

Reduce, Repair, Reuse, Recycle

Beth Munro became a founding member of a Time Trade Network when a neighbor introduced her to the organization. That same neighbor also introduced another and another...neighbor to the Network. Beth is now known to say, “don’t walk your dog in our neighborhood unless you want to become involved in interesting things!”

Some time ago, Beth stumbled upon an article about Repair Cafés. The concept was so fascinating, she knew she must do *something* with the information. After sharing it with two prominent Time Traders, whom she knew were also spearheading community Transition/Resilience organizations and Toward Zero Waste efforts, she thought, “Phew, now I can stop thinking about *that*.” Yeah, right. The environment has always been important to Beth. As an undergrad student, she helped to start the first Recycling Club – before recycling was fashionable! Today, she is amazed at how much more can be done via conscious consumption, modern recycling, Zero Waste efforts and Repair Cafés. She serves on what became a Repair Café committee with the Time Traders mentioned above and new recruits—whether they have a dog or not!

As an Organizing Coach for Life & Home, Beth has seen vast accumulations of goods in various states of disrepair. She sees, firsthand, the frustration caused by these broken items. People hold on to them because (a) the items should not have broken so soon, (b) people are not sure how to repair them--or if repair is possible, (c) they have been told to throw them away since it’s cheaper to buy a new one, but that does not seem right or good for the planet.

Beth sees Repair Cafés as part of the cure for such clutter and a way to prevent waste in and for the future.

To learn more:

An internet search for Repair Café and your zip code and your neighboring states will let you know if one is held nearby or visit:

[www. Repair Café.org](http://www.RepairCafe.org)

(Their slogan, “Throw Away? I Don’t Think So!”, may startle you, but pretend they added on “Unless it can’t be Repaired.”)

For information on Time Trade Networks/Time Banks, visit

www.hOurWorld.org

(“an international network of neighbors helping neighbors”)