

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE STUDIO

Clearer Collective is based in a small home studio. In 2023, we updated the space, applying our guidelines for lower-impact sourcing (see page 12).

We wanted to take the ideas we work with every day and make them physically real—bringing together vintage furniture, low-VOC finishes, handcrafted pieces, and reusing whatever we could.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

In 2019, we installed solar panels to power our home and office. Currently, we use a combination of solar power and natural gas for heating and cooling. We aim to transition out of natural gas and into green power by 2025. In 2022, we upgraded our electric systems, transitioned to an electric vehicle, and installed a charging station—bringing us closer to our goal of climate neutrality by 2025.

CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

Although we've reduced our emissions by transitioning away from fossil fuels, reaching zero emissions is currently not feasible due to business travel, waste generated in operations, and the need to purchase goods and services. To offset the emissions created by these categories, we're exploring ways to reach climate neutrality through Climate Neutral, a nonprofit certification group.

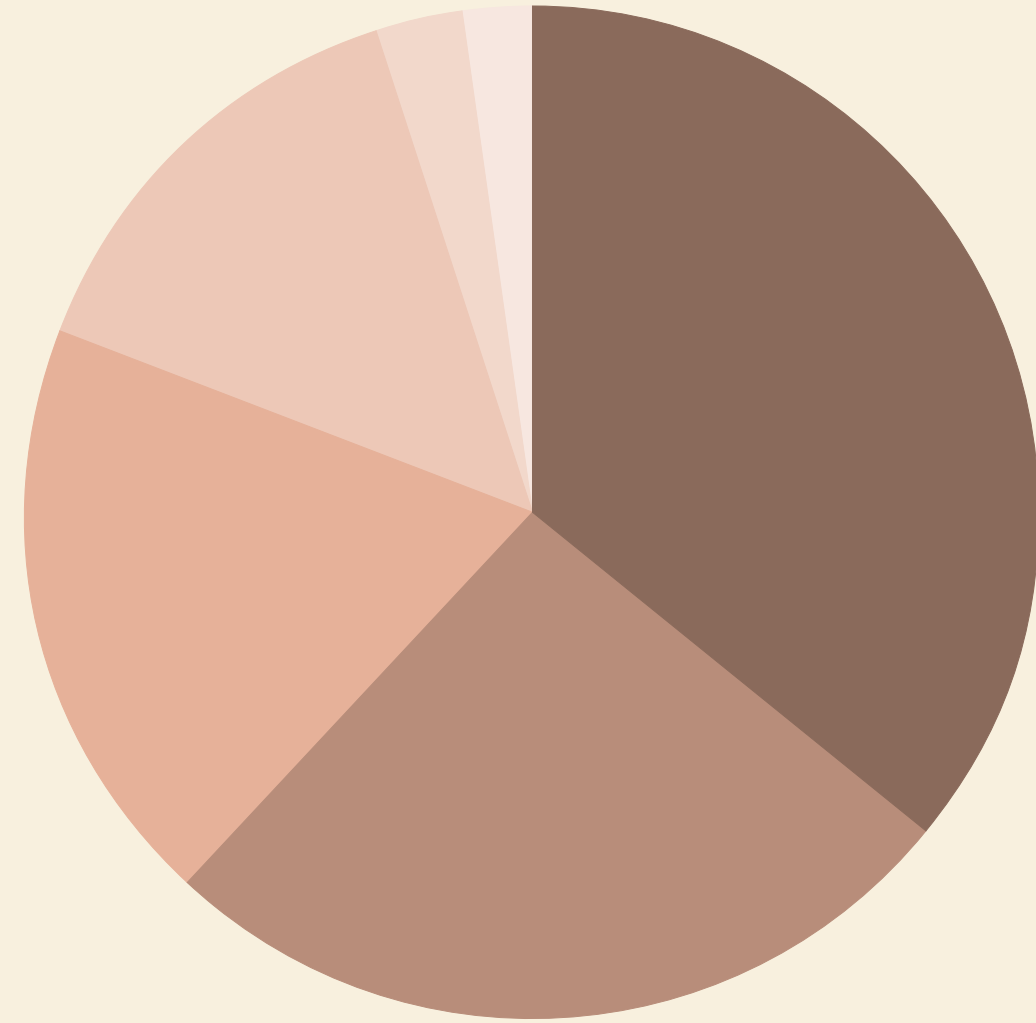
WASTE REDUCTION

In our hometown of Hudson, we support the ReGen Compost Project, a teen-run monthly subscription service that converts our food waste to compost. Composting contributes to our goal to get as close as possible to zero waste by 2025.

