

France Is Giving Discounts for Shoe and Clothing Repairs

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- France has introduced a discount for repairing shoes and clothing.
- The bonus incentivizes people to keep the items they already own instead of throwing them away.
- Clothing repairs are favored by sustainability advocates, but they can be expensive.

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French citizens will soon be entitled to discounts on their shoe and clothing repairs.

Beginning in October, the country's government will give a 7 euros, or about \$7.79, discount for heel repairs and between €10 and €25 for clothing repairs, [Le Monde](#) first reported. The bonus will be available for the next five years from a total fund of €154 million, or about \$171 million.

The country hopes the discount will incentivize people to keep the items they already own, rather than throwing them away and purchasing brand new items.

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The fashion industry contributes [10% of global carbon emissions](#), more than international flights and maritime shipping combined, [Insider previously reported](#). Approximately 21 billion tons of clothing are sent to landfills each year, according to the [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#).

Sustainability advocates favor [clothing repairs](#) as one way to slow the climate crisis and create a [circular economy](#), in which we reuse existing resources and reduce waste.

However, there is a significant cost barrier to normalizing repairs. The nonprofit donation center Goodwill cleaned and repaired more than 1,000 garments in a pilot program organized by the California Product Stewardship Council, local news site [Mission Local](#) reported.

Goodwill repaired and sold more than 700 damaged items that would have been thrown away for an average price of \$31 per recycled item. The organization found that the repairs can be expensive — stains cost an average of \$17.34 to remove and other repairs cost up to \$34.

This isn't the first time France has incentivized repairs. In April, the government doubled-down on discounts for citizens who [repaired their home appliances](#) instead of throwing them away. When they service an appliance through a [participating business](#), they can receive as much as €30 for small items like a vacuum cleaner and up to €90 for a computer.

While France isn't the most sustainable country in the world, it's in 12th place on Yale University's annual [Environmental Performance Index](#), which ranks 180 countries on climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality.