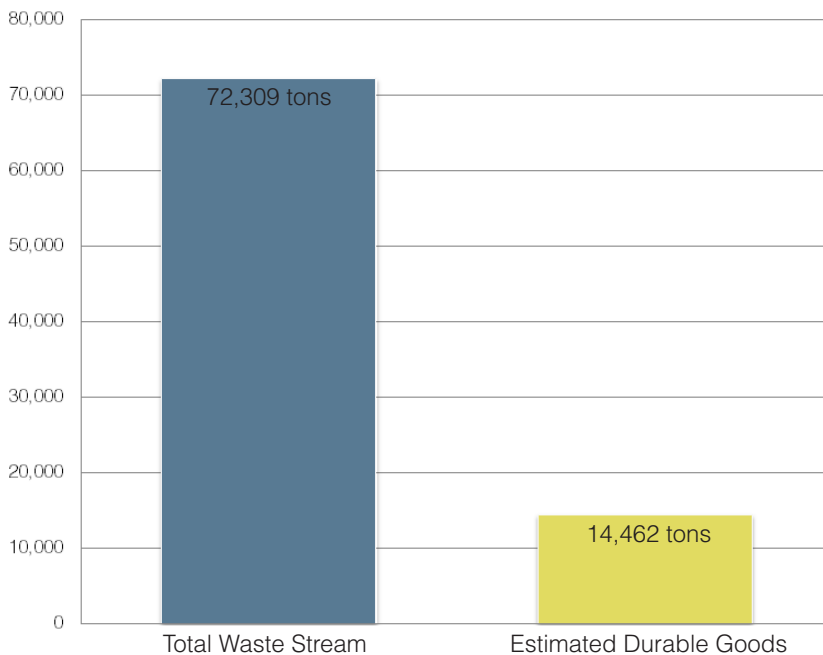




## REUSE AND REPAIR

According to the US EPA, durable goods make up almost 20% of our waste stream. Durable goods include items like appliances, furniture, and other items that can be reused or repaired. Currently there is no reporting system in place to measure the quantity of durable goods kept from the landfill through reuse and repair. The ADR includes only a few miscellaneous categories of reuse, reported mostly by Ohio University. As a result, we cannot accurately estimate the amount of durable goods that remain in the waste stream to capture. Instead, the estimated total tons of durable goods available for capture is pictured in the bar chart.<sup>1</sup> Of all the waste management practices, product reuse and repair generates the greatest economic return and potential for job creation. The materials have the highest dollar value and reuse is the least energy intensive process.

**2012 ESTIMATE OF DURABLE GOODS IN AHSWD WASTE STREAM**



### Baseline for Reuse and Repair

A list of known reuse and repair shops are included in the appendix of this document. However, there are many small operations in the District that are likely not yet included in this list. One of the short-term action steps addresses the issue of establishing a more comprehensive list. In addition to creating and supporting our reuse and repair shops to receive, fix, and sell more items, shops also need assistance diverting materials that are not appropriate for resale from the landfill. Oftentimes, reuse and repair shops receive large volumes of material that are beyond repair or too outdated for reuse. These materials could be processed or sold as feedstock on the open market.

<sup>1</sup> In order to determine the estimate of durable goods available for capture, the US EPA national estimate for durable goods in the waste stream (19.7%) was applied to the total tons of waste in AHSWD.

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## **ACTION STEPS FOR REUSE AND REPAIR**

### **1. INCREASE PUBLIC USE OF REUSE AND REPAIR SERVICES.**

- a. Establish a complete database of reuse and repair shops in Athens and Hocking Counties and make it available on the AHSWD website.
- b. Organize local reuse and repair events such as community-wide swaps, yard sales, and reuse project competitions to raise awareness and community involvement.
- c. In population centers, offer a curbside collection of reusable items 1-2 times per year in the population centers and funnel materials to local reuse and repair establishments.
- d. In rural areas, identify and establish centralized drop-off locations for collection of reusable items 1-2 times per year.
- e. Increase repair services for electronics and appliances by working with high schools, trade schools, and training programs for low-income residents.

### **2. CREATE A SYSTEM, PREFERABLY ELECTRONIC, TO TRACK THE NUMBER OF DURABLE GOODS DIVERTED FROM THE WASTE STREAM EACH YEAR THROUGH REUSE AND REPAIR. EXPLORE TRACKING JOBS, ANNUAL REVENUE, VOLUME AND TYPE OF MATERIAL GOING TO LANDFILL REGULARLY, AND CAPACITY FOR TRACKING DONATIONS.**

- a. Identify incentives for reporting.
- b. Work with reuse and repair establishments to ensure ease of use and shared purpose for data collected.

### **3. IMPROVE ORGANIZATION, EXPAND REACH OF SERVICES, AND INCREASE CAPACITY FOR MATERIAL COLLECTION WHEN OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS MOVE OUT OF OHIO UNIVERSITY AND HOCKING COLLEGE.**

- a. Identify an off-campus move out collection coordinator such as the City of Athens Solid Waste Litter Control Officer or a university/college representative.
- b. Establish a committee of reuse and repair operations to establish ground rules and equal opportunity for off-campus material collection.
- c. Seek to increase capacity for off-campus material collection by first engaging local reuse and repair establishments more fully. If necessary, bring in an outside organization to collect remaining material that local organizations cannot use.
- d. Include a waste minimization education component for on and off-campus students.

### **4. ENGAGE THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR IN REUSE, REPAIR, AND WHEN NOT POSSIBLE, RECYCLING.**

- a. Establish a local materials exchange system amongst for-profit and not-for profit entities with a focus on items that would otherwise be disposed. Possibilities include swaps, craigslist, and formal partnerships.
- b. Establish a program for reuse and repair shops to aggregate and recycle goods that cannot be repaired or reused, such as textiles, ceramics, and electronics.