



GIFT & THRIFT

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# SDG Impact Report

# 2023

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# NOTHING BUT

Harrisonburg Gift and Thrift offers a welcoming place for shoppers, volunteers, and employees, while serving as a dedicated steward of our environmental and community resources and supporting the local and global work of the Mennonite Central Committee. We aspire to be a clear example of Christian faith in action, a leader and community partner in creating an extended life for donated material goods, innovators in waste stream diversion, and a creative and dignified workplace and shopping space.

As an organization committed to sustainability and social responsibility, we align our efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide and report on our environmental and social impact. The SDGs represent a crucial framework guiding our commitment to sustainability and social impact. These goals address global challenges that intersect with our focus areas. By aligning our initiatives with the SDGs, we ensure that our efforts in affordable energy, responsible consumption, health, education, and economic growth contribute to a more equitable and sustainable world. The SDGs help us set clear targets, measure our progress, and transparently report on our contributions towards a more just world, locally, nationally, and globally.

# INTRODUCTION

Since opening its doors in 1982, Gift & Thrift has been committed to environmental stewardship and the “importance of small things”. In the years since, we have expanded not only the size of our shop, but also our recycling efforts. In 2017, solar panels were added to the building, which now provides approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of our electric usage. We partner with numerous other non-profits in our community to support their missions to build a stronger Harrisonburg. None of this happens without the dedication of our amazing staff, volunteers, donors, and community.

We are proud of what we have accomplished, and we look forward to a future where we find more creative solutions to do our part to build a more sustainable, brighter future with our community.

Sincerely,  
Susan Nelson  
Executive Director



# PRIORITY SDGS

There are 17 SDGs and 169 targets in total. While they are all important and interrelated, four are especially relevant to the work and mission of Harrisonburg Gift and Thrift. They are:

01

## **Responsible Consumption and Production**

Responsible consumption and production foster sustainable resource management and minimize manufacturing's environmental impact. We reduce waste and promote a sustainable lifestyle, showing that every purchase helps protect our planet and support our community.

02

## **Climate Action**

There is an urgent need for global action to combat climate change and its impacts. We promote sustainable consumption through the sale of gently used items, encouraging our community to reduce waste and lower their carbon footprint for a healthier planet.

03

## **Affordable and Clean Energy**

Universal access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy is essential for economic growth and environmental sustainability. We proudly support this goal by utilizing solar panels which supply more than half of our electricity, demonstrating our commitment to sustainable energy usage and creation.

04

## **Decent Work and Economic Growth**

Productive employment and decent work for all enables sustainable economic growth, creating opportunities for everyone. We embody this goal by providing meaningful work and fair wages, fostering a supportive work environment while contributing to the local economy and engaging with community groups.

