



# 3 Degrees Toward Circularity



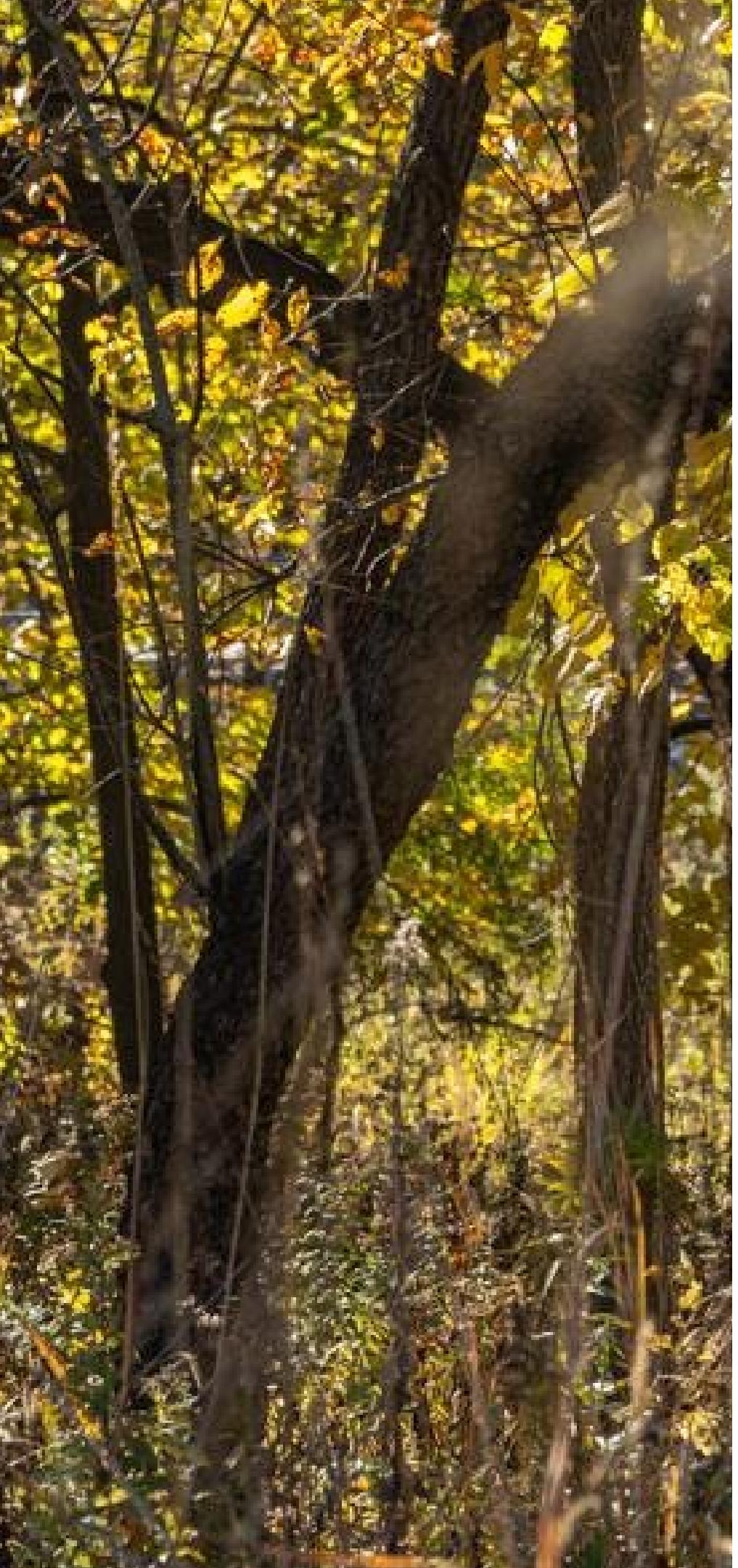
Maria Anna Rafac, Sustainability Coordinator

Ash Klinder, Sustainability Campus Intern



# Agenda

- Sustainability at JJC
- Circular Economy
- 3 Degrees Toward Circularity  
*the What, Why, & How*
  - Take It Table
  - B.Y.O. Campaign
  - Romeoville Repair Cafe



