

Prevention

Repair Café



Amsterdam, Netherlands
www.repaircafe.org

200 tonnes of waste avoided in one year thanks to Repair Café

We throw away vast amounts of stuff. Even things with almost nothing wrong, which could get a new lease of life after a simple repair to avoid waste generation. The Repair Café changes all that! It was initiated by Ms Martine Postma in Amsterdam who set up the Repair Café Foundation, a Dutch non-profit organisation, in 2010.

Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they're all about repairing things together. Tools and materials are available in the Repair Café to help people make any repairs they need. Visitors bring their broken items from home, and together with the specialists they start making their repairs in the Repair Café.

People who might otherwise be sidelined are getting involved again and valuable practical knowledge is being passed on. Things are being used for longer and don't have to be thrown away. This reduces the volume of raw materials and energy needed to make new products. It cuts CO₂ emissions, for example, because manufacturing new products and recycling old ones causes CO₂ to be released. Repair Café works with voluntary repairers so the repair is free, thus encouraging the repair of broken objects. Together, volunteer repair experts now prevent more than 200 tonnes of waste per year.



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"Toss it? No way!"

- Martine Postma
Director, Repair Café Foundation

Useful links:

<http://repaircafe.org/2014-another-succesful-year-for-repair-cafe/>

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