

France to pay people to repair their clothes

17th July 2023



In this age of consumerism, we unnecessarily discard millions of tons of clothes every year. A lot of these items are as good as new. Some may be a little threadbare or miss a button or two. France has

come up with a new scheme to encourage people to increase the longevity of their apparel. The government will pay a "repair bonus" to people who get their garments repaired at special repair workshops, or take their shoes to a cobbler. The bonus allows individuals to claim back up to \$27 of the cost of their repair bill. The scheme will be run by an eco-organization called Refashion. The government said the goals of its new initiative are "to support those who carry out repairs" and help the environment.

An estimated 700,000 tons of clothing are thrown away in France every year. Around two-thirds of this ends up in landfills. Furthermore, the global fashion industry accounts for between 8-10 per cent of global carbon emissions every year. The emergence of fast fashion has exacerbated this. Fast fashion is the practice of purchasing cheap clothes to wear just a few times. It utilizes a lot of synthetic materials and chemicals, which harm the environment. The Refashion group also aims to encourage people to reduce the amount of clothing they buy, and to donate unwanted clothes and footwear to charity. It says over half of donations can be reused, and a third can be recycled into something new.

Sources: france24.com / theguardian.com / wikipedia.com

Writing

We should wear all our clothes for at least year. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

consumerism / clothes / button / scheme / government / repair / bonus / goals / landfills / fashion / carbon / emissions / synthetic / chemicals / environment / charity

True / False

- 1) The article says it's a necessity to discard tons of clothing. T / F
- 2) Some discarded clothes are missing just one or two buttons. T / F
- 3) France's clothes repair scheme is only for bills of above \$27. T / F
- 4) France's government wants to support repair workshops and cobblers. T / F
- 5) Around 700,000 tons of clothing are thrown away annually worldwide. T / F
- 6) Global fashion is responsible for 8- 10% of the world's carbon emissions. T / F
- 7) Fast fashion is making emissions worse. T / F
- 8) Half of clothes donated to charity can be recycled into something new. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. age | a. approximate |
| 2. discard | b. artificial |
| 3. threadbare | c. scheme |
| 4. garments | d. worn / tatty |
| 5. initiative | e. makes up |
| 6. estimated | f. dispose of |
| 7. accounts for | g. contribute |
| 8. emergence | h. clothes |
| 9. synthetic | i. appearance |
| 10. donate | j. era |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How do you feel about the millions of tons of discarded clothing?
- c) Should discarded clothing end up in landfills?
- d) What do you think of fast fashion?
- e) How can the fashion industry become more environmentally friendly?
- f) Should we all donate our old clothes to charity?
- g) Should we all buy second-hand clothes?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a fast fashion fan?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. In this age of | a. footwear to charity |
| 2. A lot of these items are | b. longevity of their apparel |
| 3. encourage people to increase the | c. the amount of clothing |
| 4. The bonus allows individuals to | d. of its new initiative |
| 5. the goals | e. as good as new |
| 6. The emergence of fast fashion | f. materials |
| 7. synthetic | g. donations can be reused |
| 8. encourage people to reduce | h. consumerism |
| 9. donate unwanted clothes and | i. has exacerbated this |
| 10. It says over half of | j. claim back up to \$27 |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of consumerism?
- How often do you throw clothes away?
- Should we all repair our clothes when they become worse for wear?
- What item of clothing have you had longest?
- Would you like to get a 'repair bonus'?
- How important is fashion to you?
- What damage does the clothing industry do to the environment?
- How good are you at sewing on buttons and patches?

Spelling

- In this age of isnmrocuems
- discard sillinom of tons of clothes
- Some may be a little rhaetrdaeb
- increase the golenyity of their apparel
- people who get their ntamergs repaired
- the goals of its new iiaitinevt
- An detesamti 700,000 tons of clothing
- two-thirds of this ends up in lfindalls
- global carbon mnoissie
- fast fashion has rbteaedxae this
- a lot of stnhcyite materials
- over half of nsdnitooa

Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. f	3. d	4. h	5. c
6. a	7. e	8. i	9. b	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Clothing

You think clothing is the thing we should never waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it's OK to waste their things. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic to waste of these (and why): food, water or energy.

Role B – Food

You think food is the thing we should never waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it's OK to waste their things. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic to waste of these (and why): clothes, water or energy.

Role C – Water

You think water is the thing we should never waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it's OK to waste their things. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic to waste of these (and why): food, clothes or energy.

Role D – Energy

You think energy is the thing we should never waste. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why it's OK to waste their things. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic to waste of these (and why): food, water or clothes.

Speaking – Waste

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst examples of waste in our society at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------|
| • Discarded clothes | • Money |
| • Uneaten food | • Water |
| • Lights left on | • Paper |
| • Our life | • Talent |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.