

SOIL CYCLE

2023 Annual Report



OUR PROGRAMS

Organic Waste Collection

Soil Cycle was founded to reduce food waste in Missoula while lessening our impact on climate change. We are unique in how we carry out this mission by using bicycles to collect food scraps from our members. Not only are we reducing greenhouse gas emissions by keeping food waste out of landfills, but we are using human power to transport nutritious material throughout Missoula. Bicycles allow us to interact with sustainable transportation while also keeping us engaged with our local food systems.

This year we welcomed six new cyclists to our team at Soil Cycle. Our cyclists are responsible for biking around Missoula to collect food waste from our members. Even more impressive-- our cyclist program runs all year round through winter storms and hot summer days. We recognize that local composting is a joint effort, and have partnered with Missoula Compost Collection to help process food waste within our community. With the help of our cyclist team and Missoula Compost, we continue to reduce our climate impact every day!

**"Cycling is a great speed
to see the world in... It's
the happiest form of
travel."**

-Tom, Soil Cycler



OUR PROGRAMS

Environmental Education

Changing mindsets and empowering our community begins with education. Understanding that soil can nourish our land and provide a pivotal solution within climate change is a key part of Soil Cycle's mission. We have made it a priority to provide educational opportunities for students in our community-- whether that is a child in public schools, or a first-time gardener experimenting with composting systems. Over the course of 2023, we have taught over 200 students (Pre K-12) within our community about the importance of soil health, sustainable transportation, and being an engaged citizen in Missoula.

One highlight from this year included our work with the YWCA GUTS! program. These students biked to our site, in Soil Cycle fashion, to learn about our programs. Perhaps the most impressive thing about these students was seeing them turn our Earth Tub where they could witness food scraps breaking down in real time!

"Thank you for giving us the privilege to help our community by reusing and recycling our resources... it showed me that you can reuse things as small as food scraps."

-MIS Service Student



OUR PROGRAMS

Compost Creation

Food waste diversion is one of the first steps in creating a more sustainable food system. Soil Cycle uses food scraps from our members to create nutritious material such as compost, worm castings, and biochar. Recycling food waste allows us to return organic material back to the Earth. This is important for storing carbon, replenishing the health of our soils, and decreasing the size of landfills. With the help of volunteers, education groups, and Soil Cycle staff, food waste is turned back into organic material that can be used by our community.

We have retired our old thermophilic compost system this year as it eroded away from years of use. We look forward to utilizing this open space for future compost creation! Our site continues to house Redwiggler worms and our Earth Tub that both work day and night to turn your food scraps into valuable material.

"Your biochar saved my houseplants! They've never looked so happy."

-Soil Cycle Customer



OUR PROGRAMS

Community Outreach

One of our favorite outreach events is our annual Pumpkin Reharvest that takes place after Halloween. This is a free event that reaches Missoulians outside of our membership base. Soil Cycle partnered with Rockin' Rudy's, MUD, and Sussex Elementary School to host five pumpkin drop-off sites around town. The purpose of this event is to educate our community about pumpkin waste, which is often destined for landfills after the holiday. Soil Cycle encourages our community to donate their spent pumpkins so that they stay out of our local landfill, while finding a new home in the bellies of sheep and cows up at Turner Family Farms.

This year, Soil Cycle sent over 6,000 lbs of pumpkins to Turner Family Farms, which is equivalent to 22,800 lbs of CO₂ being diverted from our atmosphere.

It was a joy to watch what would have been greenhouse gas emissions turn into nourishing food for a local farm. These pumpkins will be returned to the soil cycle after being digested by the animals that ate them!

"So cool! Who knew cows could eat so many pumpkins? This makes way more sense than sending them to the landfill."

-Comment from Community Member





ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH IN 2023

Food waste diverted from landfill

49,680 lbs or 25 tons

CO₂ emissions reduced by using
bicycles as transportation

13,183 lbs

CO₂ diverted by composting

109,526 lbs

Soil Cycle members

246

Finished compost donated

500 lbs

Students reached

250

Field trips and outreach events

25

GOALS for 2024

Organic Waste Collections

- Sign up 30+ new members
- Expand drop-off service to University neighborhood

Compost Programs

- Construct alternative composting system and/or educational demonstration in place of old composting bins
- Expand vermiculture program
- Utilize the repaired Earth Tub as an in-unit composting system

