



CITY OF
CARPINTERIA
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

Sustainable Solutions for a Cleaner Carpinteria

2026 FIX-IT FAIR IMPACT REPORT

Driving Environmental Impact
Through Community Action

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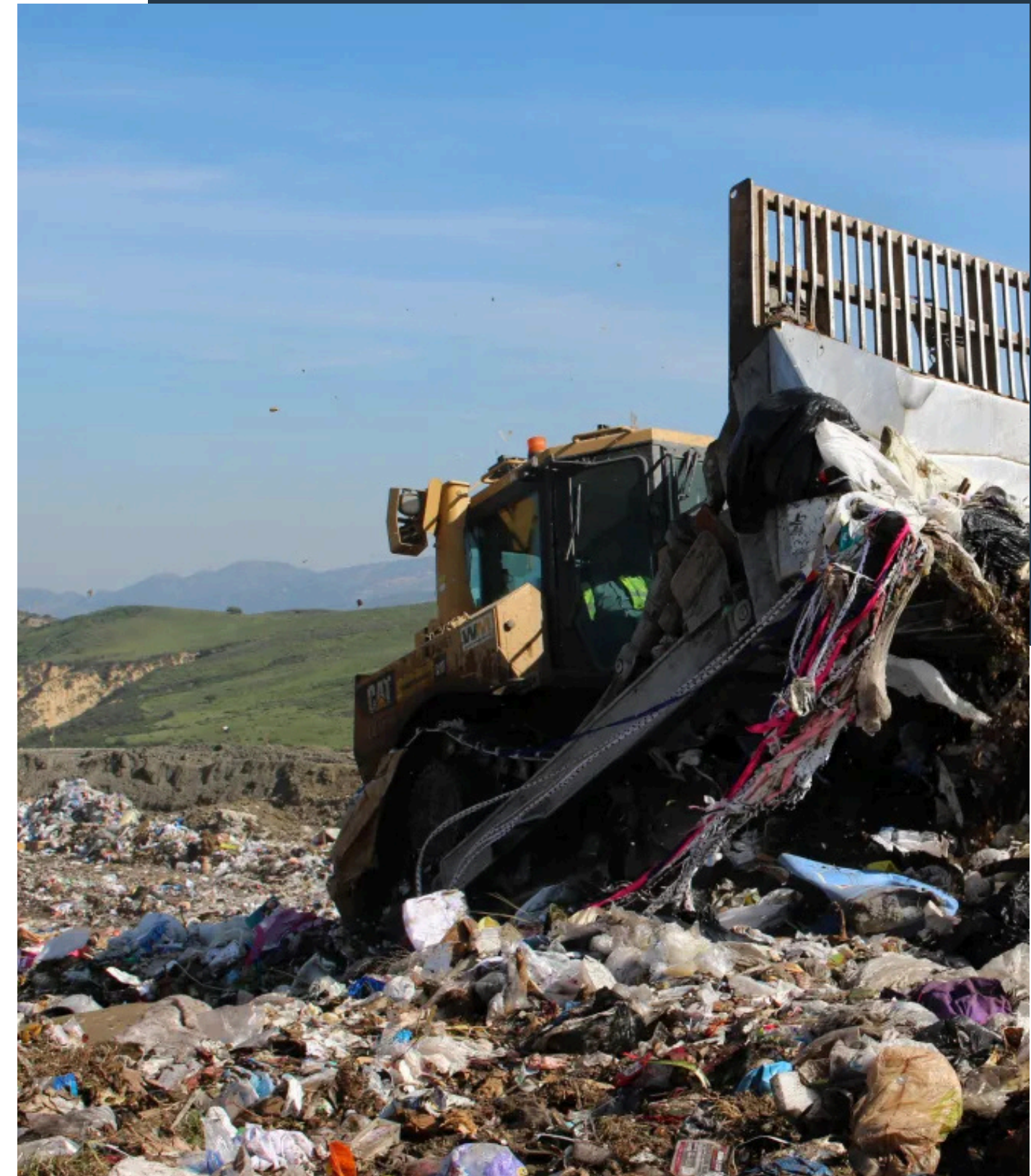


THE GLOBAL PROBLEM

Growing Waste & Repair Crisis

Human consumption is accelerating at an alarming rate, even as local waste systems approach capacity. Californians alone dispose of roughly 25 to 40 million tons of waste in landfills each year. Household electronics, textiles, and small appliances make up a large share of this stream, driving landfill growth and greenhouse gas emissions through material breakdown and replacement production. Many of these items are still repairable but are often discarded due to convenience, limited repair access, or a culture of replacement.

