

# Share Reuse Repair

## ACTION GUIDE

Presented by: Tamara Shulman  
For: SWANA Northern Lights Conference  
Date: June 12, 2025



Share  
Reuse  
Repair



A project of

MakeWay

This project was undertaken in partnership with  
Ce projet a été réalisé en partenariat avec



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

---

## About SRRI & the Project Team

SRRI is a nonprofit organisation with a mission to make sharing, reuse and repair a cornerstone of everyday life for Canadians.

*We connect the four corners of the economy – government, business, nonprofits and communities - so they can actively engage in, and benefit from, a sustainable circular economy that creates lasting environmental, economic and social benefits.*



**Rosemary Cooper**, Director of SRRI



**Cora Hallsworth**, Principal



**Samantha Agtarap**,  
Senior Associate  
(CHRM Consulting)



**Tamara Shulman**, Principal,  
Tamara Shulman and  
Consultants



**Sue Maxwell**,  
Principal, Ecoinspire Planning  
Services.



**Whitney Larson**  
(Graphic Design)



**Mitch Ballentine**  
(Copy Editing)

A person is seen from the back, holding a large, tall stack of folded clothes. The stack includes various items like a pink shirt, a white shirt with black patterns, a grey shirt, a yellow shirt, and a blue shirt with yellow floral patterns. The person's hands are visible, holding the stack. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# LEARN

## What is Share Reuse Repair and How Does it Benefit Communities?



# LEARN: What is Share Reuse Repair and How Does it Benefit Communities?



## Share



**Sharing** - minimizes the need for individual ownership by providing shared access goods and services.

Examples: lending libraries; clothing/goods swaps; clothing subscriptions; furniture leasing; sharing platforms.



## Reuse



**Reuse** - encourages prioritizing existing products over buying new ones, including goods resold in their original form and those repurposed into something new.

Examples: thrift stores; online resale platforms; donating second goods; upcycled products made from salvaged items or "waste" materials.



## Repair



**Repair** - extends the useful life of products, addressing the waste inherent in consumer products with increasingly short life spans.

Examples: repair cafés; local repair businesses; Right to Repair advocacy, online repair platforms with guides, parts & training.

# Community Benefits



Reduces waste & costs



Lowers environmental impact



Expands sustainable choices



Enhances affordability



Supports local economy



Strengthens community resilience

SRR initiatives reduce both upstream emissions (from production and shipping) and downstream emissions (from disposal). **While only 10-20% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from disposal on average, the majority are released upstream from manufacturing and transportation.**



# What's in this guide?

**Step 1: Learn** about share, reuse, and repair (SRR) and the various organizations local governments can partner with.

**Step 2: Assess** your starting point - evaluate your current capacity for taking action and identify SRR initiatives well suited to your community.

**Step 3: Explore** - dive into a comprehensive set of Share, Reuse, and Repair actions with varied levels of effort, practical steps, resources, and real-world Canadian examples.

**Step 4:** Formulate a **Plan** to get started on your SRR journey or expand your existing efforts.



# ASSESS Your Starting Point

- Assess Your Capacity for Action
- Identify Needs and Opportunities



# EXPLORE

## SHARE

- Free Swaps
- Lending and Tool Libraries

## REUSE

- Reuse at Municipal Transfer Stations
- Reuse Stores and Centres
- Municipal Drop Off Events
- Bulky Household Items Reuse
- Community Yard and Garage Sales

## REPAIR

- Repair Cafés and Hubs
- Right to Repair Resolutions and Advocacy





# EXPLORE

## Free Swaps

Free swaps are events where participants bring and exchange reusable clothing and household items they no longer need.



Reduces waste & costs



Lowers environmental impact



Expands sustainable choices



Enhances affordability

Share

Research by SRRI indicates that clothing swaps, which range from small and localized to community-wide events, **can divert anywhere from 250 to over 1180 kgs of textiles from landfill disposal per event.**



LOW

### Examples

Support Existing Swaps

City of Toronto Promotion of Neighbourhood As



MED

Co-Host Swaps with Community Partners

Squamish Reuse-It Fair (BC)



HIGH

Local Government-led Swap

Grande Prairie Drop & Swap (Alberta)

# EXPLORE

## Lending and Tool Libraries

Lending Libraries are generally community-based initiatives that extend beyond traditional library models by offering a range of goods.



Reduces waste & costs



Lowers environmental impact



Expands sustainable choices



Enhances affordability

Share

Finland's Library of Things avoided an estimated 5,800 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in its first year<sup>6</sup> by replacing new purchases. **Since 2014, the UK Library of Things has saved users over £4.5 million through affordable rentals** of household and garden garden appliances.



### Examples

Help Incubate a Social Enterprise Lendery  
The Thingery, Vancouver (BC)



Incubate and Provide Ongoing Support  
Halifax Tool Library (NS)



Partner with Libraries  
York Region Lenderies (ON)



# EXPLORE

## At Municipal Transfer Stations

A reuse collection program at municipal transfer stations diverts usable goods from landfills through partnerships with charities that collect donated items at designated drop-off areas for resale or redistribution to those in need.



