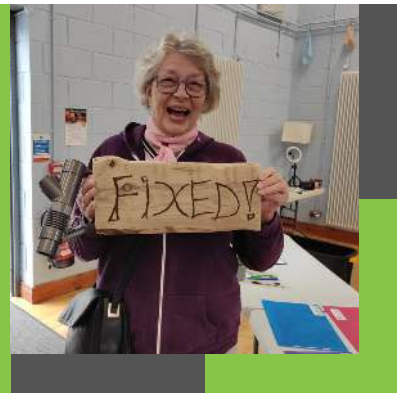


Hints & Tips

Setting up a Repair Cafe



Starting a repair café in your local area can be a great way to tackle waste and build community. If you do set one up, you'll be joining a growing global movement and one that is flourishing here in Northern Ireland. There will be plenty of support available to get you up and running. We hope you find our hints and tips video useful alongside this supporting document.

1) Experience a Repair Café for yourself!

To understand what a repair café looks and feels like, you should visit one in person. Repair cafés are typically community spaces where people can bring broken items to be fixed by skilled volunteers. They have a welcoming and supportive atmosphere, and are a great way to learn new skills and reduce waste. Repair Cafes are both environmental & social spaces.

2) Where will your Repair Café take place?

Repair Cafes can be held in various locations, depending on what works best for your community. Some Repair Cafes are hosted in community centres, libraries, church halls or in schools, moving around 'host venues' each month, while others are held in dedicated spaces. The important thing is that there is a place where people can come together to share their skills and knowledge to repair items and reduce waste.

3) Grow your team of volunteers

Having a core team for your repair café is important. A core team can help with organizing and promoting the event, coordinating volunteers, and ensuring the event runs smoothly. It's also helpful to have a diverse group of individuals with different skills and expertise to contribute to the repair café.

4) What type of things will you repair?

It's common for Repair Cafés to offer repairs on a variety of items such as clothing, bicycles, small furniture, electronics, and small household electricals, like toasters, lamps, kettles. The general rule of thumb is that one person must be able to carry the item into the Repair Café space. The specific repairs offered may vary based on the volunteer skillset available at each

location. Usually, repair cafes will offer to fix one item per person. It's important to remember that not everything is easily repaired. Repair Cafes can signpost you to more information if spare parts are required, or where to safely dispose of your item if it has reached 'end of life'.

5)Anything else to consider?

To host a successful repair café event, it's important to consider factors such as insurance coverage and performing a risk assessment for each event. Fixers use their own tools. You can learn from other repair cafes by talking to them about their experiences.

Repair Cafes offer refreshments, tea, coffee and cake to volunteers and visitors as a way to enjoy and celebrate the event together. This creates a welcoming atmosphere and encourages people to sit together and talk about waste and repair while they wait to be matched to a fixer. Repair Cafes are free community events, but often have a donation jar so the next repair café can be stocked with more tea and cake, and basic supplies like fuses, bulbs and glue ect.