



Working to Close the LOOP and Promote REUSE



Upcycled Inner Tube Rubber ReBands

ReBands are flexible, foot-tapping, fidget bands that are upcycled from waste bicycle inner tubes. The valve stems are removed so that the inner tube can be used in its uncut form to wrap around elementary school chair legs for Special Education and regular classrooms.

DESIGN & FUNCTION:

- **ReBands** can replace the commercially made bands used around the legs of school chairs or desks to give fidgety kids something for their feet to engage with and get out extra energy
- By having their feet active while listening and learning, children's neuro-transmitters are increased so that they are able to stay more focused in the classroom
- César Chávez Elementary School in San Francisco's Mission District is piloting bicycle inner tubes to replace expensive bands currently used, allowing them to offer more bands to more kids
- The educators piloting these bands have expressed very enthusiastic early feedback as well as support for the use of **ReBands** district-wide for SFUSD

BENEFITS of ReBands OVER CURRENT OPTIONS:

- Significantly less expensive, and more durable and flexible than purchased bands
- Teachers can access as many bands as they need for their students without being limited to only a few due to price/budget constraints
- More environmentally friendly than purchasing new products made of rubber and other synthetics
- Provides opportunity to discuss issues about resource use, upcycling, and material reuse within the classroom

TESTIMONIAL for PILOT PROJECT:

Learning Specialist at César Chávez - Laura Aramendia

The Learning Specialist at César Chávez told us that she loves the whole conversation about the inner tubes and reusing. She very much appreciates that these are an upcycled, free material that could be easily sourced from the local bike shop. She thought that the **ReBands** approach, where the bands can also circle all four chair legs (since some kids don't sit in chairs facing straight ahead), was an improvement over their current \$26 bands, of which they could only purchase a few. She also told us that the expensive purchased bands end up making a lot of noise because the connectors rattle when kids kick the bands and that **ReBands** are superior because they are quiet and therefore not disruptive to the class. Laura hopes to connect the Rubber Impact Team with one of César Chávez' 5th grade science teachers, who is a bicyclist and very sustainability focused, as well as their project based learning advisor to include our curriculum around inner tube reuse.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY:

An in-class activity based around **ReBands** will be included in The Rubber Impact Project's K-5 modules.

The Rubber Impact Project seeks to engage students of all ages, as well as the broader public, to adopt a mindset and culture of reuse; to create a waste flow that incorporates reuse of inner tube rubber into a circular rubber ecology; and to pressure the rubber industry to move toward greater sustainability and environmental responsibility.

The Rubber Impact Project is the recipient of the 2019 IMPACT Award from California College of the Art's Center for IMPACT. The IMPACT Award recognizes groundbreaking approaches and solutions in the field of sustainability and social impact through the lens of art & design.

For more information please visit www.rubberimpact.net