

# SOIL CYCLE ANNUAL REPORT

2024



## 02 Annual Report 2024

As we reflect on another year of growth, collaboration, and dedication, I am filled with gratitude for the vibrant community that surrounds Soil Cycle. Our journey continues to be powered by people, driven by purpose, and fueled by an unwavering belief in the power of grassroots action to make a lasting impact on our environment and our community



Our mission is about more than just composting; it's about providing tools for Missoulians to discover the possibilities for change that start in the dirt beneath us, to reconnect with the world around us, and ultimately close the loop on the natural food cycle

This year, we have witnessed some wonderful progress in our mission to promote a more sustainable, human-powered food cycle. From the heart of the city to the edges of town, our dedicated team has helped divert thousands of pounds of organic waste from landfills, turning it into nutrient-rich compost for local gardens, plants, farms, and green spaces.



But - as you know, our work is far from done. The need for sustainable solutions has never been more urgent, and the challenges we face — from local waste management to global climate change — require all of us to take action. That's why, moving forward, we are more committed than ever to increasing our impact, expanding our services, and continuing to build a resilient, environmentally-conscious community.

We are excited about the future and the possibilities ahead, and we are incredibly grateful to all of you for being a part of this journey. Your dedication, contributions, and belief in our mission inspire us every day to keep pushing forward.



Thank you for helping us compost a better tomorrow. Together, we're proving that small, sustainable actions can create big change.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Mikela Nolin  
Executive Director



# OUR PROGRAMS

## *Organic Waste Collection*



Our food scrap collection program sets us apart from other composters as we work to eliminate all the unsustainable aspects often associated with industrial composting. **Using bicycles to collect food scraps** is just one way we're making this vision a reality, creating a greener future one pedal stroke at a time.

This year, we continued to expand our food scrap collection service, adding dozens of new members to our programs and initiating a **new food scrap drop-off hub in the University District** to strengthen our presence in the ever-growing student population and surrounding community.

We're lucky to have maintained an awesome crew of **6 incredible cyclists** who brave the summer heat and winter cold to collect food scraps from our local hubs, residences, and businesses. Their dedication is truly inspiring! As the demand for our services has grown, we've partnered with Missoula Compost to help manage the increasing volume and variety of compostable material. Together, this composting community is helping build a more sustainable, self-sufficient Missoula for generations to come.



**"It's all on bike. I mean, come on, that's fun!"**

**-Christian Mercado  
Cyclist**

## OUR PROGRAMS

### *Environmental Education*



Understanding the vital role **soil** plays in both nourishing our land and addressing climate change is central to our mission. By providing educational opportunities, we aim to equip individuals of all ages with the knowledge and tools to make sustainable choices that benefit our local and global environments.

In 2024, we focused on reaching a wide range of community members—from children in public schools to first-time gardeners exploring composting. One of our most exciting efforts was a **hands-on lesson on worms and composting at a local Montessori school**, where students learned firsthand how worms can help transform food scraps into rich, life-giving soil.

We also hosted several workshops for folks of all ages, including our **Soil Health Workshop series**, wherein folks learned how to test their own soil at home and interpret the results to take action for healthier soil. Folks also loved our **DIY Home Composting Workshop**, wherein participants learned how to set up and maintain composting systems in their own backyards. By offering these educational opportunities, we are helping to cultivate a community that understands the importance of soil health and is equipped to take meaningful action toward a more sustainable future.



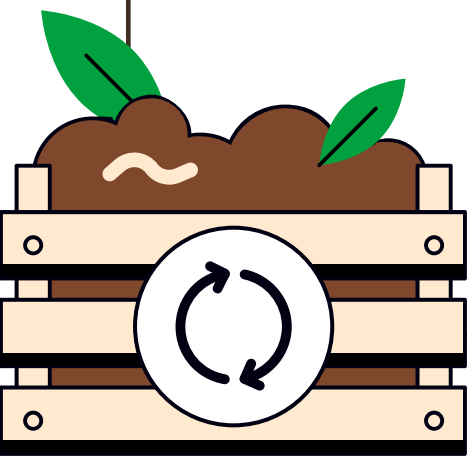
# OUR PROGRAMS

## *Compost Creation*



As part of our mission to complete the food cycle, we prioritize giving members' food scraps back to them in the form of valuable, nutritious materials such as compost, worm castings, and biochar. At every chance we get, we get these products back into our members' hands for FREE through our Giveback series, and offer them to the community at large at affordable rates.

A key part of our compost creation process takes place at our Earth Tub, where our team carefully transforms food scraps into compost on-site. This hands-on, human-powered approach not only reduces our carbon footprint but ensures that every batch of compost is thoughtfully managed and ready to nourish the land. Harvesting from the Earth Tub can be a big job, but our team of staff and volunteers make it look easy and the joy this compost brings to our earth and community makes it more than worth it!



# OUR PROGRAMS

## *Outreach and Events*

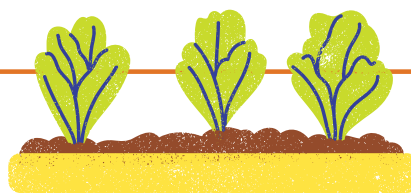


In 2024, Soil Cycle continued to engage and educate the Missoula community through a variety of fun, impactful events that brought people together and encouraged sustainable practices.

Our annual **Pumpkin Reharvest** took place after Halloween, partnering with Little Dumps, Rockin' Rudy's, MUD, Sussex Elementary, the Good Food Store, and Cambie. We set up 4 drop-off sites across Missoula where folks could donate their spent pumpkins. These pumpkins were diverted from landfills and instead given a second life as food for animals at Turner Family Farms. This year, over 4,000 lbs of pumpkins were donated, preventing 15,200 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere!

In September, we hosted our **Soil Cycle Soirée**, a lively celebration and fundraiser that brought together community members for an evening of music, food, and fun. The event featured a live local band, a raffle with fantastic prizes donated by local businesses and community members, and pizza made fresh in Free Cycle's sustainably crafted, innovative outdoor oven. Attendees also had the chance to enjoy games and take home free starter plants housed in Soil Cycle's nutritious, hand made compost!

Both of these events exemplified Soil Cycle's mission to engage the community in sustainable practices, foster a sense of local pride, and raise awareness about the environmental benefits of composting and waste diversion. We are so grateful for the ongoing support from our volunteers, partners, and the Missoula community, and we look forward to even more opportunities to come together in 2025.





## ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH IN 2024

Food waste diverted from landfill

**78,860 lbs or 40 tons**

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduced by using  
bicycles as transportation

**16,861 lbs**

CO<sub>2</sub> diverted by composting

**115,626 lbs**

Soil Cycle members

**274**

Outreach Events Hosted/Attended

**31**

## GOALS

for 2025



### Organic Waste Collections

- Sign up 30 new members
- Expand drop-off services to Rattlesnake Neighborhood
  - Secure bear-safe bins

### Compost Programs

- Expand worm castings production by increasing the number of vermicompost beds on site
- Increase member giveback frequency (of compost, castings, biochar, or other) to every other month
- Increase on-site compost production by expanding to a secondary site

### Environmental Education

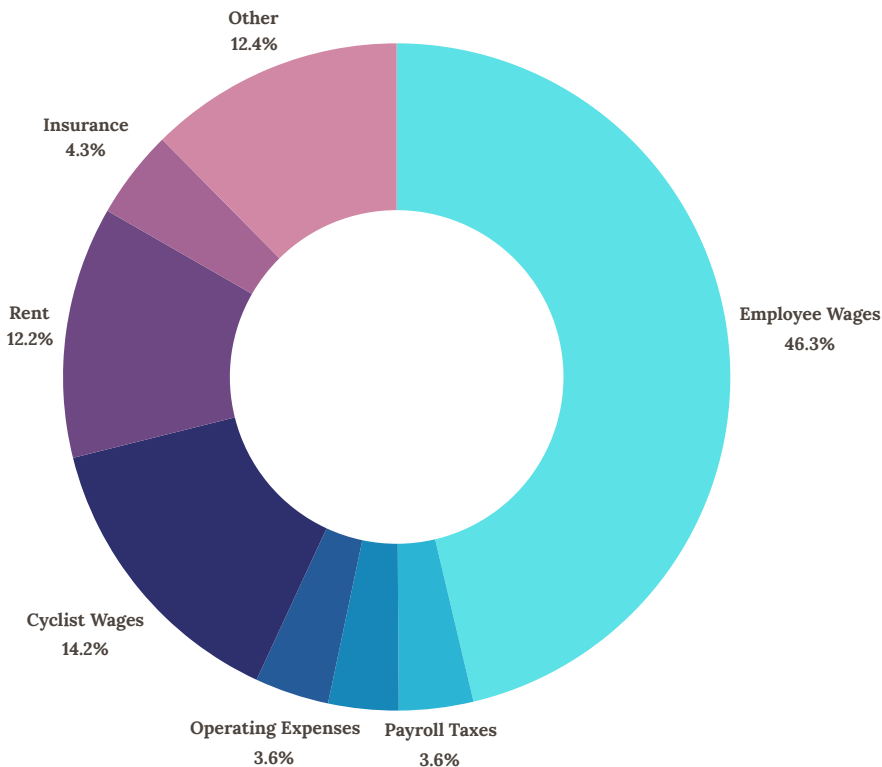
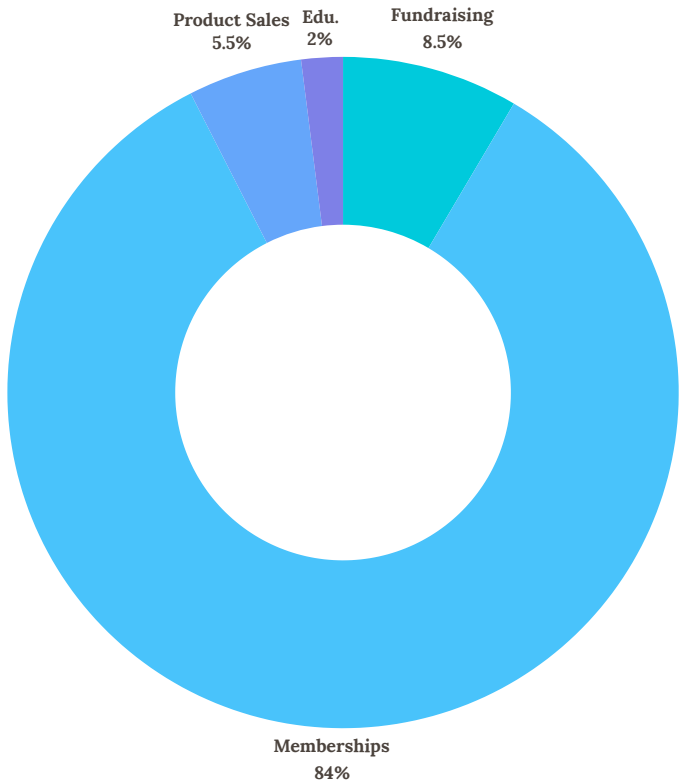
- Transform 1st St. hub to an educational space and open community garden/market
- Offer 5 workshops and 5 classroom setting learning sessions for compost education
- Collaborate with local summer camps
- Secure 2 interns per semester to form a mutually beneficial work/study program