JOLIET  
JUNIOR COLLEGE  
1901

# What is Sustainability at JJC?

- Core Value *defined by the Triple Bottom Line*
- Sustainability Union: admin, students, faculty, and staff
- Office of Sustainability



# What we do:

- Coordinate sustainability initiatives, meetings and events at the college
- Serve on the JJC GAC and NAC
- Chair the Sustainability Initiatives Committee for SMHEC *regional higher ed consortium*
- Table and present for the community
- Collect pens, markers, and batteries to recycle

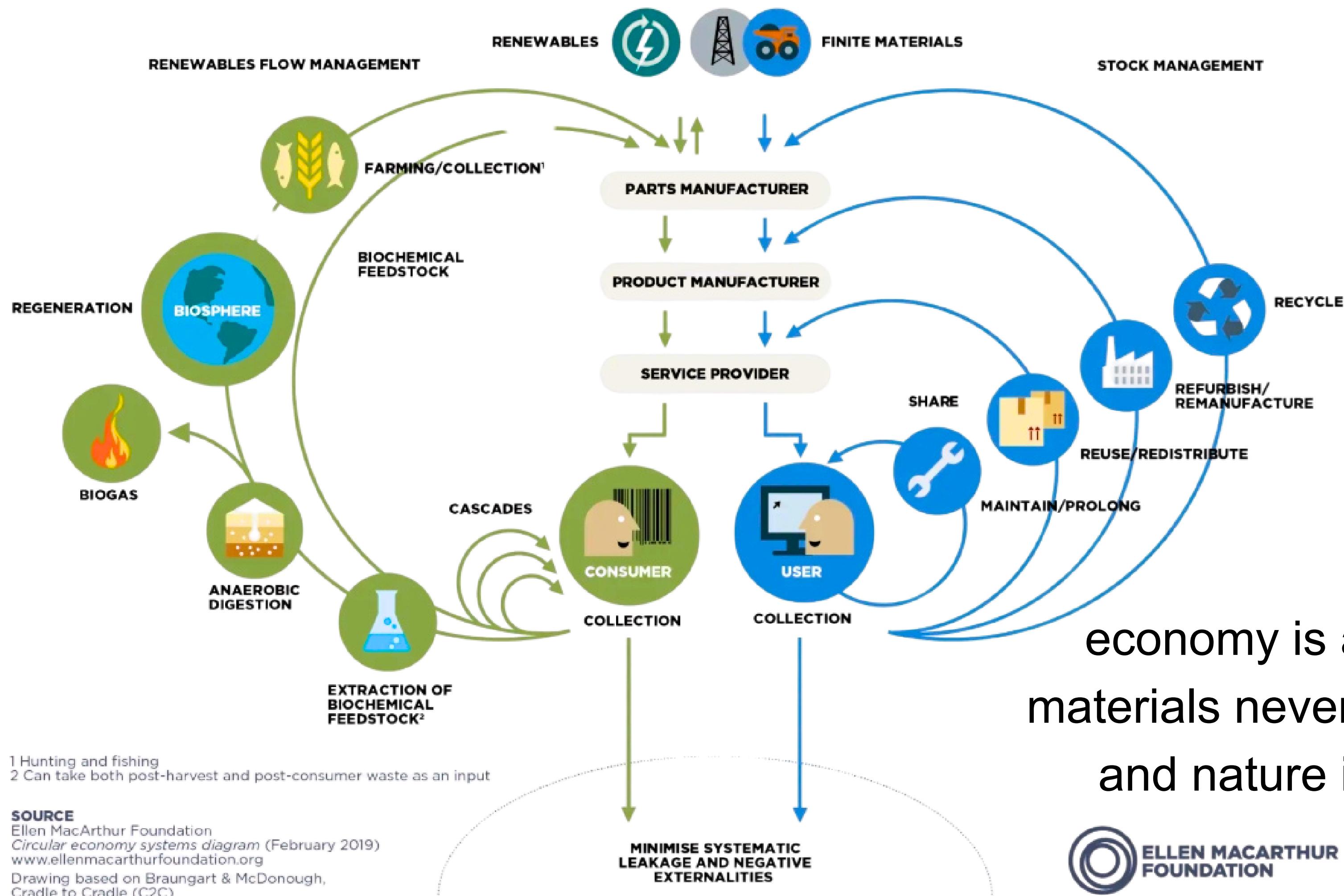


# How we work:

- 3 person Leadership team—2 Student Employees & Part Time Coordinator
- Bi monthly Sustainability Union meetings
- Coordinate weekly events in April & October
- Attend external events promoting sustainability to the larger JJC Community

