



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 kicking off 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, the implications, and the 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** the Open Source Hardware movement around shared values and principles
- **Facilitate** the use of Open Source Hardware in the educational context and 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 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 mission of OSHWA Branches will be mainly focused on:

- **Nurturing 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 for critical points and clarification



- **Engage with the local productive ecosystem** to push and explain the benefits of Open Source Hardware adoption in the local economy through local players in manufacturing, agriculture, creativity, non-profit, and other fields of society
- 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 OSHWA international community
- Branches should not approve licenses, as OSHWA does not do that
- 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 the HQ Board of Directors.

Visibility and Cooperation

The OSHWA central branch will give branches a sub-website on the oshwa.org domain and will encourage the creation of language specific content and the translation of important messages and information. A dedicated e-mail address will be activated for all the 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 launch a branch, you are required to organize an initial community meeting that should be called **OSHWA (Branch region) Launch**, an event that will be run according to a suggested format which will serve to clarify the mission and opportunities that lie behind creating an OSHWA branch. Modifications to the format are welcome, but should be proposed and discussed with the OSHWA central 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 videoconference** 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 whenever the branch's activities are no longer considered to be in line with OSHWA's mission.