As a result, waste has become both a local and global environmental challenge, straining landfill infrastructure and increasing climate impacts from unnecessary consumption and disposal. A systemic, scalable approach is urgently needed to address these interconnected issues.





Community Repair as a Sustainable Strategy

A SMALL-SCALE SOLUTION

- 1. Free Volunteer-Based Repair Events**
Community-driven repair support
- 2. Make Repair Accessible & Practical**
Lower barriers to repair
- 3. Extend Product Life Cycles**
Longer-lasting products through repair
- 4. Reduce Landfill Waste**
Divert usable items from landfills
- 5. Accelerate the Circular Economy**
Shift from disposal to reuse
- 6. Foster Community, Business & Government Partnerships**
Shared responsibility for sustainability



THE OPPORTUNITY

- ✓ **Repair Opportunity.** Prevent functional items from becoming waste.
- ✓ **Environmental Impact.** Reduce demand for new manufacturing and lower emissions from production and disposal cycles.
- ✓ **Economic Opportunity.** Reduce household expenses and extend value of existing consumer goods.



CARPINTERIA'S RESPONSE



Annual Fix-it Fair



Saturday, May 30
Noon-4 PM



Carpinteria Veteran's Hall
941 Walnut Ave.

Year 2 Results and Momentum

TRACTION & ACHIEVEMENTS

✔ Impact Generated

Over 700 pounds of waste diverted from landfills, approximately \$2,200 in avoided replacement costs, and a significant reduction in associated carbon emissions.

✔ Partnership Network

Collaborated with 10+ local businesses, organizations, and individuals from Carpinteria and Santa Barbara.

✔ Community Involvement

Engaged 100+ individuals in hands-on sustainability and repair activities and hosted 17 community volunteers and staff, strengthening local skill-sharing and repair knowledge exchange.