**What does a  
circular  
economy  
mean to you?**





“The circular economy is a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated.”

<sup>1</sup> Hunting and fishing

<sup>2</sup> Can take both post-harvest and post-consumer waste as an input

**SOURCE**

Ellen MacArthur Foundation  
 Circular economy systems diagram (February 2019)  
[www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org](http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org)  
 Drawing based on Braungart & McDonough,  
 Cradle to Cradle (C2C)



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

1 NO  
POVERTY



2 ZERO  
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION



5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE  
ACTION



14 LIFE  
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE  
ON LAND



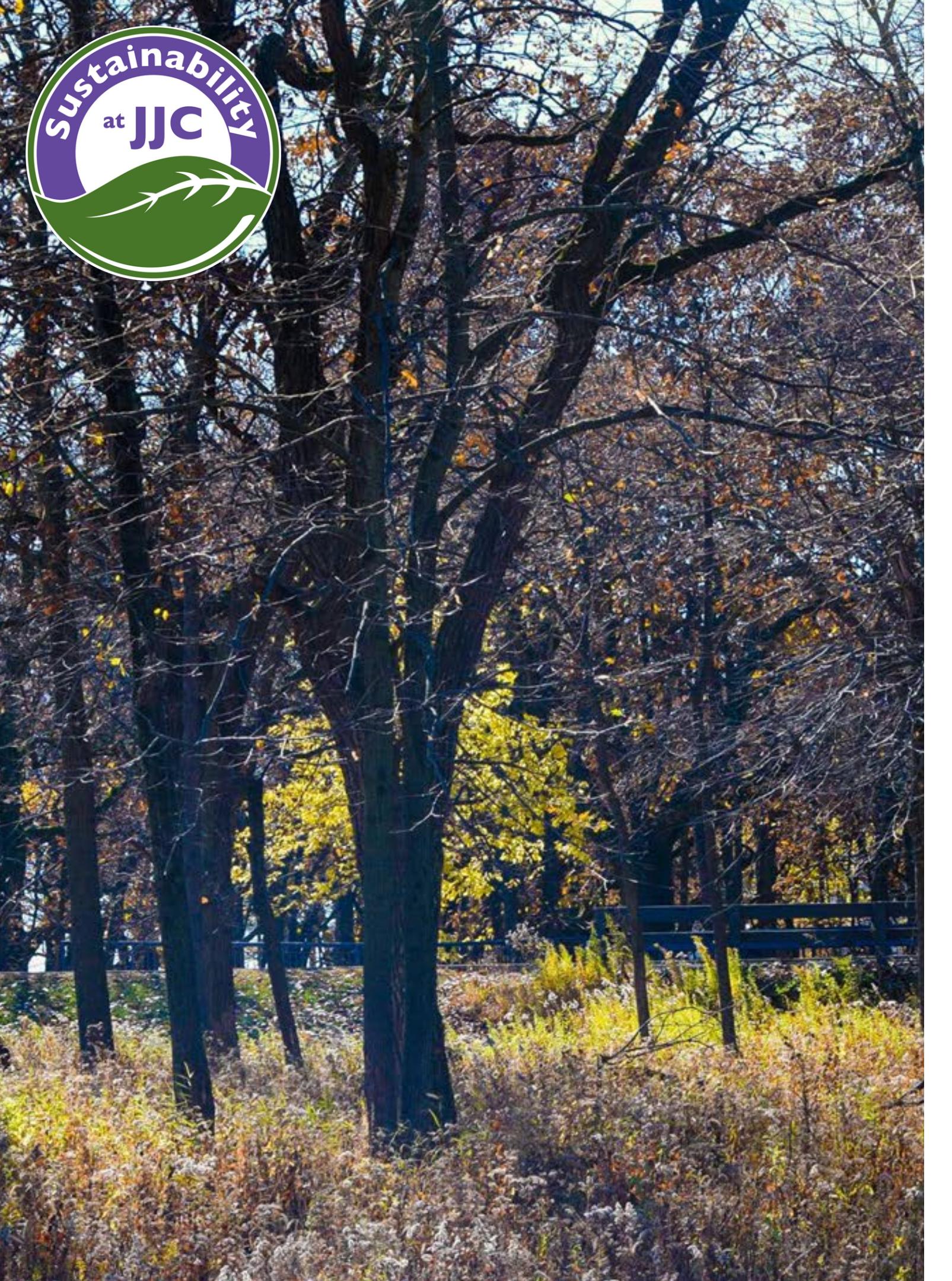
16 PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



