

Repair Cafés

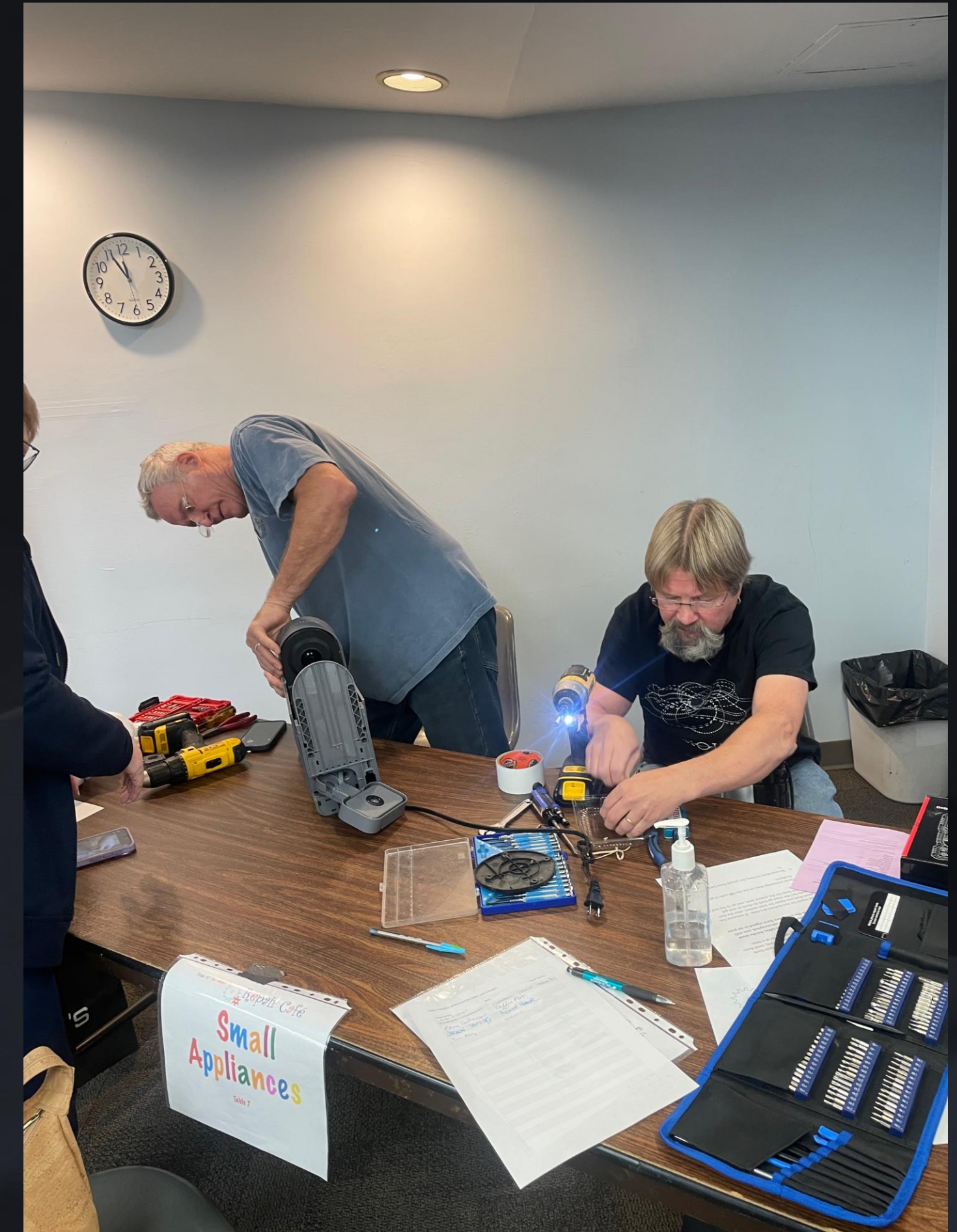
Keeping trash out of the waste stream while building community



What is a Repair Café?

A community event where people can get broken/torn things fixed

For Free!



