At the Illini Gadget Garage, staff and volunteers work with U of I students and members of the community to extend the useful life of electronic devices like phones, tablets, laptops, and more through repair. We use a “do-it-together” approach, helping device owners to identify problems, obtain necessary parts, and make repairs themselves.

Who We Are
The Illini Gadget Garage is a collaboration of the Sustainable Electronics Initiative (SEI) at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC), the UI School of Art and Design, and the School of Information Science (The iSchool at Illinois). Staff from these units provide support and guidance. We have a few paid student staff members, but mostly rely on volunteers.

“Do-It-Together” troubleshooting and minor repairs means we work with you to determine the problem and solve it.

What We Do
As a collaborative repair center for personally owned electronic devices, we work to:
• extend the useful life of products, and thus conserve the natural and human resources invested in their manufacture
• provide experiential learning for students through associated classes, volunteering, and participation in the iFixit Technical Writing Project
• empower people to see do-it-yourself repair as a viable option for addressing minor damage and performance issues

We’ll help you figure out how to obtain necessary parts, give you contact info for local repair shops if the problem is complex, and give you info on local electronics recycling options if your item can't be fixed.

Why This Is Important
E-waste generation is a growing national and global problem. We treat electronics as disposable, despite the natural and human resources that went into their production from design, to materials acquisition, to manufacturing, and distribution. Materials used in electronics should also not be considered disposable – valuable ones worth reusing, and toxic ones worth protecting ourselves from exposure to at the product’s end of life.

Where Can You Find Us
1833 S. Oak St., Champaign, just north of Hazelwood Drive (aka Illinois Natural History Survey Storage Building #3 or SB3).

We also host “pop-up” repair clinics in various locations around the U of I campus and community engagement opportunities. Check our web site or social media for upcoming events and open hours.

Donate
Through the support of individual and corporate sponsors the Illini Gadget Garage helps consumers keep products in service longer and thus out of the waste stream. We also help consumers learn about local recycling, repair, and reuse options, and collect single-use alkaline and rechargeable batteries for recycling.

Donations help pay for staff who coordinate student volunteers, battery recycling, outreach efforts, and ensures that our assistance remains free and available to everyone in our community. We thank you for your support!
To make a donation via UI Foundation’s secure form, visit:
www.sustainelectronics.illinois.edu/SEIdonation.html