### Products & Outreach

- Offer worm castings, biochar, and/or compost at 3 new retail venues
- Bolster relationships with local partners to enhance capacity for education and compost creation
- Implement annual marketing plan to bolster online and community presence

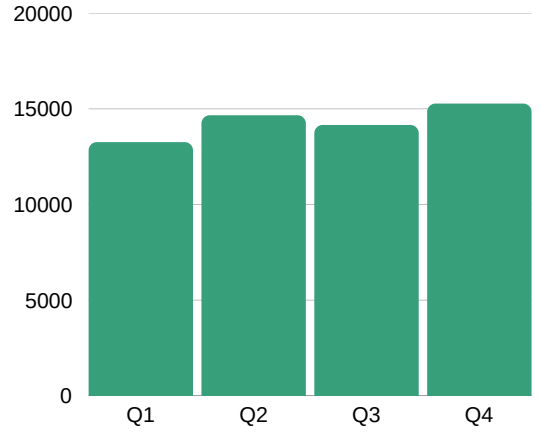
# Financial Overview

Below is a basic, comprehensive report of the organization's financial activities throughout 2024 (the 7th year of operation).



## ANNUAL INCOME

Below is an overview of quarterly revenue in 2024 (U.S. dollars).



2024 Income Summary

2024 Expense Summary



# OUR PARTNERS

## Building Community & Soil from the Ground Up

### Benefactors

- Climate Ride
- Bedrock Sandals
- Cambie
- Good Food Store

### Sustainable Partners

- ACE Fancy Plants
- Caras Nursery
- Lowe's
- Free Cycles
- Garden City Harvest
- Golden Yolk Griddle
- Home ReSource
- Little Dumps
- Missoula Urban Demonstration (MUD)
- Missoula Compost Collection
- Recycling Works
- Rockin' Rudy's
- Sussex Elementary School
- Turner Farms
- University of Montana

### Commercial Composters

- Adventure Cycling Association
- Bayern Brewing
- Complexly
- Great Harvest Bread Company
- Shady Spruce Hostel
- Sussex Elementary School





## TAKE ACTION

**Donations big and small fuel our organization! Please consider donating at:**

- [SoilCycleMissoula.com/donate](https://SoilCycleMissoula.com/donate)
- Mail check to HQ or stop by in person

Help us decrease the impact of food waste in our local landfill. Organizations like Soil Cycle ensure that methane stays out of our atmosphere, while using food scraps to create nutrient-dense material like biochar and worm castings. Your gift will make Missoula a healthier, happier, and more environmentally-sound community.

Soil Cycle is a 501(c) (3) Organization: Federal Tax ID #83-2816550.



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