

# Frequently Asked Questions

for

## Repair Café Volunteers

### Who is organizing the Repair Café?

- The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District ([CVSWMD](#)) and Onion River Exchange ([ORE](#)), both anchor organizations of the CV Repair Café Committee, have partnered with the Montpelier Senior Activity Center ([MASC](#)) and the Hunger Mountain Coop ([HMC](#)) to host the Montpelier Repair Café on Saturday, March 30, 2019.
- On the actual day of the Repair Café, both general event volunteers and repair volunteers will be responsible for doing the set-up, repairs, café, and clean-up.

### What is a Repair Café?

- Repair Cafés are free community meeting places and they're all about repairing things together. In the place where a Repair Café is located, you'll find tools, materials, and repair volunteers with experience in all kinds of fields. Visitors bring their broken items from home and can work with the volunteers to repair them. Visitors are encouraged to learn and to participate in the repair of their broken items.
- See more at:
  - [What is a Repair Café](#)
  - [What happens at a Repair Café](#)

### Why Repair Cafés?

- We live in a society that revolves around consumption. We buy something, it breaks, we throw it out, and buy a new one. The average American produces 4.4 pounds of trash per day, most of which is sent to a landfill. We want to change that.

## **How many people come to a Repair Café?**

- We cannot predict how many visitors will come to the Repair Café. During the first Repair Café that we held in Barre (Jan. 20, 2018), there were nearly 100 visitors who brought 68 items for repair during the four hours of the event.

## **What will people bring for repair?**

- We promote each café specifically to the skills volunteer fixers have stated they have. So we will let the public know what skills volunteers offer, and we expect that café participants will bring broken items that fit the types of repairs we have advertised. Of course not everyone reads our promotions, so it's likely that other household items will be brought as well. Volunteer fixers can take on any repair job that fits their skill level or reject ones that do not. We only accept items that one individual can carry (no large appliances).
- We have tracked the broken items that were brought to the previous Repair Café and most fit into the following categories:
  - Clocks/watches
  - Computer
  - Bicycles
  - Furniture
  - Household appliances, electrical
  - Household items, non-electrical
  - Lamps/Lighting
  - Leather & Shoes
  - Optical
  - Phones
  - Porcelain/ceramics/pottery/glass
  - Radio/TV/Video/Music
  - Textiles/Clothing
  - Toys

## **Who are the repair volunteers?**

- Repair volunteers are people who have answered our announcement that we are looking for volunteers to repair things. Repair volunteers have many different skills. You will only be asked to repair items that you feel comfortable repairing.

## **What should a repair volunteer bring to the event?**

- **A willingness to share your skills and help people to repair their broken items**
- **Tools** necessary to make the repairs you are offering.
- NOTE: If you need additional tools, let us know and we might be able to borrow some.
- Materials or supplies that you imagine could be useful.
- Your favorite repair **books** or favorite websites that you find helpful for repairs(to show to visitors).
- Please bring a **table lamp** for your table, to provide good lighting for your work.

### **If you are volunteering to repair 120 VAC appliances you might want to bring:**

- An additional power strip (surge protected if you are working with electronics).
- A short extension cord (6 to 15 ft., min. 15 Amp) might also come in handy.
- If you have a Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) please also bring it.
- Please let us know if you are able to bring any of these items.

## **Is Internet available at the Repair Café?**

- WiFi is available. There will also be a computer to access the web to look for user manuals and repair information. We will not have a printer available.

## **Electricity**

- Each table will be supplied with electricity. Electricity to tables repairing electrical items will be Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protected.

## **What size tables are available?**

- We have mostly 8 and 6 foot long tables for the repair work.
- Each repair volunteer will have one table.

## **Will there actually be a Café?**

- Yes. We will have drinks and snacks available during the event for all volunteers and visitors.
- There will be a meal provided for all volunteers at 11:30 to 12 noon.

## **What materials and supplies will be available?**

- Tape & glue (various types)
- Various fasteners (screws, bolts, nuts, washers, etc)
- Lubricants
- Cleaning materials (rags, detergent, solvent, etc.)
- Some darning yarn and some sewing thread
- Safety items (first aid kit, protective gloves, etc)
- NOTE: A full list will be sent to all repair volunteers.

## **Who covers the costs of materials and supplies?**

- People who bring in items to be repaired are expected to cover the costs of parts, bring parts with them, or leave the café temporarily to go buy the part, if it's available at a local store.
- We have some donations covering the cost of some generic materials and supplies.
- At each Repair Café donations are collected to cover the cost of additional supplies and materials for future Repair Café's.

## **What about liability?**

- All visitors who bring in a broken item are required to sign a participant agreement in which they agree to the house rules, which includes a liability waiver.
- General liability insurance for the event will be provided.

