

Buy Nothing Re-Use Store

Your Local Zero Waste Roadmap



Shop here first! This is part of your Shareocracy toolkit!

This list is constantly changing. Please check back often to learn how we can reduce waste even more. If you have further tips for how an item can be reduced, re-used or re-cycled, please help edit this community resource and add your information.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: We all know the 3 Rs, and some have more impact than others. Our personal favorite is: "Refuse," meaning literally don't buy it in the first place. After that, Reducing and Reusing is at the top of the list.

This list is a template for you to use in your communities, to keep the materials that are in your community right there, and out of the landfill. Items can be reused by others who truly want them. This template is US-centric, if you'd like to create one that is more geared toward your country, please send it to us and we can share it here!

This Freesource is offered to you by [The Buy Nothing Get Everything Plan](#), co-authored by Liesl Clark & Rebecca Rockefeller. Join us at buynothinggeteverything.com for more information. This document was created by Liesl Clark and rebecca Rockefeller and carries an [Attribution-NonCommerical-ShareAlike 4.0 International CC BY-NC-SA Creative Commons copyright license](#), February, 2020. This is V 3.1.20

This searchable document can be used several ways:

- **Are you looking for a steady supply of an item?** You are a Reuser! Put your name in for any item you'd like to regularly receive from community members. Do you run a small business and send items out in padded mailers or with bubble wrap? List your name as someone who loves to receive those items, so you'll never have to buy it again. Do you have chickens and would love to receive shredded paper (with no plastic bits in it) as chicken bedding? Put your name in for shredded paper. If you know of a company, like The North Face, that will take and recycle



items that are no longer useful, like broken and worn out outdoor gear, list them. Then, when you've stockpiled a stash of any of these items, please look the item up, find the name(s) listed beside them and contact that person to let them know they can come and pick them up! Let's make this the best community resource for keeping materials in circulation right here, rather than unnecessarily adding to the landfill!

- Are you producing a steady supply of a reusable item? You are a Producer! Add your name next to any item you have a steady supply of, ready to give away. Do you order meal kits that come each week with their own reuseable ice packs? Do you have a favorite food that comes packaged with silica gel packs to keep things crispy? Do you dine by candlelight and find yourself with the ends of candles on a regular basis? All of these and more are items that others in your community might have a use for, and this list will help them connect with you.

- Do you have a one-time surplus of an item to offer? Look for a Reuser on this list. Did you just move, and find yourself with a stack of moving boxes and other supplies? Your brother came to stay for a month and left a collection of empty glass kombucha bottles that deserve another life? Scroll through this list to find someone signed up as a willing ongoing recipient of items you have to give.

- Do you find yourself with a one-time need for an item? Look for a Producer on this list. Helping to pack Great-Aunt Tilda's glassware up for Cousin Vincent, and finding a sudden need for piles of bubblewrap? Science Fair project season and your student needs containers and supplies of all sorts? Scroll through this list to find people who have a steady supply of these things to share.

Definition of Terms:

Producer: I have a steady supply to share

Reuser: I frequently need this item



List of Items:

Air Pillows: Packing supplies are always wanted by people shipping stuff or moving. If you regularly use or need them, put your name here.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: If you don't find any takers for your air pillows, you can deflate them and throw them in with your plastic bag recycling.

Bags, Cloth: Cloth bags are often welcome at food banks. If you want to help collect and deliver them, or have another use for them, you can always list your name here.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Technically these are textiles, so add them to your textile recycling (see Textiles below.)

Bags, Gift: Save 'em for folks who'd like to acquire a few more gift bags to make gifting easier. If you'd like some, list your name here.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: If they're made of paper, they can go in your paper recycling.

Bags, Paper: There are hundreds of uses for these. Just list your name if you'd like to collect some.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: If they're made of paper, they can go in your paper recycling.



Bags, Plastic: Some folks love to weave plastic into “plarn” for making some crafty knit bags and other items. If you’re one of those folks, please list your name below to receive plastic bags.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Many local supermarkets will recycle polyethylene. Just look for their bins (just outside the stores) where you can include:• newspaper bags• dry cleaning bags• bread bags• produce bags• toilet paper, napkin, and paper towel wraps• furniture wrap• electronic wrap• plastic retail bags (hard plastic & string handles removed)• grocery bag• diaper wrap (packaging)• case wrap (e.g., snacks, water bottles)• All clean, dry bags labeled #2 or #4. Please make sure there are no receipts left in your bags.

Bags, Plastic Resealable: Those resealable tortilla bags or other ziploc style bags can be cleaned dried and reused over and over and over again. No need to buy these!

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Throw them in with your plastic bag recycling.

Bags, Vinyl Zippered: Those bags that your bedding comes in are super useful! Who wants to list their name for these? They make great toy storage bags.

Producer:

Reuser:

Balloons: Okay, now we’re getting into the very obscure, but balloons are used by some families several times a year and some restaurants give them out to children. Crafters do use these for making cool manipulatives.



Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: The traditional latex kind of balloon will decompose over time, as latex is a naturally-occurring material. They can go into the landfill. The crinkly mylar-type balloon is not recyclable but it is reusable. You can refill them or reuse as a bag or wrapping paper for future presents.

Batteries, Rechargeable and Cell Phones: Be sure to take your SIM card out of your cell phone, to avoid identity theft.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Home Depot, Lowe's, Staples, and Target. Drop-off boxes should be at the stores. At Wal-Mart you can pick up a mailing label and send your cell phone to a collection point for free.

Bicycles: There are some really cool people out there who love to build bikes. You never need to throw a bike away. If you love turning clunkers into a fine ride, list your name here as the go-to person who'll take anyone's bikes and turn 'em into two-wheeled freedom.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Bikes are made of metal, so they can always go in your metal recycling.

Books: Share them in your nearest Little Free Library (a list can be provided here) or at your Big Free Library (ahem, your local public library.) Or, perhaps someone collects books for...reading?

Producer:
Reuser:



Boxes: Boxes of all shapes and sizes can be reused over and over again. If you're moving and need boxes, list your name here.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Cardboard is typically recyclable in most communities.

Bubblewrap: Small businesses that have a shipping component will love you for collecting your clean bubblewrap for them. Hopefully someone will have their name listed below to receive this!

Producer:

Reuser:

Camping Supplies: These are a great thing to have in the lending library! So, if you want to be a hero, list your name here to receive camping supplies and then offer to loan them out to anyone in the community when they want to head for the hills.

Name:

Caps, Metal: Stockpile your bottle caps and then offer them to a local artist or crafter to use. If you'd like to receive them, please list your name here.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: These can go into metal recycling

Caps to Plastic Bottles: This includes caps to water bottles, soda bottles, milk cartons, shampoo bottles, plastic tops that flip up on catsup/etc. Teachers and



artists are often interested in caps for art and science projects. Is there anyone in your community who would like to sign up to receive them?

Producer:

Reuser:

Carpets & Carpet Pads: Some people do collect these for all kinds of project, including building projects or padding musical instruments like drums.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle:

Ceramics, Broken: Any mosaics artists in the community?

Producer:

Reuser:

Chip Bags, Cookie bags, Juice bags, Energy bar bags:

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: [Terracycle](#) is a company that makes things out of those things that can't be readily recycled.

Clothing: Does your local gift economy have Round Robins or regular clothing share events? Clothing can always be re-loved. Some people love wool sweaters for felting and for unraveling for yarn, while others love T-shirts for cotton yarn and other projects.

Producer:

Reuser:



Where to Recycle: Create a list of the venues for donating used clothing in your county (they're usually available through your public works department).

Construction and Demolition Debris: By weight, the single largest category of materials that go into the landfill. But so much of it is useful! If you'd like to be listed as someone who will come and pick up materials from a construction site, please list your name here.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle:

Containers, Assorted Plastic: Large plastic box-like containers can always be used to store things. Animal shelters love the 18 gallon ones for all kinds of uses. Smaller containers from things like yogurt can be used in so many ways by individuals, schools, businesses, etc. Do you want to collect some?

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: (check your municipal recycling rules and please follow them carefully; some things simply cannot be recycled, and adding them to the mix can contaminate an entire load of things that can be recycled)

Coolers, Styrofoam: With the advent of meal delivery services, styro-coolers are showing up in droves. If you have a use for them, please list your name here. No one should ever have to buy these.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle:



Corks, Wine: Artists and crafters love wine corks. Don't throw them away! If you want to be the go-to cork-collector, please list your name here.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: <https://recork.com/>

Dairy Products, Meat, Fish, or Chicken: Anyone with chickens will take your food waste. And there are people who love their bone broth. If you save your bones for them, they'll take them to make that healthy broth.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle:

Egg Cartons: Save them for your neighbor who has chickens! If you'd like to be the recipient of egg cartons, list your name here:

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Clean, dry paper egg cartons can go into your paper recycling in some areas, and all paper egg cartons can be composted.

Eyeglasses: Non-prescription eyeglasses are useful for many people, especially folks who live in remote places. They can be collected and taken to these places by people who regularly travel there. Put your name in here if you're one of those people.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Organizations like the Lions Club will take eyeglasses, determine what the magnification is and then pass them along to people in need in



developing countries. Also check with your local ophthalmologist where prescription glasses can be dropped off.

Feed Sacks: These can be reused for so many things. Be sure to stockpile them so someone can come and collect them.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Some feed stores will take feed sacks back.

Food: Canned, frozen, and fresh food and produce are always welcome in a local gift economy. You'll find people for everything you offer up, and if there's excess, please give to your local food bank. Scraps and bits that aren't fit for humans are perfect for a neighbor's chickens.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: (List your local food bank)

Furniture: Some people love to be listed for furniture when they're setting up a new home. Please first try to offer furnishings to your larger gift community, but look here, too, for names of people who are looking regularly for furniture.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle:

Garden Tools: Local pea patches often need garden tools, for the community to share.



Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Garden tools made of metal can always go to scrap metal recycling but that's always a last resort.

Hangers: You can always return them to your dry cleaner, if they're the metal kind. But someone may need gobs of the wood or plastic kinds. If you're that person, list your name here!

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Metal hangers can go to scrap metal recycling.

Ice Packs: So many meal delivery services include ice packs with their meals, so we're seeing more and more of them in circulation. First try to return those ice packs to the company that delivered them, if they'll take them, but some people may want to receive them regularly.

Producer:
Reuser:

Jars, Glass: These are a favorite collectible for many home canners and crafters. Save 'em up so they can be reused!

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Glass jars can typically be thrown into your recycling but that's always a last resort.

Jars, Peanut Butter: Doggies just love to lick that peanut butter from the jar. Do you want to be the community collector of all empty PB jars to treat fido?



Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Glass and plastic jars can typically be thrown into your recycling but that's always a last resort.

Jewelry/Beads: Some crafters love to receive beads and jewelry for re-crafting into jewelry and other items.

Producer:
Reuser:

Junk Mail: How to Stop It!

Sign up for the following services at: <http://www.catalogchoice.org/>, [Direct Marketing Association site](#). Or get the app, Parperkarma!

Where to Recycle: Paper recycling!

Magazines: Often Libraries have programs where they sell them for a dime or a quarter each to raise money. Or, save them and give a stack away in your local gift economy. If you'd like to be the recipient, list yourself here.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Of course, they can be put into paper recycling.

Mailers/Envelopes, Padded: Someone with a small business will want these! Or, perhaps your library uses them to mail to homebound patrons who can't get to the library. This helps the library save money so they can buy more books!