The first repair café was held in the Netherlands in 2009

The international website is www.repaircafe.org



The image shows the homepage of the Repair Café website. The header is dark blue with the 'REPAIR CAFE' logo in orange and white. Navigation links include Home, Bezoeken, Meedoen, Over, Community, FAQ, Contact, and a prominent orange 'Doneren' button. A search bar and a language dropdown set to 'Nederlands' are also present. The main content area features a large photograph of a man and a woman working on a bicycle. Overlaid on the left side of this photo is the text 'Weggooien? Mooi niet!' in large white font. Below this text are three buttons: 'Vind een Repair Café', 'Start een Repair Café', and 'Word vrijwilliger'. In the bottom right corner, there is an orange banner with the text 'Bezoek onze tentoonstelling MOOI STUK! Ode aan de reparatie' and a link 'Lees meer'.

REPAIR CAFE

Home Bezoeken Meedoen Over Community FAQ Contact Doneren

Search Nederlands

Weggooien?
Mooi niet!

Vind een Repair Café Start een Repair Café Word vrijwilliger

Bezoek onze tentoonstelling
MOOI STUK! Ode aan de reparatie
[Lees meer](#)

Today there are over 3700 worldwide

The highest concentration is in Europe, where there are stronger right-to-repair laws



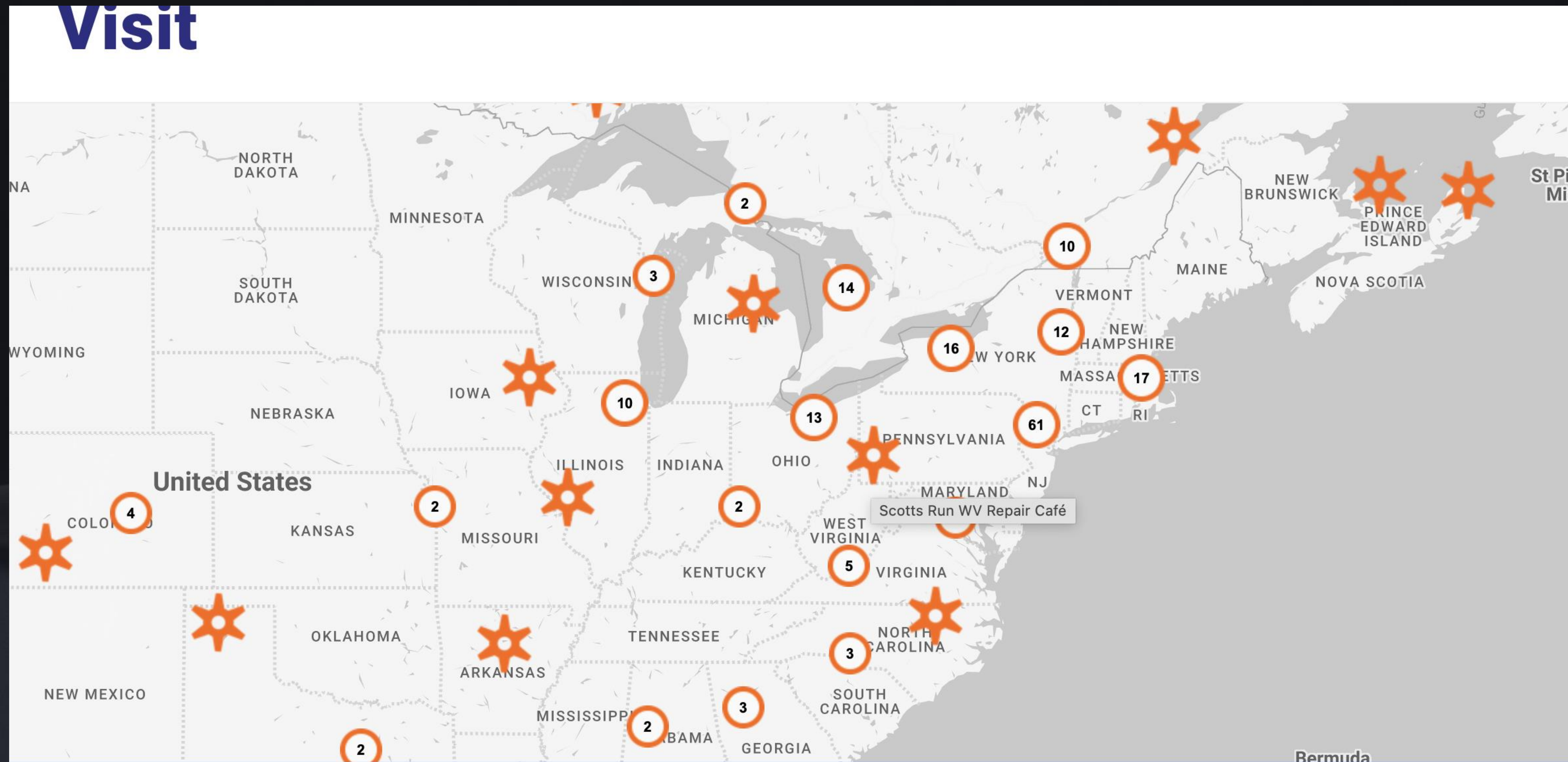
[Home](#) [Visit](#) [Join](#) [About](#) [Community](#) [FAQ](#)

