



Freeshop

Many people nowadays have a huge amount of stuff that they often don't use or don't need at all. But **something that is not useful to one person can still be of great use to another**. These items can be transferred to the freeshop, where they get a "second life" and someone who needs them can then take them for free or for a voluntary fee.

Freeshops extend the life of the product, less stuff ends up in landfills, it saves people money, and it builds communities and reinforces the values of solidarity and sharing.



Clothes-swaps

Our wardrobes may be full, but most of us only wear a few favourite pieces, and the rest lie on the shelves. What can we do with them?

Clothes-swaps are increasingly popular events where people **bring clothes they no longer use and can take something they want in return**. A clothes-swap can take several forms. One is to organise a swap in your living room for a few best friends or for your school, but they can also be large events with hundreds of people for the whole city.



Repair Cafes

Repair Cafes are often events where people repair electrical and mechanical equipment used at home, but they can also repair computers, bicycles, clothing, etc. They are usually organised by local residents for their communities. Repair Cafes can show us that **there is often no need to produce more and more new things**, rather taking care of our things and repairing them so they last a long time can be the best way.

The organisers of Repair Cafes often criticise the fact that in the current economic system, manufacturers are incentivised to produce things that become dysfunctional in a short time so that the customer then has to buy a new thing - so-called planned obsolescence.



Minimalism

Minimalism has become a rapidly spreading lifestyle movement in recent years. People who subscribe to this movement are downsizing their wardrobes, donating unnecessary items to others, and refusing to buy anything that is not essential to them and will not bring them long-term joy. Part of this is the Tiny House Movement, where many people have chosen to live on just a few square metres.

While minimalism alone will not solve all of the world's environmental problems, it is an **important alternative for individuals** who want to live differently, and it shifts societal values away from materialistic ones.



Sew, Make, Knit, Learn

Fast fashion has made clothes so cheap and poorly made that repairing them often seems pointless - and many people have lost the skills to do so. The abundance of cheap textiles has also made us value our clothes less, and care for them even less.

But that's changing. Sewing workshops, knitting meetups, and repair events are **helping people reconnect with their clothes, learn to care for them**, and value quality over quantity. It's not just about mending fabric - it's about rebuilding skills, community, learning from older generations, and cultivating a more mindful relationship with what we wear.



Occupation of Public Spaces

The strategies of the climate movement are varied - students from Fridays For Future got global attention for refusing to go to school on Fridays if they didn't have a secure future to learn for. Others have taken to the streets.

In 2023, protesters from Just Stop Oil blocked roads and disrupted public events across the UK to pressure the government into halting new fossil fuel projects. Their **peaceful but disruptive tactics sparked national debate** and led to hundreds of arrests. Actions like these aim to highlight the gap between the scale of the climate crisis and the lack of political response, showing that civil disobedience can be a powerful tool for change.



Sharing economy

The sharing economy is all about **borrowing instead of owning** - cars, bikes, even clothes. For example, cars sit unused about 90% of the time, so sharing them more widely could cut the total number of cars needed in half.

From car and bike sharing to clothing rental services, this model helps us use resources more efficiently and reduce waste by accessing what we need without owning more than necessary.



Social enterprises

Social enterprises **prioritize solving social or environmental problems over making profits**. The issues they might prioritize are alleviating poverty, improving healthcare for all, minimising waste, or developing the community - among many others.

Some social enterprises operate as non-profits, while others generate some profit to grow their social impact. For example, an organization that aims to provide housing and employment for the homeless may operate a restaurant, both to raise money and to provide employment for the homeless.



Community housing

Living alone has become more common, leading to much higher living space per person and higher energy use, which increases our ecological footprint. People living alone also tend to waste more food and feel more isolated, contributing to loneliness.

Community housing offers an alternative to individualized living by combining private rooms or apartments with shared spaces like kitchens, laundry rooms, and workshops. This setup reduces energy use and waste, lowers living costs, and helps residents build strong social connections through shared chores and activities - offering both environmental and social benefits.