

Moving towards a more circular economy by prioritizing upstream solutions, including reuse and repair

The Green Budget Coalition appreciated the commitments in Budget 2024 to a “right to repair to increase product durability and repairability” and, since fulfilled, to launching consultations in June 2024 to develop a right to repair framework, focused on durability, repairability, and interoperability.

In 2020, Canada had a circularity rate of only 6%.⁴⁵ As efforts and funding are primarily directed to recycling, priority circular economy strategies—including reuse and repair—lack financial support, especially for larger-scale reuse initiatives.⁴⁶

Funding to support reuse initiatives are vital to successfully deploying reusable alternatives that reduce the demand for single-use items, particularly in the food and grocery sectors. While the plastics challenge launched in 2022⁴⁷ was intended to achieve this goal, its short duration and the ineligibility of not-for-profit companies are hindrances to the success of this federal funding.

Additionally, while in 2021, Canadian households spent \$2,177 per year on household appliances and electronics,⁴⁸ only 19% of those surveyed had their last broken appliance repaired. A repair fund like France’s, launched in 2022, would allow people with broken appliances, no longer under warranty, to obtain a discount at the time of the repair.⁴⁹

45 The Council of Canadian Academies, “Turning Point: The Expert Panel on the Circular Economy in Canada.” 2021. https://www.cca-reports.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Turning-Point_digital.pdf

46 Jacinthe Séguin and Laurie Giroux, “What We Heard Report: Reuse Symposium and Policy Dialogue on Reuse in Canada 2022.” 2023. <https://plasticactioncentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Symposium-on-Reuse-and-Policy-Dialogue-WHAT-WE-HEARD-REPORT-January-2023-final-2.pdf>

47 Government of Canada, “Plastic challenge: Advancing Reuse to Replace Single-Use Plastics.” <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/innovative-solutions-canada/en/plastics-challenge-advancing-reuse-replace-single-use-plastics>

48 Statistics Canada, “Household spending, Canada, regions and provinces.” https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1110022201&request_locale=en

49 Équiterre, “Annex 8: Description and issues relating to France’s Repair Fund.” 2022. https://cms.equiterre.org/uploads/Initiatives/150_Pour-des-objets-durables-et-r%C3%A9parables/EQT_rapport_reparation_annexes_EN8.pdf.

Recommended Investments:

- **\$87 million over three years, followed by \$87 million per year, ongoing**, to implement a repair fund to reduce the cost of repairing electronics and appliances. [ISED, FIN]
- **\$100 million over three years** to establish a reuse fund to support businesses and organizations developing reusable container and packaging solutions as alternatives to single-use plastics, **followed by \$35 million per year, ongoing, until the effective implementation of reusable containers and packaging in Canada.** [ECCC, ISED]

Contacts

Amélie Côté – acote@equiterre.org

Melissa Gorrie – mgorrie@ecojustice.ca



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