**INTRODUCTION**

- More clothes are being purchased, while fewer clothes are being actively worn. People are throwing away damaged clothes before repairing them first.
- The Renewal Workshop found that 82% of products that were once classified as waste can be renewed and reused. Extending the useful life of clothes through repair ensures reuse of clothes, minimizes waste that ends up in landfills, and reduces the carbon, water, & waste footprints of the fashion industry.
- The aim of this project is to explore various stakeholders involved and understand how the repair economy might be supported to maximize its environmental and social benefit potential and best achieve a circular fashion supply chain.

**RESEARCH QUESTION**

What are the best practices for expanding clothing repair initiatives into new markets?

**INTERNSHIP & METHODS**

- Interned at Seattle Public Utilities as a Waste Prevention Research Intern.
- Conducted literature reviews on impacts of the fashion industry, clothing waste prevention practices, barriers to repair, & consumer behavior.
- Conducted 10 Interviews with experts in the clothing industry and coordinators of repair events and initiatives.

**RESULTS**

**Interview Major Findings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of Funding</td>
<td>Unified communication channel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; market research efforts</td>
<td>Stakeholder cross-collaboration</td>
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<td>Volunteer/Employee Stipends &amp; Salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; Sourcing Costs</td>
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**Top Barriers to Engaging in Clothing Repair**

![Bar chart showing high costs, lack of skills, lack of time, lack of access as the main barriers]

Mean Rating (1 = Strongly disagree, 4 = Neutral, 7 = Strongly agree)

In my dream world, we would merge all disparate repair groups because they could work so well together, but there's no single organization that has the breadth to do that. - Interviewee from Portland Repair Finder

**TAKEAWAYS**

Combating barriers to clothing repair and reducing textile waste requires collaboration and information-sharing with various stakeholders.

Best Practices to Expand Clothing Repair

- Reducing costs associated with clothing repair through subsidy or lowered tax incentives.
- Encouraging participation in community repair events using incentives to boost confidence in repair skills and enhance emotional connection with clothing.
- Increasing access to repair by funding grassroot community repair-related projects that provide repair maps and repair resources.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

- The present study is one of the first qualitative studies to provide findings of stakeholders' needs and wants to achieve their repair agenda.
- The findings of this study provide important insight into the challenge and opportunities of stakeholder involvement towards clothing mending in the United States context.
- A concerted effort on multiple levels is needed to expand repair: local residents, retailers & brands, repair events & artisans, nonprofits, suppliers, public utilities, policymakers, & reverse-logistics companies.

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