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## **Repair Cafés: Implications for Product Developers and Designers**

**Scott Keiller and Professor Martin Charter**  
The Centre for Sustainable Design®, UCA, UK

The Repair Café movement has seen significant growth, with over 700 established worldwide since the establishment of the Repair Café Foundation in the Netherlands in 2010. In 2014 The Centre for Sustainable Design® (CfSD) at UCA completed the first global survey of Repair Café volunteers with respondents from one hundred and forty-four named Repair Cafés in nine countries (Keiller & Charter, 2014) which indicated a range of implications for product designers and developers. Volunteers felt that repair manuals should be freely available and that reparability of products should be greatly improved through better design. Certain categories of products, like computer printers and power tools were seen as the most likely to be designed with so-called 'built-in' obsolescence. Furthermore, seventy per cent of Repair Café volunteers expected that they would develop greater involvement in campaigning to improve reparability and longevity of products. This expectation has started to turn into real action, with the publication in spring 2015 of a joint mission statement; *Sustainable consumption and production: improving product durability and reparability* by the Repair Café Foundation, iFixit and other European organisations (Repair Café Foundation, 2014). The CfSD survey and recent research by the Oko-Institut in Germany indicating a shortening of product life spans of consumer electronics products due to faster replacement cycles (Ala-Kurikka, 2015) is indicating growing concerns over perceived built-in product obsolescence. Building on CfSD's research and its long-term interest in Circular Economy Innovation, CfSD have formed a strategic collaboration with Transition Town Farnham (part of the international Transition Network) to launch Farnham Repair Café in late 2014. To date, CfSD has organised six monthly sessions with the completion of 38 product repairs representing 100 kilograms diverted from landfill.

The paper will, firstly, explore the implications for product designers and developers from CfSD's research into Repair Cafés; and secondly, provide an analysis of the initial product repair data from Farnham Repair Café sessions between January and September 2015 and highlight the resulting Circular Economy Innovation implications for those involved in product development and design.