PLASTIC REDUCTION

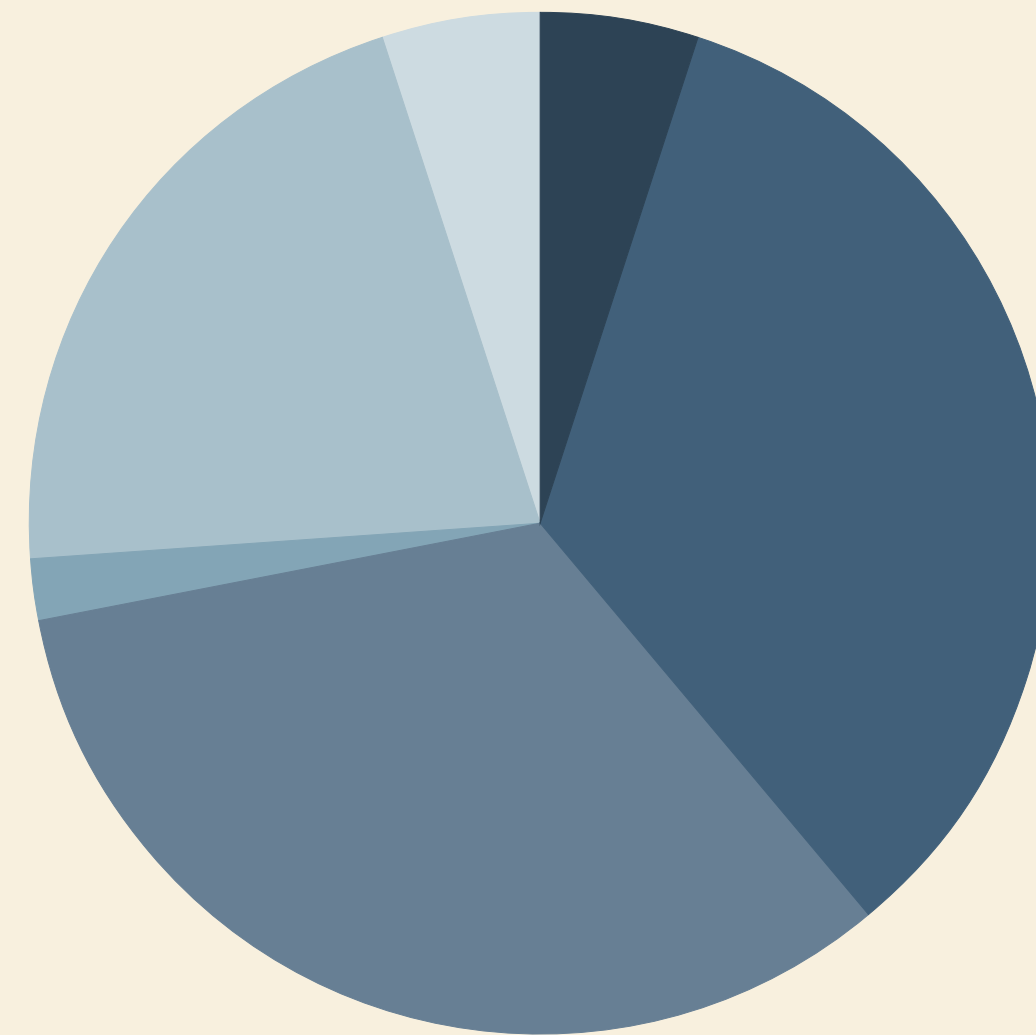
Working with Grove Collaborative—a client with a 100% plastic-free 2025 goal—we've learned a lot about the challenges of transitioning from plastic to reusable, recyclable, and compostable alternatives. This year, we sourced plastic-reducing packaged goods, along with 100% recycled plastic products where necessary.





PERCENT OF SPEND

- 36% Energy Efficient
- 26% Vintage
- 19% Handcrafted
- 14% Low-VOC
- 3% Recycle/Reuse
- 2% Renewable



PERCENT OF ITEMS

- 5% Energy Efficient
- 34% Vintage
- 33% Handcrafted
- 2% Low-VOC
- 21% Recycle/Reuse
- 5% Renewable

STUDIO SOURCING

Purchased goods and services represent nearly half of our emissions—our largest lever in reduction. Reducing this number requires a shift from disposable consumption to conscientious sourcing, including:

- Working with low-emitting, small business contractors.
- Buying used or refurbished whenever possible.
- Buying plastic-free whenever possible.
- Buying reusable items whenever possible.
- Buying recycled/recyclable products whenever possible.
- Using third-party certified products (see pgs. 33-34).

For our 2023 office update, we applied these guidelines by:

- Reusing items and purchasing vintage furniture.
- Prioritizing recycled, renewable, and low-VOC materials.
- Investing in energy-efficient technology.
- Purchasing handcrafted and locally sourced items.

For a full breakdown, see Disclosures: Studio Sourcing (pgs. 33-34).

33%

Locally Sourced
By Item

32%

Locally Sourced
By Spend

17%

BIPOC Owned
By Item

7%

BIPOC Owned
By Spend





RESOURCEFUL REUSE

The circular economy is built on four Rs: reuse, refurbishment, repair, and resale. For this renovation, we reused objects, bought refurbished electronics, repaired the space, and purchased resold (or vintage) pieces.

"Currently, only 8.6% of the global economy is circular... while more than 90% of resources extracted and consumed do not return to the production cycles, but become waste."

CIRCULARITY GAP REPORT 2022

By participating in the circular economy, we divert waste from landfills, reduce emissions, and conserve resources. In this office update, the most compelling examples of circular design intersect with craft. For display, we used Woodward Throwbacks' Oak Wood Risers. Made in Detroit from reclaimed shop wood, each riser has a unique shape—bringing together story and sustainability. In another spot, we stuffed Mudcloth Pillow Covers from xN Studio with old towels as inserts, upcycling textiles that would have otherwise been thrown out. The risers and pillows both came from BIPOC-owned small businesses, bringing together handcraft with diverse, innovative approaches to reuse. Each object contains multiple layers of meaning. For a full source list, see pgs. 33-34.