Visit



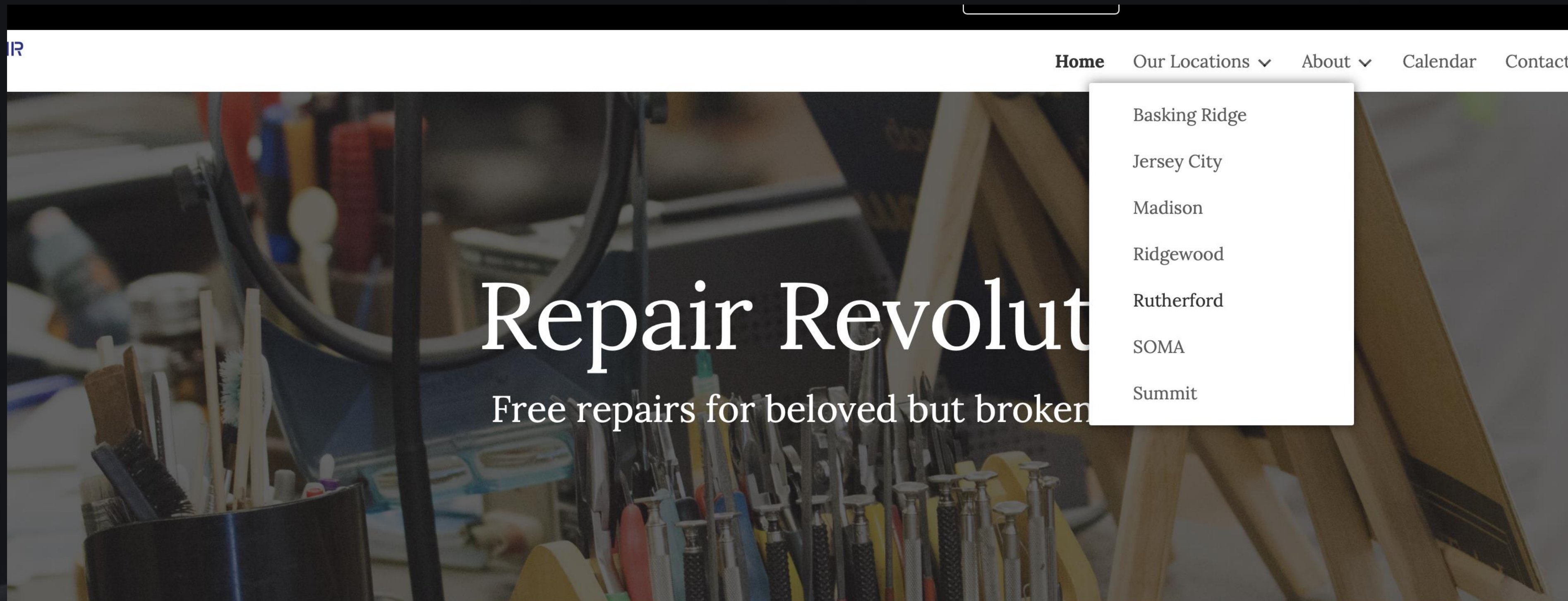
There are about 200 in the U.S.