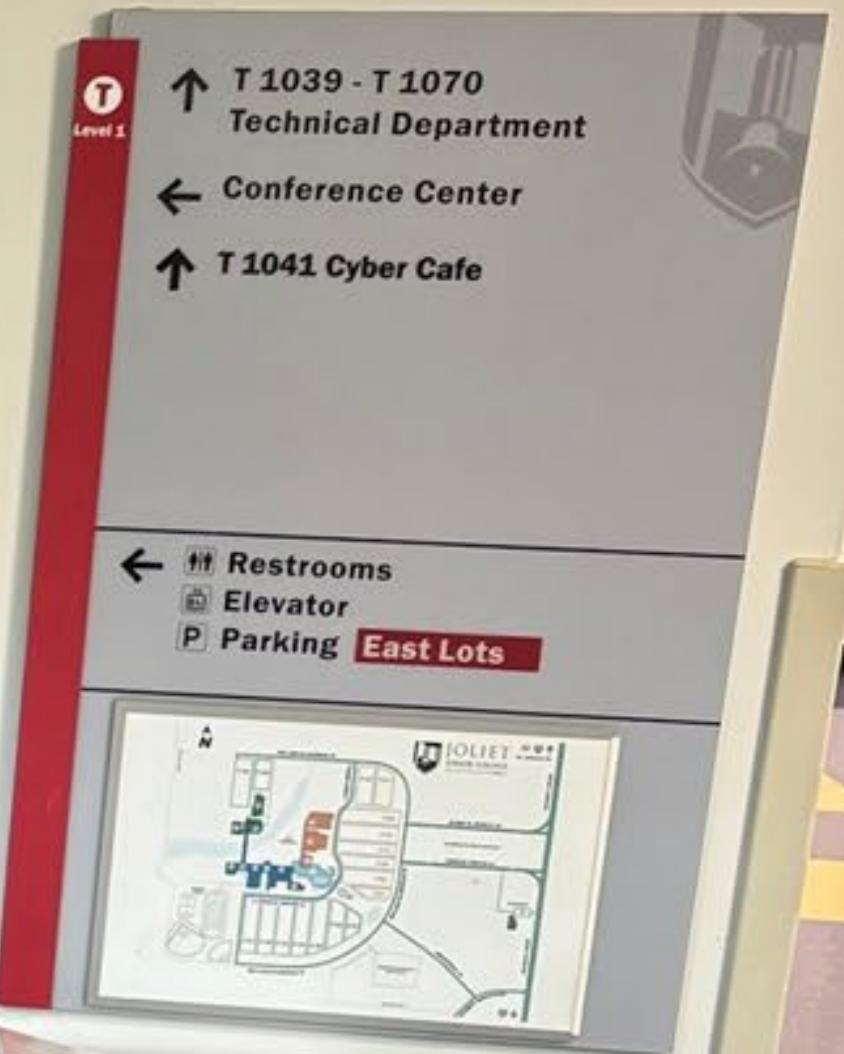
**“A shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.”**