Reduces waste & costs



Lowers environmental impact



Enhances affordability



Supports local economy



Expands sustainable choices



### Examples



Municipal-Led with a Charitable Partner  
Leduc County Reusable Item Drop Off (AB)



Local Government-Run with Charitable Partner  
Metro Vancouver Reusable Item Collection at Waste and Recycling Centres (BC)



Local Government-Run  
Mt. Lorne Transfer Station Free Store (YT)



# EXPLORE

## Centres and Stores

Reuse stores or centres are permanent spaces for the donation of goods and materials for resale or free exchange, reuse, repair and creative repurposing – distinct from spaces provided at transfer stations or events.



Reduces waste & costs



Lowers environmental impact



Enhances affordability



Supports local economy



Expands sustainable choices



### Examples

(Low Icon) Support Non-profit Reuse Centres  
Raven ReCentre, Whitehorse (YT)



Local Government-led Reuse Centres  
Hodge Podge Lodge Free Store, Strathcona County (AB)



Co-deliver Reuse Centres  
Quebec Reuse Centres - Reemploi and Réseau des Ressourceries (QC)





# EXPLORE

## Municipal Drop Off Events

Drop off events allow residents to donate gently used household items for redistribution, repurposing, or recycling, diverting landfill waste and also benefitting local charities.



Reduces waste & costs



Lowers environmental impact



Enhances affordability



Supports local economy



Expands sustainable choices

### Examples



Local Government-led Reuse Events  
Saint John Reuse Connections Events (NB)



Local Government-led Reuse Events  
City of Vancouver Reuse and Recycling Drop Off Events (BC)



# EXPLORE

## Bulky Household Items

Bulky household items like furniture, mattresses, electronics, and in some cases construction and demolition "waste", are collected curbside and diverted from landfill for reuse or recycling.



Reduces waste & costs



Lowers environmental impact



Expands sustainable choices



Supports local economy



### Examples

Municipal-led Bulky Item Programs  
Drummondville Bulky Item Collection (QC)



Municipal-led Bulky Item Programs  
CurbUp Program, City of Oceanside (CA)





# EXPLORE

## Community Yard and Garage Sales

Community yard and garage sales allow residents to sell or give away unwanted household items and textiles from their yard, garage, sidewalk, or another designated space.

# Reuse



Reduces waste & costs



Lowers environmental impact



Enhances affordability



Supports local economy



Expands sustainable choices

### Examples



Community-led Garage Sales with Local Government Support  
Great Glebe Garage Sale, City of Ottawa (ON)



Local Government-led Garage Sales  
Annual Indoor Garage Sale, Yellowknife (NWT)



Local Government-led Garage Sales  
Coquitlam City-Wide Garage Sale and Giveaway Event (BC)



# EXPLORE

## Repair Cafes and Right to Repair

Repair Cafes are community events where volunteers offer free repair services to help individuals fix broken items, from electronics to clothing.



Reduces waste & costs



Lowers environmental impact



Expands sustainable choices



Enhances affordability



Supports local economy



Strengthens community ties



### Examples

Support Community Repair Cafes  
Repair Cafes (SK)



Local Government-led Repair Cafes  
City of Toronto Repair Hubs (ON)



**Right to Repair (R2R) is the legal right for owners of devices and equipment to be able to repair products.** It is often focused on electronic devices, appliances, cars and farming equipment.



# EXPLORE Virtual Hubs

Share, Reuse, Repair Virtual Hubs are online platforms that help residents adopt sustainable practices, save money, strengthen communities, and conserve natural resources.

## Integrated Approach



Reduces waste & costs



Lowers environmental impact



Expands sustainable choices



Enhances affordability



Supports local economy



Strengthens community resilience

### Examples



Promote and Support SRR Hubs  
Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Hub



Promote and Support SRR Hubs  
Virtual Share Reuse Repair (SRR) Hubs  
(by Circular Innovation Council)



# EXPLORE

## Comprehensive Share, Reuse and Repair Programs

While local governments can roll out Share, Reuse, and Repair (SRR) initiatives incrementally, a comprehensive approach delivers greater benefits.

Integrated  
Approach



### Examples

York Region: A Leading Example of a Comprehensive SRR Program

#### Key takeaways from York Region:

- Start with a visible flagship action
- Tailor programs to community needs
- Collaborate to amplify impact
- Waste Prevention is More Effective than Waste Management





# PLAN

## Develop Your SRR Plan

### Key Considerations:

1. Build on Existing SRR Practices
2. Scale Programs Over Time
3. Use Metrics to Guide and Share Progress
4. Connect with Community Priorities
5. Align with the Priorities of Elected Officials
6. Leverage Staff Capacity
7. Integrate with Existing Plans





# Share Reuse Repair

For more information:

- Action Guide [sharereuserepair.org/resource-hub](https://sharereuserepair.org/resource-hub)
- Rosemary Cooper, Director SRRI [rosemarysrri@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarysrri@gmail.com)
- Tamara Shulman, Project team member [tamara@tamarashulman.ca](mailto:tamara@tamarashulman.ca)