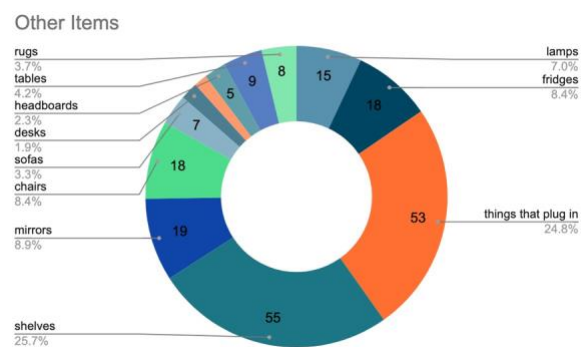


Turning Trash to Treasure

The University of the South, United States of America

The University of the South’s (Sewanee’s) end of the semester waste diversion initiative gathers clothing, furniture, and appliances discarded during move out and creates a temporary thrift store for staff and community members.

Sewanee is a private liberal arts college and school of Theology with just under 2000 students. In 2017, prior to this initiative, more than 120 cubic yards of discarded clothing and housewares were disposed of every year at student move out.



The collected items are sorted and made available to the community for free reuse, during a “pre-sale” day for non-exempt staff. Any remaining items are available to everyone during a recommended 25¢ sale day. Remaining left over items are collected and delivered to two non-profits: the Grundy County Food Bank and the Veterans’ Emergency Services Thrift Store. Additionally, items were reserved for specific use by University offices (ex. International student support supplies), the local animal shelter (foam mattress for dog beds), and the hyper-local, but small, thrift store.

<p>12,540 gallons of items collected in 2022(excluding lamps, chairs and shelves)</p>	<p>\$375 raised from the sale day</p>	<p>2 + 6 non-profit organization partners and student workers</p>
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“We have seen a dramatic increase in need in this area. These donations make such a big difference in the lives of our families. Some of them have nothing, nothing at all, and these items help them start to build thEpeir lives.” – Mark, Veterans’ Emergency Services Thrift Store

<p>Find out more</p> <p>The Sustain Sewanee program serves as a hub for student and community engagement around climate action and environmental justice. To learn more about our activities and goals visit: https://new.sewanee.edu/offices/university-offices/environmental-stewardship-sustainability/sustain-sewanee/</p>