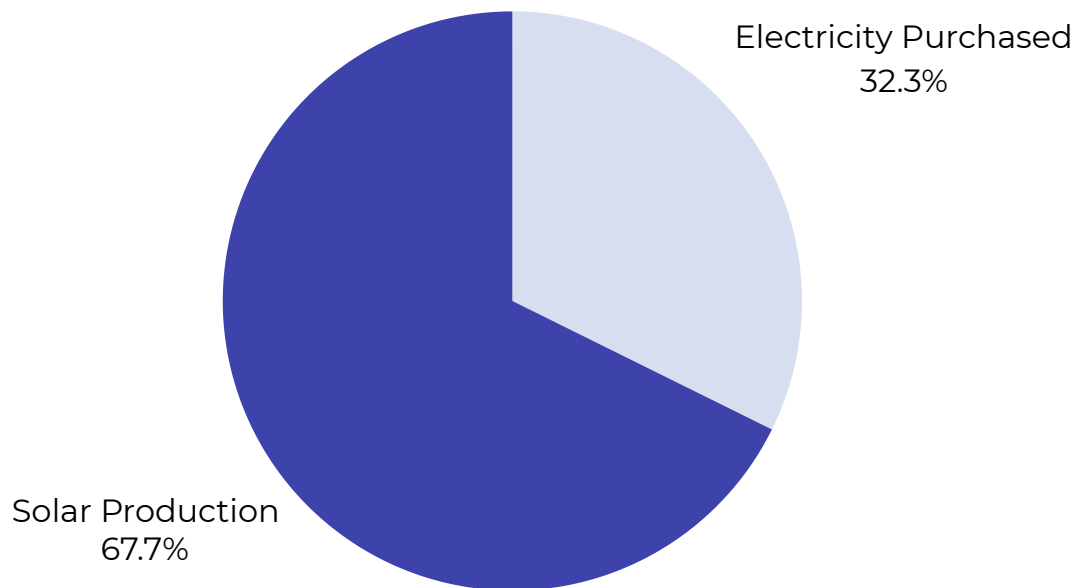
# EMISSIONS IMPACT

Our sales and recycling efforts extend the life of items, keeping them in use longer and preventing the need for new production, which significantly reduces the carbon emissions associated with manufacturing.

Item Category	Amount Processed	Carbon Equivalent Avoided
Clothing	212,251 pounds	2315.5 metric tons
Shoes	14,816 pounds	124.6 metric tons
Purses/Belts/Other	6,771 pounds	6.8 metric tons
Paper	97 tons	92.2 metric tons
Cardboard	14 tons	7.5 metric tons
Plastic	1,121 pounds	7.4 metric tons
Metal	24,280 pounds	80.1 metric tons

# EMISSIONS IMPACT

The majority of our positive environmental impact stems from the sale and recycling of clothing, shoes, paper, and metal. Additionally, our solar panels generate over two-thirds of our energy needs. We take pride in knowing that our operations contribute to environmental sustainability and promote responsible production in both the fashion and energy sectors.



**2700**

*Net Metric Tons of Carbon Equivalent Emissions Prevented by Gift and Thrift Operations*

# DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

We pay our employees an average wage of \$14.88 per hour, with a goal of \$15/hour or more for every employee. We provide meaningful vocational and avocational opportunities for our employees and volunteers.

## What our people love about working at Gift and Thrift

"The profit goes toward helping people, as opposed to making some rich shareholders richer."

"I love the flexible hours and being able to set my own weekly schedule. I like to stay busy and feel like I am in charge of my own area without being micromanaged so I can be successful and serve the organization well."

"Fellowship and prayer time with co-workers."

"Flexibility, wonderful coworkers, excellent leadership, and opportunity for growth."

"I truly love my team. They are the best! I appreciate that I can lead my team in the way I see is appropriate and manage my department without having to ask permission to make changes and set pricing guidelines."



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I love the feeling of being part of something that is helping others



# MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

We had total revenues of \$2.75M and a net profit of \$610,591. We contributed \$446,407, or 73.11% of net profit, to the work of MCC, significantly exceeding our minimum donation of 50%.

Our contributions to MCC help to fund their work as the hands and feet of Jesus around the world, fighting poverty, hunger, inequality, and oppression wherever it is seen or unseen, as well as further the progress of the SDGs worldwide

- 01 No Poverty
- 02 Zero Hunger
- 03 Good Health and Wellbeing
- 04 Quality Education
- 05 Reduced Inequalities
- 06 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

# MCC'S IMPACT



## Peacebuilding

- 30k people trained in conflict transformation, peacebuilding, or mediation
- 6000 advocacy letters sent
- 399 peace clubs active

## Education

- 8k adults received vocational training
- 65k children received school kits and supplies
- 2k people were trained in health care fields



## Relief and Development

- 208k received emergency food assistance
- 1,552 homes reconstructed or repaired
- 575k lbs of canned meat distributed

## Water

- 55k people given access to better water source
- 201 drinking water systems built or repaired
- 315 water harvesting structures built or repaired



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Your support of Gift and Thrift allowed us to support the good work of MCC's 1,100 workers as the hands and feet of Jesus worldwide

# IT STARTS WITH YOU

By embracing sustainable practices, reducing waste, and providing affordable goods, we're not just selling items—we're building stronger communities and supporting those in need. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey with us! Your support means the world to us. Every purchase and donation helps us push forward on our mission, creating a sustainable future for the planet and making a real difference in people's lives locally and worldwide.

Let's keep this momentum going! Shop, donate, and spread the word—your actions today are paving the way for a brighter, more sustainable future.