

*Toss it? No way!*



## PRESS RELEASE

# Clear Lake hosts its own Repair Café

**What do you do with a broken toaster? Or a lamp? Or a sweater or garment with holes or damaged seams? Toss it? No way!**

**Transition Houston is organizing Houston's Repair Café in collaboration with Harris County Public Libraries and the City of Houston Green Building Resource Center.**

**Where:** Clear Lake City – County Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062

**When:** Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**What:** Starting from 10:30 am and ending at 2:30 pm, volunteer repair experts will be available to help make all possible repairs free of charge. Tools and materials will also be on hand. This event will focus on small appliances and sewing and mending. The Repair Café specialists almost always have the know-how.

**How to sign up:** Click [here](#).

**Why:** By promoting repairs, Transition Houston wants to help reduce mountains of waste.

This is absolutely necessary, according to Steve Stelzer with the City of Houston Green Building Resource Center. "We throw away piles of stuff in America. Even things which practically have nothing wrong with them and could easily be used again after a simple repair. Unfortunately, many people have forgotten that they can have things repaired or don't know how to do it themselves. Repair Café wants to change all that."

A Repair Café is also meant to connect people and communities and to discover that a lot of know-how and practical skills can be found close to home. Steve says: "If you repair an appliance, a CD player or a pair of trousers together with a previously unfamiliar neighbor, you look at that person in a different light the next time you run into them on the street. Jointly making repairs can lead to pleasant contacts in the neighborhood."

Steve also points out that repairs save money and resources and help minimize CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. "But above all, a Repair Café just wants to show how much fun repairing things can be and how easy it often is."

### **Why else?**

Our society revolves around consumption. Personal consumption of durable goods adds up to 8% of GDP, and non-durable goods add up to 15%, totaling about \$4 trillion dollars annually in the USA! The more we buy, the more we throw away, often during the first year! And... most people no longer know how to repair things.

### **History: Repair Café Foundation (Repaircafe.org)**

The Repair Café concept arose in the Netherlands, in 2009, and was formulated by Martine Postma, at the time an Amsterdam-based journalist/publicist. In 2010, she started the Repair Café Foundation to provide support to local groups around the world wishing to start their own Repair Café. The foundation also supports the Repair Café in Houston.

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**Note for the editors:** You can get more information from Steve Stelzer with the Green Building Resource Center, City of Houston at 832-394-9050 or email [Steve.Stelzer@houstontx.gov](mailto:Steve.Stelzer@houstontx.gov).