Thursday's Growth

Year	# DIYs	# Registered	Attended	Cancelled	Waitlisted	Attendance Rate
2023	17	200	166	17	6	102.11%
2024	42	596	298	85	102	65.47%
2025	34	525	239	66	95	59.07%

## Community Impact

- Participants receive a “taste” for the subject and seek additional education
- Community building within and outside of the Reuse Centre
- Visibility for the Reuse Centre with external organizations
- Ability to build visibility for external partners
- Increase in volunteerism with the City

## Successful DIY Thursdays

- Contain a practical component
- Small groups
- Beginner level subject matter
- Substantial lead time for promotion



# Top 4 DIY Thursdays



*Trick or Treating featuring education and jar lanterns*



*Gardening in Small Spaces including creating garden stakes*



*Upcycled Claw Machine*



*Beeswax Food Wraps*

## Challenges

- Weather
- Large events
- Lack of financial motivation for attendance
- Obtaining volunteer hosts



## Limitations

- Volunteer base
- Facility amenities
- Equipment



# Conclusion



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# Questions?

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The logo for the City of Edmonton, featuring the word "Edmonton" in white text on a blue square background. The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient with a faint, light blue image of a modern cable-stayed bridge and a snowy landscape.