The greatest concentration is in the lower Hudson Valley



RepairCafeGS.org is the North Jersey website

There are at least seven regular repair cafés in north Jersey



Welcome to Repair Cafe Garden State

Why throw away broken items? A simple fix may make them good as new, and keep them from filling our landfills. Sustainability can be taught while building social bonds within our communities at every Repair Cafe event

repaircafe.org has a starter kit you can download

REPAIR CAFE

Search English

Home Visit Join About Community FAQ Contact Donate

Start your own

Want to start your own Repair Café? You can! Repair Café International supports local groups around the world to start their own Repair Café. For a voluntary one-off fee of € 49 we offer the following digital starter kit (with separate versions for the UK, the US and other English speaking countries):

- **the extensive Repair Café manual** with everything you need to know to start your own local Repair Café. This step-by-step manual is based on our years of experience, and guides you through all the different stages of setting up your own Repair Café: from finding local repair experts and a suitable location, to collecting the right tools, creating publicity, finding funds for your initiative etc.;
- **our logo** to use in all communications about your local Repair Café;
- templates for **announcement posters and flyers** and a **press release**;
- **registration forms** to keep track of what is being repaired in your Repair Café and to cover liability;
- **information on how to join the RepairMonitor**, the online tool that Repair Cafés worldwide use to collect data;
- **templates for forms to cover liability and collect feedback** from people who visit your Repair Café
- **sign boards** for filling in the names of the basis stations in your Repair Café (like 'Electrical appliances', 'Furniture' and 'Textiles') and **posters** to decorate the room in Repair Café style

When your Repair Café starts ...

- **we will mention your Repair Café location on our world map;**



The image displays a collection of materials from the Repair Café starter kit. At the top left is a large poster with the 'REPAIR CAFE' logo and the text 'TOSS IT? NO WAIT!'. To its right is a registration form with sections for 'WHAT DO YOU DO WITH a tool that no longer opens?', 'REPAIR CAFE is repairing broken items together: professional advice, encounters and inspiration', 'COSTS? A voluntary contribution', 'WHERE? Location: Address: Place:', and 'WHEN? Date: From: to:'. Below the poster is a donation form with the 'REPAIR CAFE' logo and the text 'MAKE A DONATION!'. At the bottom left is a circular logo with the 'REPAIR CAFE' text, and at the bottom right is a square logo with the 'REPAIR CAFE' text.

Why have a Repair Café?

- Reduce waste
- Get people to think twice before throwing things out
- Tap into local people's skills
- Get older people to teach younger people — *and vice versa!*
- Build a sense of community



What gets fixed at Rutherford Repair Café?

- Lamps
- Electronics/computers
- Small appliances
- Bicycles
- Lawnmowers, leaf blowers
- Clothing, textiles
- Sewing machines
- Jewelry
- Furniture, wooden items
- Knife sharpening
- Also, cell phones, leather items, knitted items



What happens at a Repair Café?

- *Volunteers arrive and set up shop at various stations*
- *Clients arrive and check in; they read the rules or sign a waiver*
- *They bring their broken items, one at a time, to the appropriate station*
- *The Repair Coach tries to fix it, showing the client what needs to be done, advising what parts are needed, possibly getting the client to fix it him/herself.*
- *Sometimes the client has to leave and come back with a part; sometimes the repair coach has the part*
- *Usually, there is some kind of successful resolution; sometimes not*
- *While waiting, clients can enjoy coffee, tea, and homemade treats*
- *Kids get to make art at a crafts table using items that would otherwise be discarded*



How I got started

As an English teacher who tutored SATs, I came across a passage about repair cafés

It seemed like a great idea that could never happen here

Social Studies Passage

Questions 34-44 are based on the following passage.

A Quick Fix in a Throwaway Culture

Planned obsolescence, a practice **34** at which products are designed to have a limited period of **35** usefulness, has been a cornerstone of manufacturing strategy for the past 80 years. ^{PREVIOUS'S SENTENCE} This approach increases sales, but it also stands in **36** austere contrast to a time when goods were produced to be durable. Planned obsolescence wastes materials as well as energy in making and shipping new products. It also reinforces the belief that it is easier to replace goods than to mend them, as repair shops are rare and **37** repair methods are often specialized. In 2009, an enterprising movement, the Repair Café, challenged this widely accepted belief.