# 3 Degrees Toward Circularity

1. Take it Table
2. B.Y.O. Campaign
3. Romeoville Repair Cafe
4. Bonus Compost Pilot!

# Take It Table



# What is it?

- Free second hand swap table
- Students, faculty, and staff bring in items from home or their departments
- Constant rotation of school supplies, clothing, books, household items, and more



# Why make this space?

- Gives people an easy place to donate their old stuff rather than landfilling
- Saves money (FREE!)
- Builds community and awareness around second hand shopping



# How to set it up

- Can be available to staff or to everyone
- Easy to keep up with even in high traffic areas, items are usually gone within a week
- Items lasting longer than a week are donated or taken to recycling





**B.Y.O.  
Campaign**

**Bring Your Own stuff!**

# What is **BYO**?

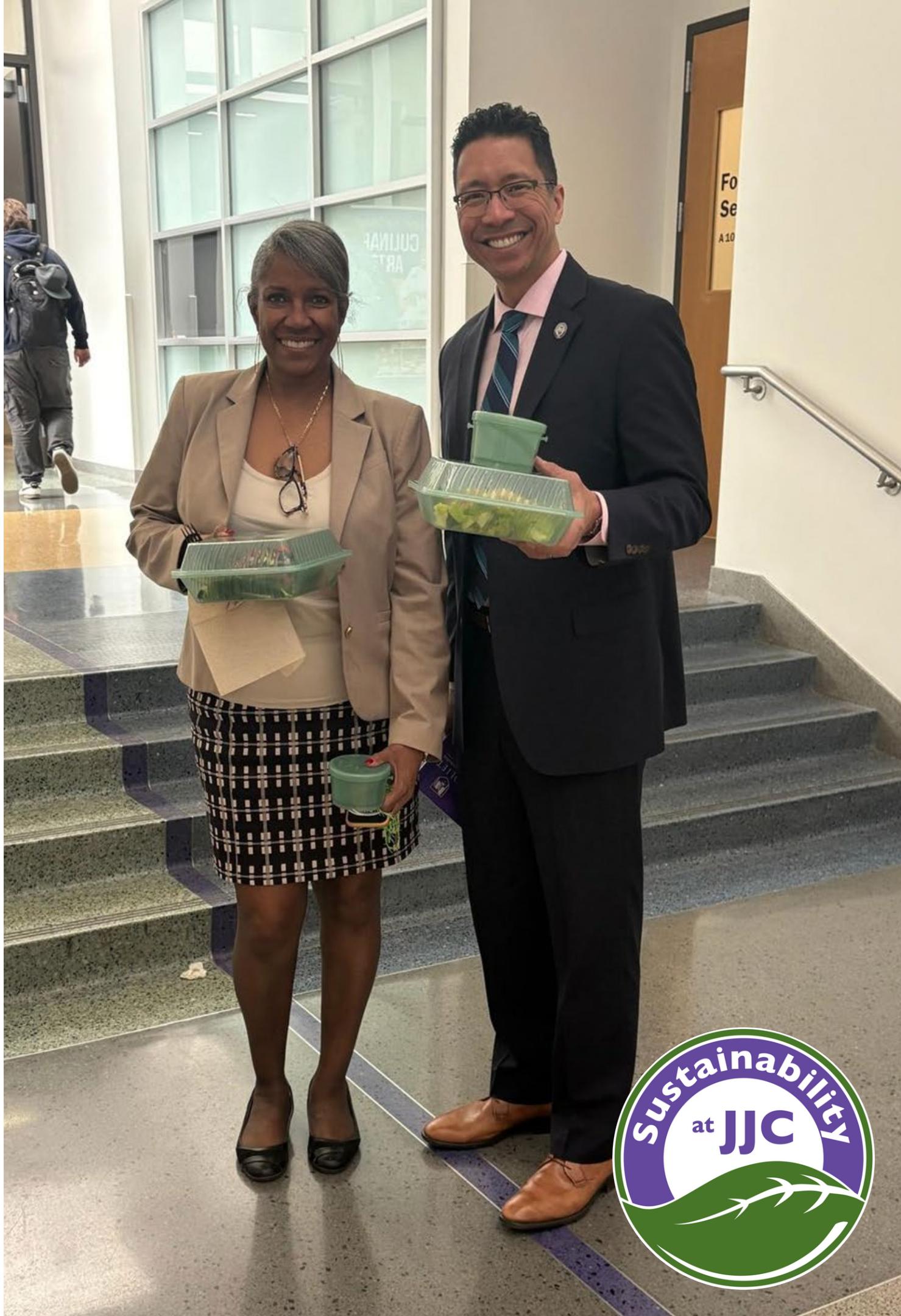
**Call to action for everyone to refuse taking single use waste by carrying reusables with you.**

