

The Repair Café Movement

‘Fixing’ the Culture of Waste?

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But first...

What I repaired in the last month: My Fairphone 2

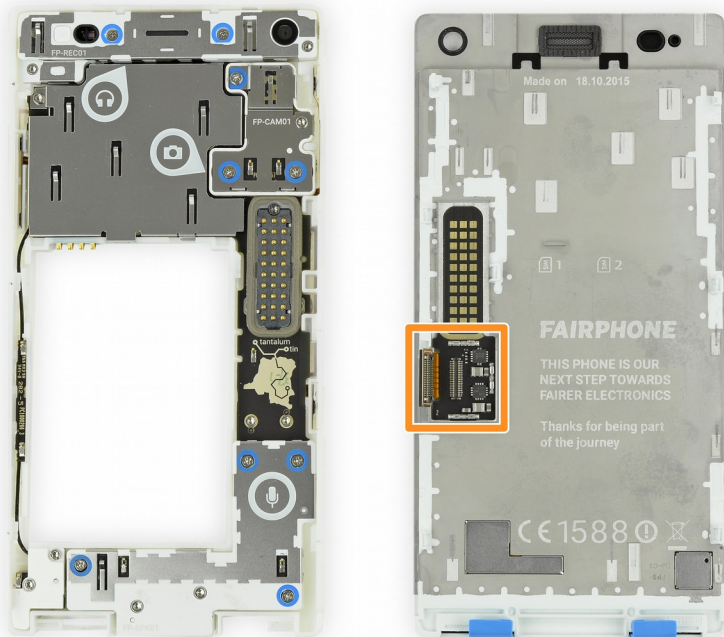


Image by Tobias Isakeit



Image by Walter Galan

What could I do better?



Make time to go to
a Repair Café

What is a Repair Café?

- A local meeting space where repair volunteers and visitors repair broken or faulty products *together*.
- Usually for free (donations are common)
- The Café-like (social) atmosphere is important
- Most often organised once a month*
- 10 volunteers on average*
- Around 30 visitors on average*
- Typical session is half a day*



Reducing waste

Making repair affordable

Building social cohesion

Passing on repair skills



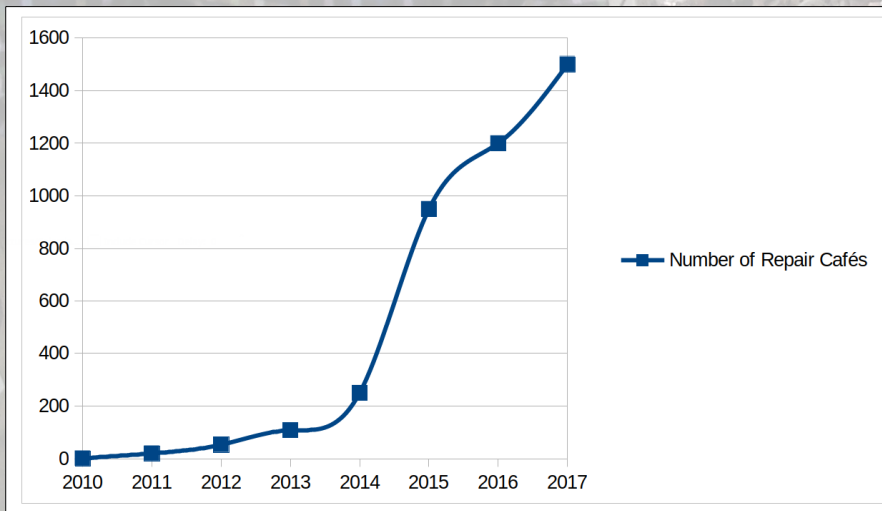
Weggoaien? Mooi niet!



*Charter & Keiller (2016)

The Repair Café movement

- First Repair Café started by Martine Postma in October 2009, primarily with environmental motivations
 - Simple message: Many of the things that we throw away can still be repaired relatively easily
- Currently more than 1500 Repair Cafés exist worldwide
- The Repair Café Foundation was established in March 2010



	2016	2017
Number of monthly visitors (est.)	41.000	50.000
Number of monthly successful repairs (est.)	21.000	25.000

(Numbers based on annual reports RC Foundation)

Not just a problem of consumption

- Many volunteers at Repair Cafés suspect that many products break down due to 'planned obsolescence'
- Many volunteers at Repair Cafés believe that many products are intentionally designed to be difficult to repair.
- The Repair Café Foundation has been working together with six other (mostly) European organisations to lobby for better repairability
- And the Repair Café Foundation has set up the RepairMonitor



Prospects for large-scale change?

- Strategic-level activities (influencing policies / legislation, in conversation with companies) are of vital importance...
- because local changes matter, but by themselves they will just be 'drops in the ocean'.
- If we want to change habitual, routine-like behaviour, then we need to go beyond awareness-raising, and offering good examples...
- and focus on changing the fundamental structures that bring about and sustain that habitual, routine-like behaviour.



Thank you!