[1] More like a **38** fair than an actual café, the first Repair Café took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

[2] It was the brainchild of former journalist Martine Postma, **39** wanting to take a practical stand in a throwaway culture. [3] Her goals were **40** straightforward, however: reduce waste, maintain and perpetuate knowledge and skills, and strengthen community. [4] Participants bring all manner of damaged articles—clothing, appliances, furniture, and more—to be repaired by a staff of volunteer specialists including tailors, electricians, and carpenters. [5] Since

34 SEC
CONTINUITY: IN CONTEXT RELATIONSHIP TO INFO BEFORE AND AFTER UNDERLINED PORTION
A) NO CHANGE "AT" IMPLIES "WHERE"
B) from which "FROM" IMPLIES "WHERE"
C) so that IN ORDER TO
D) whereby BY WHICH, THROUGH WHICH, HOW, WHENCE

35 SEC
COMMA RULES: UNNECESSARY INFO
A) NO CHANGE
B) usefulness—
C) usefulness;
D) usefulness

36 AHSS EOI WIC
CONTINUITY: IN CONTEXT RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS SENTENCE VOCAB
A) NO CHANGE HAVING NO COMFORTS, SEVERELY PLAIN
B) egregious REALLY, REALLY, REALLY BAD
C) unmitigated COMPLETE, TOTAL, WITHOUT INTERRUPTION
D) stark SHARP CONTRAST, DISTINCT, CLEAR-CUT

37 AHSS EOI
CONTINUITY: IN CONTEXT "BEST SUPPORTS CLAIM"
Which choice provides information that best supports the claim made by this sentence?
A) NO CHANGE
B) obsolete goods can become collectible items.
C) no one knows whether something will fall into disrepair again.
D) new designs often have "bugs" that must be worked out.

WHAT IS THE CLAIM?
EASIER TO REPLACE THAN REPAIR

38 SEC
THAN VS. THEN: VOCAB FAIR VS. FARE
A) NO CHANGE
B) fair than
C) fare than
D) fair, then

39 SEC
WHO VS. WHOM
A) NO CHANGE
B) whom wants
C) who wanted
D) she wanted

PRONOUN WHO DIRECTLY ASSOCIATES WITH POSTMA
COMMA RULES
40 AHSS EOI

Rutherford Green Team

After joining the Green Team in 2015,
I realized recycling isn't enough:

We need to try to change our throwaway culture.

So I visited the three other repair cafés that
were active in New Jersey:

- Summit
- South Orange/Maplewood
- Ridgewood



Rutherford
GREEN TEAM

Where to hold it?

You need outlets, lighting, and (ideally) access to water and bathrooms

- Libraries
- Community centers
- Houses of worship
- Parks, if they have shelters or gazebos
- Local performing arts centers



Other venue considerations

- It's helpful to be able to control entrances
- You need lots of tables and chairs
- There needs to be nearby parking
- You'll normally be serving coffee, tea, and snacks
- Some places might require liability waivers
- If you're fixing small engines, you need an outside area
- Outdoor locations can be tricky (we did this during the pandemic)



Getting Repair Coaches

- Reach out to volunteer networks
- Reach out to retired people
- Try faith communities, scouts, civic groups
- Professionals will likely be busy on Saturdays, but you might be able to get people who do repair as a sideline. This could be a way for them to meet potential customers.
- Hold an initial meeting: advertise on social media, newspapers, library, and town websites
- Ultimately, word-of-mouth will bring people in
- Reach out to other repair cafés: use the RepairCafeGS network



Things to consider

- Publicity is the biggest challenge! Try town websites & newsletters, local papers, social media, lawn signs, posters, library newsletters if you're at a library. Publicize early and often.
- You need “general volunteers” who set up, break down, put up signs, check people in, make them read the rules, escort them to the right stations. Try scouts or high school volunteer clubs, like Interact. And get some adults, too.
- Ask volunteers to bake cookies, muffins, brownies; some people just love to bake.
- Set up a donation jar. No hard sell needed; people are always grateful.
- Spend donated money on lunch for the repair coaches, on parts and tools that might need (ask them), and on tea & milk & sugar.
- Get a local coffee shop to donate coffee and publicize them on social media.
- Keep track of types of repairs and successful/unsuccessful repairs. Ask for feedback.
- *Maybe* get high school kids to come in and work as apprentices: old folks teaching young folks.



You're welcome to attend our next event:

Saturday, October 25

11:30-3:30

at Rutherford Public Library

Links and info

My email: brianhansonharding@gmail.com

- International: www.repaircafe.org
- U.S.: www.repaircafe.us
- New Jersey: www.repaircafegs.org
- Rutherford Repair Café: www.facebook.com/rutherfordrepaircafe
- Rutherford Green Team email: greenteam@rutherfordboronj.com