Environmental Education

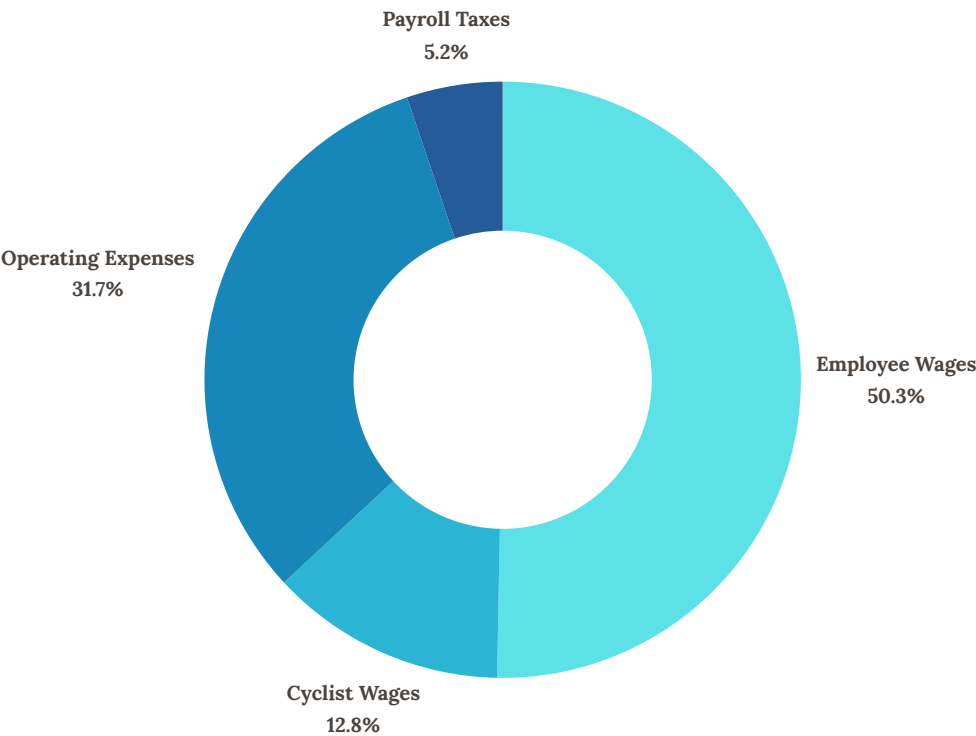
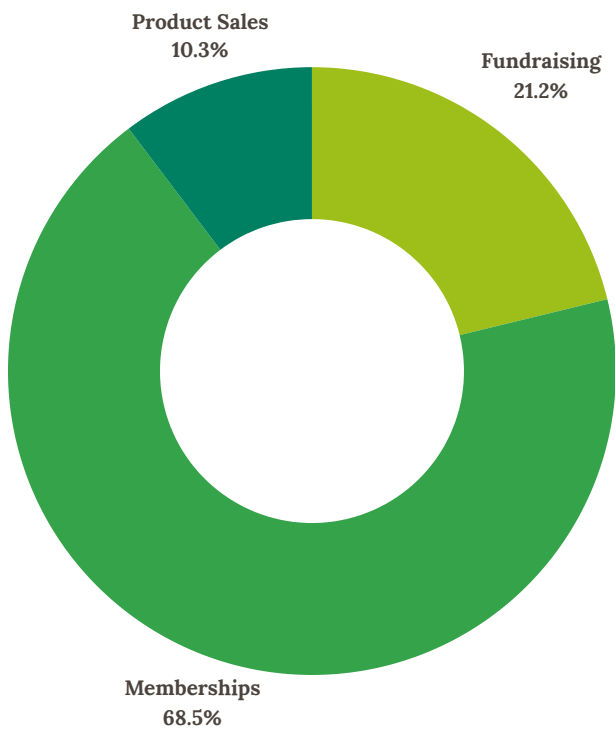
- Offer 2+ soil health workshops
- Create curriculum for education groups aged k-12
- Offer summer camps for Missoula youth that are focused on worm farming, soil health, and community engagement

Products & Outreach

- Restructure our sticker reward program
- Retail our soil amendments and merchandise in 3 new local businesses
- Offer members worm castings annually

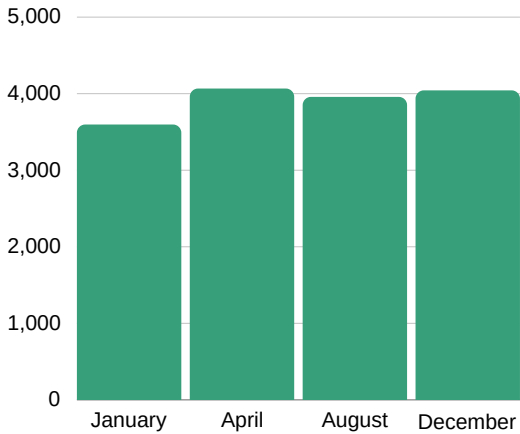
Financial Overview

Below is a basic, comprehensive report of the organization's financial activities throughout 2023 (the 6th year of operation).



ANNUAL INCOME

Below is an overview of quarterly membership income in 2023 (U.S. dollars).



2023 Income Summary

2023 Expense Summary

OUR PARTNERS

Building Community & Soil from the Ground Up

Benefactors

- 1% for the Planet
- Climate Ride
- Bedrock Sandals

Sustainable Partners

- ACE Fancy Plants
- Cambie Taphouse & Coffee
- Caras Nursery
- Cool Earth Creamery
- Earth In Hand
- Free Cycles
- Garden City Harvest
- Golden Yolk Griddle
- Heritage Timber
- Home ReSource
- Little Dumps
- Missoula International School
- Missoula Urban Demonstration (MUD)
- Missoula Compost Collection
- Primrose Farm & Bake
- Recycling Works
- Rockin' Rudy's
- Sussex Elementary School
- Turner Farms
- University of Montana

Commercial Composters

- Adventure Cycling Association
- Bayern Brewing
- Boys and Girls Club
- Complexly
- Great Harvest Bread Company
- Missoula Public Library
- Shady Spruce Hostel
- Sussex Elementary School
- Tandem Bakery





**“We don’t need
a handful of
people doing
zero waste
perfectly. We
need millions of
people doing it
imperfectly.”**

-Anne Marie Bonneau

TAKE ACTION

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

- 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.



SoilCycleMissoula.com
info@soilcyclemissoula.com
736 S. 1st. W. Ste. C.
Missoula, MT 59801

