



The Boston Sharing Economy is Here

Sharing Economy, peer economy, crowdfunding, ridesharing, open source software, co-working spaces, collaborative consumption. What do all of these entities have in common? In one way or another, they're all aspects of the *sharing economy*, a relatively new concept brought about by the internet age in which consumers relationships have dramatically changed in ways that were never possible before.

The best definition we could find from [thepeoplewhoshare.com](http://www.thepeoplewhoshare.com), states that the sharing economy *is a socio-economic ecosystem built around the sharing of human, physical and intellectual resources.* (<http://www.thepeoplewhoshare.com/blog/what-is-the-sharing-economy/>).

The chances are incredibly high that you've participated in the sharing economy. Ever taken an Uber? Ride sharing is perhaps the most popular and widely discussed aspect of the sharing economy. It takes a simple idea of allowing people with a car (and some time) to provide rides on demand to people who need them. All aspects of the sharing economy can be tied back to this notion of excess *capacity*, and the sharing economy helps to shift this capacity from those with excess to those lacking it. Until the internet age, this shifting of capacity was largely confined to small groups of people within families, friendship circles and local communities. The online sharing economy broadens this even further and allows people to share with others across the country or even on a global scale.

Boston Space Share is entirely focused on the greater Boston area. Our mission is to connect people in Boston together to help them save money and to help those with excess capacity to make extra money on the side. This allows individuals or businesses to share resources amongst each other, reduces waste and provides a win-win for both sharer and sharee.

Here are a few of our favorite space sharing services:

1. **AirBnB:** AirBnB is a great way to save money on a hotel room. With Hotels in the greater Boston area averaging over \$200 a night, AirBnB is a great way to both save money and for homeowners or landlords to make a little extra money on unused space.

2. **DogVacay:** A great option for pet owners to leave their dog with a host who will take care of it. This is generally much cheaper than a kennel and can provide much more individualized care and attention to your pet while you're away.
3. **Uber/Lyft:** Face it, nobody likes picking up the phone to call somebody, let alone to call a taxi company! Uber and Lyft make it easy and affordable to find a ride, generally within a matter of minutes.
4. **Taskrabbit:** Outsource your tasks to somebody who wants to get paid to do them! All of the "rabbits" are interviewed and undergo a background check prior to being hired on the service. If you're too busy to do your laundry, grocery shopping, or just need someone to deliver a package for you across town, Task Rabbit is a great way to outsource your tasks!
5. **Craigslist:** The king of all local apartment hunting, job seeking and stuff selling, the Craigslist community is a very large and outstanding way to share your extra space.
6. **Kickstarter:** Kickstarter is a crowdfunding platform allowing people to invest into projects. With over 10 million backers to date, Kickstarter is the best way to secure funding for your creative project.
7. **Lending Club:** Lending Club is the world's largest online marketplace, connecting borrowers to investors. Their goal is to make credit more affordable and investing more rewarding.

The fascinating thing about the sharing economy is that, had you asked somebody 15 years ago if they would stay at a stranger's house, or ride in a car with a stranger, they would have said no and thought you were crazy. Whether you call it crowd sharing, space sharing or collaborative consumption, people are becoming less interested in the *ownership* aspect of consuming and more interested in the art of efficiently and economically consuming. This not only reduces waste but can also serve to reduce the amount of stress in a person's life, knowing that they have these resources just a click away and readily available.

Boston Space Share strives to bring this ease of access to the greater Boston area. If you have extra space or any underused assets, consider sharing it on Boston Space share to make a few extra dollars.