# Advancing Reuse in Philadelphia

Building a Circular, Equitable Future

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## Introducing ECHO Systems



# Comprehensive Reuse Solutions

Designed and built reuse systems for grocery stores, cafés, and event spaces across Philadelphia.



# Environmental Justice Commitment

Focused on ensuring equitable access to a just transition to circularity for all Philadelphia neighborhoods.



#### **Empowering Communities**

Provides education, technical assistance, and grant funding via Philly Unwrapped.

#### Example Impact:

Weavers Way Coopertive Food Association
Built end to end system across 4 locations

50,000

reusable containers circulated

Example Impact:

**Mount Airy Neighborhood Event** 

5,000

900 lbs → 90 lbs

attendees

waste reduced in one day





# Philly Unwrapped: A Citywide Collaboration for Waste Prevention



#### Citywide Coalition

30+ partners: city agencies, universities, nonprofits, and business associations



#### **Unified Mission**

Focused on reducing single-use waste and promoting equitable reuse adoption



#### Community Impact

Delivering reuse solutions to corridors, cafés, and community events across Philadelphia

















































## Collaborating with the Health Department

#### 2017:

Philadlephia's Health Code Variance adapted

ECHO Systems collaborated with Health Department to remove red tape and train sanitarians on safe inorporating reise into inspections.

**TODAY** 

**2022-Present**Communication Stalls

Formal outreach and letters went unanswered regarding NSF container requiremnt and 2022 Food Code Adoption. Ensuring Community Representation

Coalition works to rebuild collaboration and ensure transparency for all neighborhoods. Is still waiting to garner clarity from our department of health after 3 years.

Multiple Businesses begin adapting this Variance

Quick Start Guide created by Circular Philadleohia and ECHO to support the adaptation.

#### 2025:

Council Member Jaime Gauthier engaged

Councilmember Jamie Gauthier and coalition partners at City Council are now at the table to re-open dialogue.



# A Simple, Actionable Path Forward for Safe & Equitable Reuse



#### Modernize Food Safety Standards

Adopt the 2022 FDA Food Code for reuse-friendly practices



# Enable Affordable Reuse Containers

Remove NSF-only restrictions to allow safe, certified options



#### Strengthen Collaboration

Establish a dedicated Health Department liaison for ongoing coalition support



Reuse isn't just an environmental win — it's a public health, equity, and economic opportunity for Philadelphia.



#### Let's Make Reuse the Norm



#### Federal Recognition of Reuse

Reuse is now acknowledged as safe and effective by federal standards.



#### Philadelphia's Leadership

Strong coalition of city agencies, nonprofits, and businesses driving innovation.



#### Collaborative Path Forward

Unified efforts create a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable city for all residents.





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