



The Open Source Hardware Source Hardware Association Branching Chapter

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Introduction

This document represents the first public version of the Open Source Hardware Association Branching Chapter. Please read carefully if you are interested in founding a local OSHWA branch in your state, region, city, or community.

A Shared Mission

Open Source Hardware Association Branches will abide by the key activities of OSHWA:

- **Educate:** Individuals, students, and the general public about the uses, implications, and tools related to Open Source Hardware.
- **Encourage:** Collaborative learning, knowledge exchange, and social cohesion through conferences and other events focused on Open Source Hardware.
- **Organize:** Coordinating local Open Source Hardware communities around shared values and principles.
- **Facilitate:** Initiate the use of Open Source Hardware in educational contexts; Collect, compile, and publish data on the Open Source Hardware movement.

An important part of the mission of OSHWA branches will be to generate [new OSHWA personal and corporate memberships](#) to strengthen the organization.

Long Term Objectives

- Create an international network of OSHW enthusiasts
- Foster the adoption of Open Source Hardware in local contexts
- Educate the local community



What OSHWA Branches should and shouldn't do:

The OSHWA Branches' mission is to focus on:

- Nurture the local community of Open Source Hardware creators and users through networking, knowledge incubation, and guidelines.
- Be the first contact point of people and organizations interested in understanding what Open Source Hardware is and how it works.
- Offer coaching to innovators and open source hardware advocates asking for guidance and referring them to OSHWA HQ (info@OSHWA.org) for critical points and clarification.
- Engage with local community members to share and explain the benefits of Open Source Hardware adoption. Show how this benefits the local economy through local players in manufacturing, agriculture, creativity, non-profit, and other fields.
- Branches are encouraged to translate the [OSHW definition](#), but not approve changes without first consulting the community. In the process of adopting the definition and best practices to the local context, branches are encouraged to identify cultural issues and discuss them with the international OSHWA community.
- Branches are not to approve licenses, as this is not within the scope of OSHWA.
- Branches cannot promote, finance, or participate in for-profit hardware projects.
- Any partnerships between branches and other non-profit projects need to be approved by OSHWA Board of Directors. Contact Info@OSHWA.org for more information.

Visibility and Cooperation

The OSHWA central branch will give branches a page/access point on the OSHWA.org domain, encourages the creation of language specific content, and translation of important messages and information. A dedicated e-mail address will be activate for all branches.



We encourage local branches to self-fund activities through fundraising. In some cases, funding may be provided through the OSHWA Headquarters, and OSHWA will give a portion of total funding to each branch for their activities.

OSHWA will create a logo for each branch.

Running an OSHWA branch is to be considered a volunteer activity.

OSHWA branches are not required to have a physical space for members to use.

Requirements for starting a branch

To start an OSHWA branch, we require the prospective branch to have a team of at least 3 [OSHWA members](#) to split the duties of running an OSHWA branch.

To keep your OSHWA branch in an active state, we ask the group to:

- Organize **one open community event per year** in which you open the event to all in your local community.
- **Support OSWHA Projects.**
- **Write a six-month report** of the activities of the branch in the form of a blog post which will be published on the OSHWA branch's sub-domain and potentially be translated into English.
- **Attend International branches video conference** to touch base with the OSHWA HQ.

Branches can be national, regional, or city-wide.

Good conduct

OSHWA holds the right to revoke the rights of a branch at any time the branch's activities are no longer considered to be in line with OSHWA's mission.