

CASE STUDY IN REUSE

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT SHED



BEDFORD TIOLI SHED

BEDFORD 2030

MIDGE IORIO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LOCATION: 46 Depot Plaza, Bedford Hills, NY 10507

DAYS/HOURS: Saturdays, 10am-12pm, May-Oct

<https://bedford2030.org/tools/tioli/>



The Basics

- The Take It or Leave It Shed (TIOLI) Program has been thriving for 5 years
- It was born from the Climate Task Force Bedford 2030, a climate-oriented, community-based movement
- Over 95% of donations are redistributed to TIOLI visitors or other non-profits (e.g., animal shelters)
- There is an average of 85-100 “shoppers” each week, not including people who donate items
- They also host a repair cafe every year that is powered by electric vehicles to run their repair equipment
- The Shed is very family-friendly, with children’s toys and clothing in different sizes that families can trade in as children grow
- The Bedford TIOLI Shed Facebook page is highly active and is a place where items that are not accepted at the Shed can be posted for sale (like Facebook Marketplace) to keep as many items out of the landfill as possible

Funding

- The Climate Task Force is a non-profit that raised funds to purchase the TIOLI Shed through a seed-funding proposal
- Other communities could explore various forms of fundraising (i.e., crowd-sourcing) to secure money to purchase a TIOLI shed
- In the beginning, the only expense was the Shed and the small bit of insurance each year on the Shed – everything else (pop-up tents, tables, and shelves) was donated, and the Shed itself is mostly volunteer-run
- Due to growth, the Shed recently was able to hire a part-time staff member
- The insurance for the Shed and the part-time staff wages are paid out of the non-profit operating budget

Advice for Starting a TIOLI Shed

- First step: find a volunteer that is interested in being the Shed leader
- Outfit the Shed with shelves, signage, etc. (this can all be done for free by volunteers and through donated items)
- Accept donated items from the community to stock the Shed
- Recruit and train your volunteers (especially train them on scenarios for dealing with the public)
- Know your community demographics (having bilingual volunteers can provide accessibility and inclusivity)
- Provide residents with alternatives for what to do with items that your Shed does not accept
- Show gratitude to your volunteers! (e.g., provide them with water/bathroom, host Volunteer Appreciation Events, etc.)
- Have a brief meeting before/after Shed operating hours to give your volunteers a chance to voice questions and ideas
- No electricity is needed to run a TIOLI Shed
- Clear, consistent communication about what you do/do not accept at the Shed is key!



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Questions?
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