

Resources for Reuse



Reuse saves money and prevents waste! When you reuse something you are keeping that something out of a landfill. Reusing an item requires fewer resources and less processing than recycling, and by opting to reuse you are often supporting your local economy. Below you'll find many easy ways to bestow new life and new purpose into everything from clothes and couches to kitchen countertops!

Classified ads and bargain-hunter newspapers

Several newspapers provide free classified ad listings for those offering items for free or next to nothing.

For items valued at \$100 or less, try:

The Berkshire Eagle
North Adams Transcript
Advocate Weekly

All can be reached at (800) 234-7404

For all items, regardless of price, call:

The Berkshire Penny Saver (413) 243-2341
Yankee Shopper (413) 684-1373
Vermont News Guide (802) 362-3535
Tri-State Pennysaver Press (914) 592-3440

WSBS radio in Great Barrington offers a free, on-air Trading Post on Saturday mornings. Call and announce up to four items for sale.

Community bulletin boards

Check the markets and coffee shops you frequent-- these places often have bulletin boards where you can post a flyer for free.

Tag sales

Lots of organizations, like churches and schools, often hold tag sales, rummage sales, and used book drives. Sometimes too, organizations will solicit used goods for fundraisers. Events are often listed in the community calendar or classifieds section of your local newspaper.

Visit www.cetonline.org

We can point you to several great places that offer free web postings (including pictures!) for items that you want to give away or sell. Craigslist.com offers a local page for Western Mass and items can stay posted for up to 45 days. The Freecycle network allows you post free items that will be offered only to other Berkshirites. MassLive.com is another great resource.

Visit the ReStore

The ReStore in Springfield accepts new and used building materials and sells them at discount prices. Whether you have things to get rid of, or you're ready to tackle your new bathroom, check the ReStore. www.restoreonline.org or 413-788-6900

Drop & Swap at transfer stations

Your transfer station may already have an area designated for dropping off and/or swapping various reusable items (usually items that are not considered "bulky waste.") If your transfer station does not offer this option, CET can provide models for establishing Drop & Swap areas.

Materials exchanges

Businesses with used furniture, surplus materials or byproducts can find others who can reuse or remanufacture them through the Massachusetts Materials Exchange. List items as *wanted* or *available*.

Disclaimer: Listings do not imply recommendation or endorsement by CET.

Printed on recycled paper - 30% post-consumer content

Consignment shops, second-hand stores, flea markets, charities

Your trash is someone else's treasure, and most treasure hunters find their jewels in the Yellow Pages, so consider selling or consigning your goods to businesses under these headings:

Antiques, Auction, Consignment Shops, Equipment – Used, Flea Markets, Refurbishing, Rental Service, Repair Service, Second Hand Stores, Surplus & Salvage Merchandise, Thrift Shops

Once you locate a reuse business, talk with the proprietors and you may find many more.

Simple steps for reducing waste

- Reuse shopping bags or bring your own cloth bag
- Turn used office paper into scrap paper for notes
- Ask your local dry cleaner if you can return hangers
- Donate unwanted books to libraries
- Most businesses that mail or wrap packages will accept packing peanuts and bubble wrap
- Compost your organic waste
- Wrap gifts with creative, reused or reusable materials such as gift bags, out-dated calendar pages, comics, old maps and posters, towels or fabric scraps
- When buying a new appliance such as a TV, computer, washer/dryer, or refrigerator, check with the supplier about taking your old one for reuse. Businesses often collect the old when they deliver the new

Recycling and composting

Each community handles its own recycling. Generally, recyclable containers should be rinsed and lids or caps removed, and paper should be dry. For specific information, contact *CET*, your *Town Hall*, *Board of Health*, *Department of Public Works*, or *Earth911*.

Got Books?

Got Books Inc. will accept all books, videos, CDs, DVDs, audio books, video games, computer software, sports cards, small sports memorabilia, LPs/Records and comic books. They provide a complimentary pick-up service, or items can be shipped or dropped off at one of many locations throughout New England.



When moving in or out...

- Inventory products your mover cannot transport
- Use up what you can or offer products to others
- List leftover paint on FreeCycle.com
- Dispose of dried out latex paint with regular trash
- For home improvements, visit www.ReStoreonline.org
- Call your Town Hall or Department of Public Works to find out what to do with waste left by previous residents

More information: 1-800-238-1221

Center for Ecological Technology (CET) www.cetonline.org

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