Producer:
Reuser:



Manure, Chicken/Horse/Goat/Bunny: This stuff is gold to any gardener! If you'd like to receive this "hot" commodity, please list your name here:

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle/Re-use: This could go into your yard waste.

Mugs: Someone might want to collect mugs for their workplace, so there can be lots of reusable mugs for those coffee breaks.

Producer:

Reuser:

Oil, Fats, Grease, From kitchen (in a secure container):

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: If you stockpile it into a 5-gallon jug, some recycling facilities will take it. Also, with liquid fat, if you strain it and get lumps out, you can sometimes put it with your motor oil for disposal at your Hazardous Waste Facility or give it to a local BioDiesel facility or drop-off point.

Paints, Stains: Paints and stains are reusable. Lots of folks have building or art projects where they can reuse your old paint and stains. List your name here if you'd like to receive these things.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: List your nearby household hazardous waste facility.



Paint cans (dry and empty): Paint cans can make great planters.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Scrap metal recycling.

Pallets, Wooden: There are so many great uses for pallets so they never need to be thrown away. If you'd like to be the recipient of pallets for a project you're working on. List your name here.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle:

Pill Bottles, Amber: Some folks do reuse these and a quick search on Pinterest will show you why.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: But if you'd like to be a good samaritan, you can collect them from your community and send them here, to help with medical supplies in developing countries: <http://m25m.org/pillbottles/>

Plastic Plant Pots and Plastic Plant Labels: Are there any local farms or gardeners who will take plant pots? Drop them off or take them to the Farmers' Market on Saturdays to offer to farmers there.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle/Re-use: Home Depot: Their Terracycle Collection Bins take all plant pots, even the ones that are flimsy and broken, and the plant labels, too.



Stockpile the plant labels to send back for re-use at the nurseries that generate them.

Printer Cartridges and some office equipment: One cool way to ensure you'll never need to buy another printer cartridge is to list the type you use here in this list, along with your name, and the next time someone is unable to get rid of their unused cartridge, they'll find your name here and you'll get a freebie! Some non-profits earn funds for their programs by recycling empty used printer cartridges, so list yourself here if you have a steady stream of empties to share.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: List where printer cartridges can be recycled in your community

Sheets: Quilters love to use sheets as backing for their quilts, but other crafters can use them too. Do you want to be listed as a steward for sheets?

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: (list your local textile recycler here)

Shoes: There are parts of the world where people don't have access to good shoes so decent footwear is precious. If you know someone who travels to those places, shoes can be a wonderful thing for them to bring to distribute.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Goodwill and The North Face stores take shoes to recycle.



Silica gel: Don't throw those little packets away! They are handy for keeping your garden seeds dry, your silver from tarnishing, and old photographs from degrading. So many uses!

Producer:

Reuser:

Silverware: List your name here if you're collecting silverware for your company kitchen so there's no need for that disposable plastic stuff.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: If you've found no home for silverware, it could go into scrap metal recycling.

Soda Pop Tabs: Some folks like to make chain maille with them. Is this your thing?

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Metal recycling.

Sports Equipment: Check with local sports teams to see what they might need. List your name here if you're a parent or coach and are willing to collect specific items.

Producer:

Reuser:

Styrofoam Blocks: Some people use styrofoam blocks in the bottom of large planters so they're not so heavy to move around.



Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: (List here where styrofoam recycling is available in your community.)



Styrofoam Meat and Fish Trays: Many art teachers regularly look out for these for screenprinting projects. If you're one of those teachers, please list your name here.

Producer:
Reuser:

Styrofoam Peanuts: Someone in your community may have a small business who would love to reuse them. If you're that person, list your name here.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Re-Use: The UPS Store

Tablecloths: Quilters love tablecloths as backing for their quilts! Are you a quilter?

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: (list your local textile recycler here)

Tarps: Tarps are so useful! If you want to be the recipient of tarps that people might not be able to get rid of, be sure to list your name here.