- Create a bag to keep your containers
  - Keep in your car, office, by the door
- Use the containers for take out and leftovers at restaurants, or wherever else there are snacks or food!
- [Public Act 103-0524](#)



# Why promote reusables?

- Reduce single-use waste everywhere
- Conserve materials and energy
- Promote Cycles of Reuse
- Encourage individual action by carrying a solution



# How to **B.Y.O.**

- B.Y.O. Pledge Students, Faculty, Staff, Admin
- Discounts for JJC's reusable containers
- Bu.Y.O. Br.Y.O. *Free Second Hand Reusables*
- B.Y.O. To Go Community Pledge
- [Visit our website](#)





# Build Your Own Bring Your Own Bag



# BYO. to GO BASH!

May 10,

11:00 - 1:00

Romeoville

Campus



FREE B.Y.O. BAG & CONTAINERS  
& VEGETABLE PLANT!



# Romeoville REPAIR CAFE



# What is a Repair Cafe?



[Visit our website](#)

**Free** meeting place where skilled volunteers bring their own tools to fix items and teach attendees how to do it themselves.

- Stations with different types of repairs

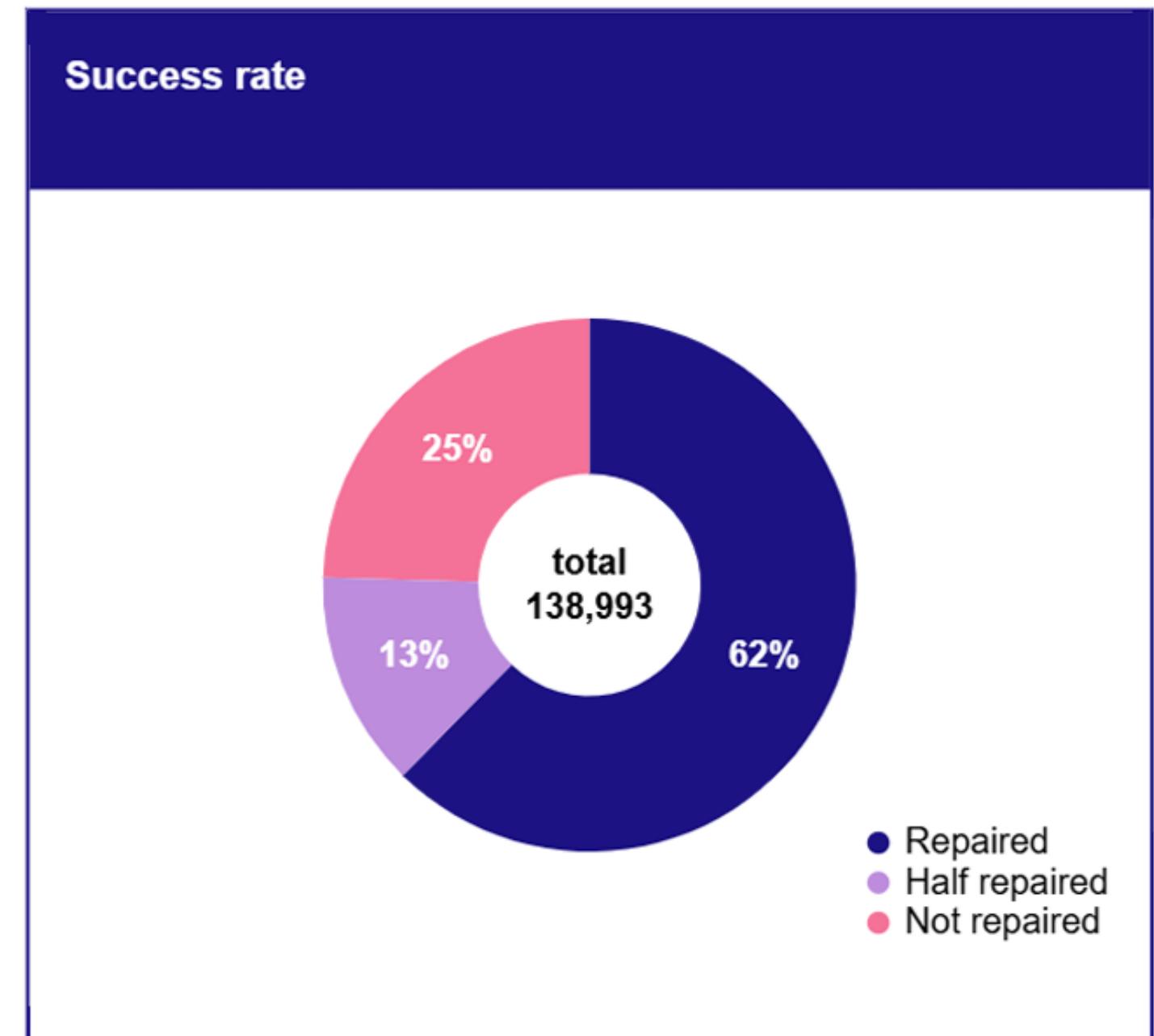
# Why Repair Cafe?

