

CASE STUDY IN REUSE

REPAIR CAFE



ROCKLAND REPAIR CAFE
REPAIR CAFE HUDSON VALLEY
KATHY GALIONE, PROGRAM COORDINATOR
WHEN & WHERE: rotating venues, check website for the next!
<http://www.repaircafehvh.org/rockland>

The Basics

- The Rockland Repair Cafe is part of the larger network of Hudson Valley Repair Cafes
- Repair Cafe Hudson Valley is a subset of the international Repair Cafe network that was started in the Netherlands in 2009
- There is mutual support between the different repair cafes within the Hudson Valley network

In June 2023...

- **109** people attended the Cafe
- **120** items brought in to be fixed
- **60** items fixed outright
- **30** items not able to be fixed
- **30** items deemed fixable (owner was advised on how to fix)

Funding

The Rockland Repair Cafe is funded by the Solid Waste Management Authority (Rockland Green) for repair supplies and one staff member

Starting a repair cafe can be very affordable!

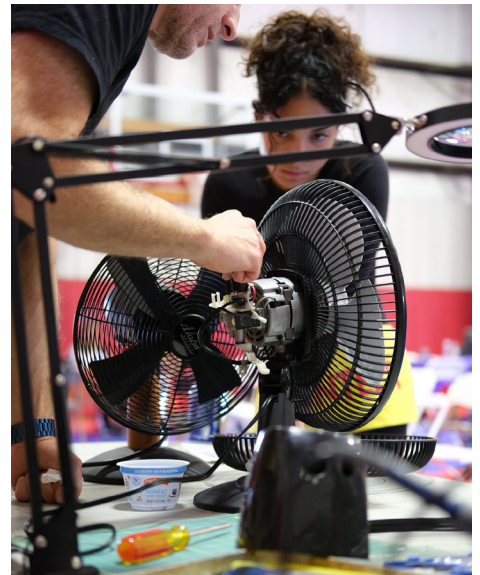
- Municipalities can provide free spaces for the repair cafe to occur
- Tables, chairs, tools, and spare parts can be donated
- Repair cafes are usually run by volunteers

Other costs that can be kept affordable include:

- Printing outreach flyers for distribution
- Coffee, tea, water, and snacks (remember it is a “cafe”!)

Advice for Starting a Repair Cafe

- First and most important: Attract volunteers to be repair coaches and fix things!
- Learn what the community needs fixed, and who are the fixers for those things
- Plan the repair cafe schedule to accommodate the repair coaches' availabilities
- Canva is a great free resource for creating flyers, posters, and signage
- Places to look for volunteers and to advertise the repair cafe itself can include: social media, news press releases, local electrician companies, trades and unions (e.g., electrical technician programs), local hardware stores, libraries, post offices, community centers, senior groups, and local colleges/schools
- Empower and encourage your community to feel confident in repair!
- Repair coaches that can work well with the public are valuable
- Non-repair volunteers can help with setting up, working the public, etc
- Express gratitude for your volunteers! (e.g., Volunteer Appreciation Events, saying “thank you” often!)
- Repair cafes can easily be combined with other community events such as concerts/open mic nights, artisan showcases, cross-promotions with local partnerships (such as Sierra Club, local shops, Youth Bureau, Scout Troops, etc)
- Build your repair cafe alongside other reuse initiatives (e.g., tool libraries, Take It Or Leave It Sheds, reuse centers)



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Questions?
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