✔ Data Insights

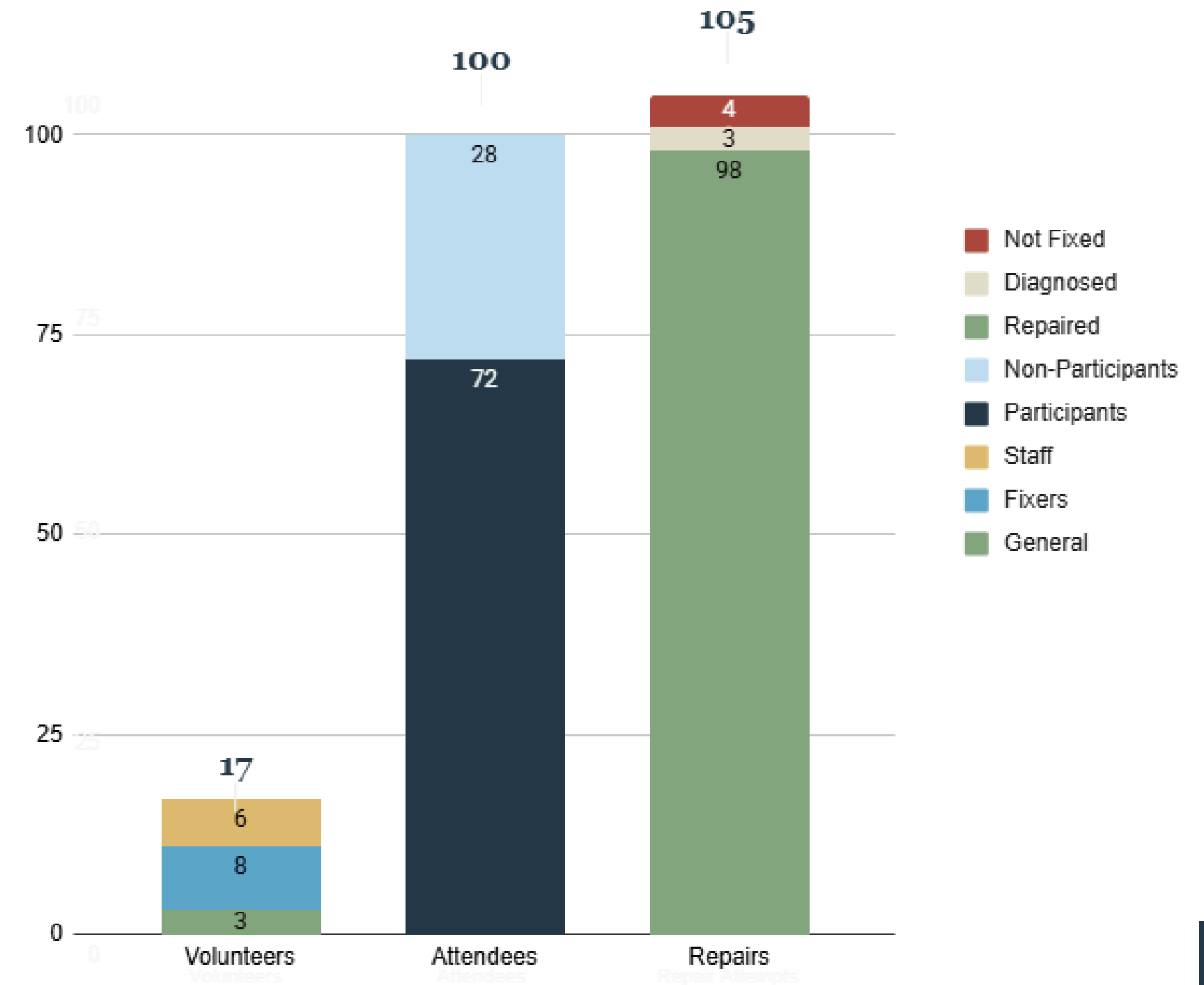
Identified electronics, small appliances, and textiles as major waste streams with 96% of items successfully repaired or salvaged.





REPAIR EVENT OUTCOMES

The majority of repair attempts resulted in successful fixes, highlighting strong volunteer engagement and effective community-led repair efforts, with additional foot traffic indicating broader community curiosity and engagement with repair services.



Understanding Repair Demand

COMMUNITY TRENDS

Most common items brought in for repair:

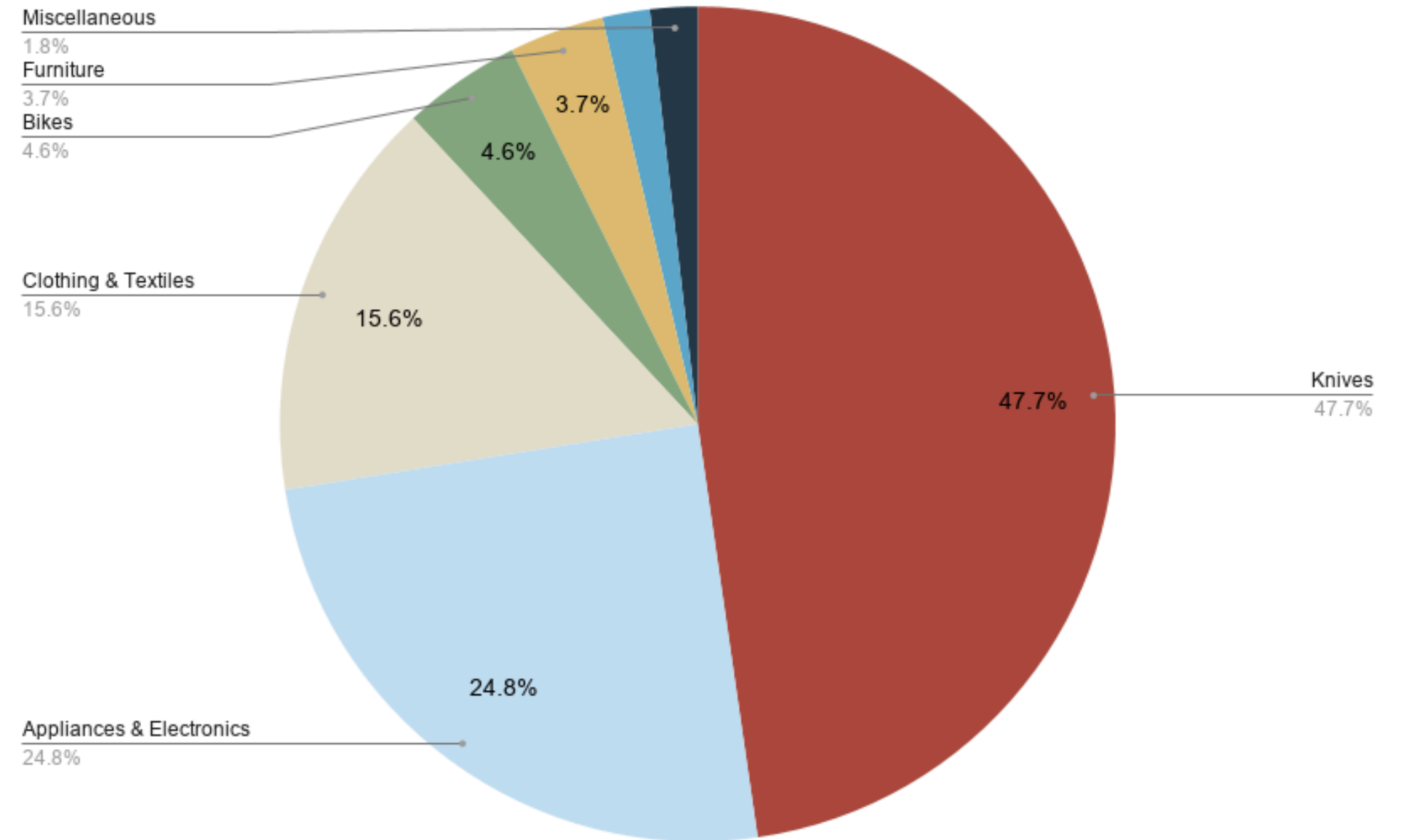
- ✓ Knife Sharpening
- ✓ Clothing & Textiles

- ✓ Small Appliances
- ✓ Electronics



THE BREAKDOWN

The most common repair requests involved small household appliances, electronics, lighting fixtures, and textiles, indicating strong demand for help extending the life of everyday household items. Many repairs were relatively minor, suggesting that products are often discarded despite being repairable with basic troubleshooting or maintenance. Despite not being a traditional repair category, the popularity of knife sharpening highlights the importance of preventative maintenance in reducing waste, extending product lifespan, and encouraging a culture of repair and reuse.



Year 2 Lessons Learned

GROWTH & IMPROVEMENTS



Enhance Registration & Data Collection

Improve check-in/check-out system, backup procedures, and refine data collection for tracking.



Improve Event Flow & Attendee Experience

Refine crowd management, waiting areas, and general volunteer roles.



Explore Expanded Partnerships

Evaluate options for increasing event frequency through partnership with Repair Cafe SB in response to strong public interest and demand.



Expand Repair Capacity

Recruit additional appliance repair volunteers and align repair specialties with the most requested item categories.



Improve Volunteer Orientation

Provide volunteer orientation, role-specific assignments, and recognition opportunities to support retention.



Refine General Programming

Prioritize hands-on repair services and offer additional sustainability education/presentations.





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We're excited to build a more sustainable Carpinteria together! Please reach out with any questions or to learn more.

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**THANK YOU
VERY MUCH**