- Facilitates knowledge transfer of invaluable repair skills
- Fosters appreciation for personal possessions
- Reduces avoidable waste
- Engages the community of all ages
- Saves money
- Add to the global database of repairability! *Repair Monitor*



# What is Repair Monitor?

- Repair Café's Repair Monitor data collection tool allows organizers to add to the global data accumulated about the sustainability and repairability of items.
  - Products, brands, what is wrong with the item, can it be fixed



[See all dashboard data](#)

# Repair Monitor & Right to Repair

- Makes Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM's) responsible for excessive waste.
  - Combats Planned Obsolescence and poor durability.
  - Sanctions access to OEM Manuals and materials required to do repairs
  - [IL SB0122 and HB2549 Right to Repair 2025](#)



Right to Repair passed in the EU Parliament. As of 2025, 5 states in the US have Right to Repair Acts & Laws.



# How to start a Repair Cafe

- A reliable space
- An organizer/coordinator
- Passionate Volunteers
- Coffee/donuts



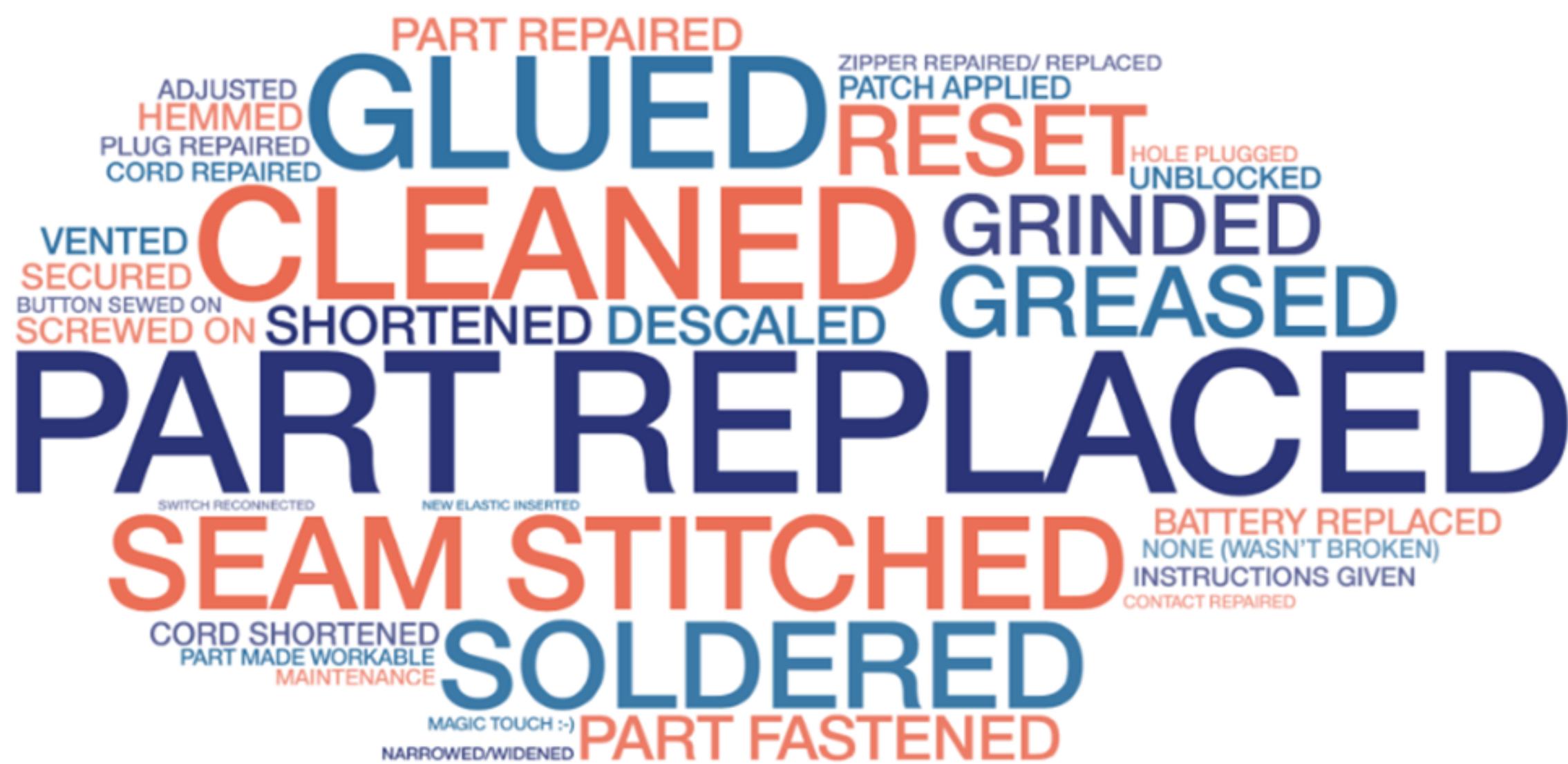
**REPAIR  
CAFE**

Register for free with Repair Cafe for their 28 page how-to manual and added to their website.

# Most repairs are simple!

Global data of most common repairs and items:

To repair an object, a variety of different actions are taken.



1. Coffee Maker
2. Vacuum Cleaner
3. Pants
4. Bicycle
5. Sewing Machine