Producer:
Reuser:

Television sets: Maybe there's an electrical engineer or teacher who might want to take apart old TV sets for educational purposes?

Producer:
Reuser:



Where to Recycle: Check with Best Buy and your local e-cycling initiative.

Tents: Tents are a great thing to include in a lending library. You could be the steward of a small village of tents that you could loan out to neighbors to use.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle:

Textiles: Textile recycling is a huge business so you should never have to throw out textiles. But before you send them to your recycler, a neighbor might want them!

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Goodwill takes textiles to recycle, as does The North Face, and other organizations that you can list here!

Tin cans: People use them as plant starters, to store sidewalk salt for icy days, so many uses! If you want some, please list your name here.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Metal recycling.

Tin pie plates: Teachers and artists are often interested in tin plates for art and science projects. Is there anyone in your community who would like to sign up to receive them?

Producer:

Reuser:



Where to Recycle: Metal recycling.

Tires: Want to make a tire swing?

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: If you have a Les Schwab near you, they are known to take them.

Toilet Paper Rolls: Yep, art teachers love these, for kindergarten crafts. But you can use them for seedling starters, fire starters, tons of beautiful crafts. If you want to receive TP rolls from your neighbor, please list your name here.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle: Paper recycling.

Toiletries: New and unused toiletries are always welcome in women's shelters and as quick giveaway gifts for homeless people you may come across while driving or walking in the city. Consider being the person who collects these in your community to take to the nearest shelter.

Producer:

Reuser:

Toothbrushes: Well, seriously, some people don't think to save them and they certainly come in handy when cleaning those tiny spaces that you can only get to with a...toothbrush.

Producer:

Reuser:



Where to Recycle:

Toothpaste Tubes: So many varieties, some made of plastic, some of aluminum, but aside from just using baking soda, most tubes are not recyclable. Check to make sure. And send back to the manufacturer if they have a program.

Where to Recycle: Tom's of Maine Toothpaste tubes are made of aluminum and they will take them back. Read their recycling directions [here](#).

Toys: Doctors' and dentists' offices love to have baskets of toys. Perhaps someone in the community will list their name here if they need to receive a stockpile of specific toys for a project they have.

Producer:

Reuser:

Umbrellas: Yes, dead umbrellas do have a reuse! We know of crafty quilter types who make them into amazingly beautiful parachutes for elementary schools. Are you one of those people?

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to Recycle:

Utensils, Plastic: They're easy to clean, so please don't throw them out. And if you stockpile them, someone might want them for their offices or for a party or picnic.

Producer:

Reuser:

Where to recycle: Keep them clean and perhaps they can be used for a school outing. Compostable ones are now available.



Videotapes, CDs, DVDs, Audio Cassettes, printer cartridges, etc: Here's a list of what falls under this category: All forms of electronic media and their cases: diskettes, zip disks, CDs, CD-Rs, CD-RWs, DVDs et al, video tape (i.e. VHS), audio tape, game cartridges, DAT, DLT, Beta or Digibeta, and virtually all other type of computer tapes. Hard drives, Zip and Jazz drives, jump drives, etc. All forms of printer cartridges, including both inkjet and toner.

Producer:
Reuser:

Where to Recycle: [Greendisk](#).

Wax, Candle: If you save up your old half-burned candles and wax scraps, a candle-maker near you will be grateful! If you're that candlemaker, please list your name here.

Producer:
Reuser:

Windows: Are you building a playhouse, green house, or cold frame? List your name here to receive the community's windows.

Producer:
Reuser:

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Where to Recycle:

What Can be Recycled at your curbside recycling and/or Recycling Center

Food & Yard Waste:(provide link if you can)

Description of food and yard waste allowed.

Co-mingled Recycling: (provide link if you can)

Description of items for recycling allowed.

Other Items that are accepted at your Recycling Center that Will Be Recycled-reused:

Description of items allowed (like scrap metal, e-waste, batteries, sharps, books)

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