6. Clock
7. Lamp/lighting
8. knives/scissors
9. Radio
10. Toaster

# Some tips!

- Repair events can be one off or weekly
- Volunteer crew size will vary
- Partner with local green groups or municipal organizations
- Seek out donations for supplies & coffee
- Use Repair Monitor to add to the global database of repairability of items





# Quotes from the Attendees

“Elise was great and fixed everything. So nice and helpful.”  
-FL24



“Loved this! Fixed both necklaces and remade and glammed up my earrings & made me a matching bracelet!” -FL23

“People CARED about my items and their stories. Elise even polished the tarnish off my bracelets in addition to repairing them. That extra step says everything about the artist!!” -FL24

# Quotes from the Attendees



**“I don’t want to add to landfills.” -SP24**

**“This is the absolute coolest!!! What a game-changer this was! Keep doing this!” -SP25**

**“Nick was very knowledgeable and patient. We are confident the item was fixed. Thank you Nick.” -FL24**



# Romeoville **REPAIR** **CAFE**

~800 lbs of repairable  
items diverted from  
landfills in 4 events.



REPAIR  
before  
REPLACE!

Contact [ashley.klinder@jjc.edu](mailto:ashley.klinder@jjc.edu) or scan the QR Code for more information on how to participate or volunteer.

Next Repair Cafe:  
Sat. October 18  
10:00 - 3:00 pm  
Romeoville Campus



# Thank you!



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