



Recycling Manual

Reduce



Reuse



Recycle

Recycling is an easy and effective way to reduce the amount of waste going into landfills. It conserves raw materials. Recycling is more than sorting: it means reducing waste, reusing products, and buying goods made from recycled materials.

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BLUE CART PROGRAM

The [Blue Cart recycling program](#), operated by the Department of Streets and Sanitation, applies to residential buildings with up to four dwelling units and non-profit institutions.

Once every two weeks, trucks separate from the regular trash service pick up your recyclables placed in the blue cart.

Locate your neighborhood on the [2012 Blue Cart Pick-Up Schedule](#).



ITEMS TO PUT IN YOUR BLUE CART FOR RECYCLING:



- Glass jars and bottles
- Aluminum cans, foil and pie tins
- Tin or Steel cans
- Cereal boxes, paper towel rolls
- Cardboard
- Plastic bottles and containers #1-5, #7
- Junk mail
- Magazines and catalogs
- Telephone books
- Paper bags
- Office paper and file folders
- Newspaper and insert

For more information: visit www.ChicagoRecycles.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Can I Recycle? Residents may recycle materials, including paper, cardboard, plastics, and aluminum in their new blue cart. Below is a complete list of materials that can be recycled:

Containers	Paper Fiber	What is Not Accepted?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All containers should be emptied. • Aluminum Cans, Trays & Foil • Steel Cans & Tins • Glass Bottles and Jars - (clear, brown, green) No window glass, dinnerware or ceramics. • Pop, Water, & Flavored Beverage Bottles (#1 clear and green plastic resin) • Milk & Juice Cartons and Jugs (#2 clear plastic resin) • Detergent & Fabric Softener Containers (#2 colored plastic resin) • PVC Narrow Neck Containers, such as health & beauty aid products, household cleaners (#3 plastic resin) • Grocery Containers, such as 6 and 12 pack rings, margarine tubs, and frozen dessert cups (#4 plastic resin) • Grocery Containers, such as yogurt cups, and narrow neck syrup and ketchup bottles (#5 plastic resin) • Narrow Neck Containers (#7 Plastic Resin) • Plastic Buckets, such as kitty litter containers (5 gallon size maximum). No metal handles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper, including inserts (remove plastic sleeves) • Cardboard (no waxed cardboard) • Kraft Bags (brown paper bags) • Magazines, Catalogs and Telephone Books • Office, Computer, Notebook and Gift Wrap Paper (no metal clips, spirals, binders) • Chipboard (cereal, cake & food mix boxes, gift boxes, shoe boxes, etc.) • Carrier Stock (pop & beer can carrying cases) • Junk Mail & Envelopes (no plastic cards, stick on labels or unused stamps) • Paperback books (no hard cover) 	<p>You CANNOT use your cart to recycle the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor oil containers NO! • Insecticide containers NO! • Herbicide containers NO! • Hazardous chemical containers NO! • Plastic bags or film (plastic sheets, tarps or wrap) NO! • Expanded foam NO! • Clear polystyrene (#6 plastic) NO! • Soiled disposable diapers NO! • Single use batteries NO!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL RECYCLING:

What is the difference between the various numbers designated to plastics?

- The numbers found in the chasing arrows of plastic containers indicate the type of plastic resin used to form the container. The various resin types have different properties and, thus, must be sorted by type before being reprocessed into new materials during the recycling process. The types of plastic containers accepted in the blue cart recycling program are #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7.
- #6 plastic, called polystyrene or Styrofoam, cannot be included in the program.

Do I have to rinse my containers every time I want to recycle them?

- No. A small amount of food/beverage residual in the container is acceptable. Containers still partially full of food or liquid should be emptied before being placed in the blue cart. A benefit to rinsing containers is for sanitary purposes while storing the empty containers in the home.

What should I do about materials like aerosol cans?

- Aerosol cans that are empty can be included in the blue cart. If an aerosol can feels as though it still has significant material inside, it should not be recycled.

What should I do with materials like dirty tin foil?

- Foil with a slight amount of food residue can be included. If the foil is covered in food which causes it to not feel light like foil normally does, it should either be cleaned off before including it in the blue cart or not recycled if the food cannot be removed.

Can we put plastic grocery/shopping bags in blue carts?

- Plastic grocery bags cannot be recycled through this program. Using grocery bags to store and transport recyclables is ok, but do not place all your bags in the blue cart. Most chain grocery stores accept the plastic bags back for recycling at bins placed at the store entrance.

What happens to my recyclables?

- Your recyclables are transported to a sorting center, processed, and then sold to manufacturers to create newsprint, packaging, insulation, and other items. The City will receive payment by weight for the material delivered. This helps to partially cover the cost of the program.

Do commingling recyclables devalue the products?

- No. The recyclables collected through this program are sorted at a center and can be sold to make high grade products. The commingling simply makes it easier on the user and lowers the cost of collection.

Are there local drop-offs for us to dispose of household hazardous waste materials?

- A permanent household chemical and computer recycling facility. The facility is located at 1150 N. North Branch (2 blocks east of the Kennedy expressway at Division Street) and is open Tuesdays from 7AM until noon, Thursdays from 2PM until 7PM, and the first Saturday of every month from 8AM until 3PM. The City conducts a number of regional collection one-day events during the year for those who are unable to make it to the permanent facility.

CHICAGO BLUE CART PROGRAM:

Why should I recycle?

- Recycling provides a number of benefits important to the environment and overall quality of life including: saving natural resources, saving energy, reducing air and water pollution, and saving landfill space. Recycling creates more jobs than other disposal options.

If I live in an area targeted to receive blue carts, will I get a blue cart? If not, why not?

- If you live in a targeted area, you will be able to participate in the blue cart recycling program if you currently have City garbage service (place your garbage in black carts for removal by the City). The City provides this service only to residents living in single-family homes and multi-unit buildings with 4 units or less. Those people living in buildings of more than four units should ensure their building management and/or private waste haulers have a recycling system as required by City ordinance.

Where should my blue cart be stored?

- The blue cart is delivered to the front of your house so you recognize that it has been delivered and take “ownership” of the cart. You should place the blue cart wherever your black carts are stored. For most, this means it should be placed in the alley next to your black carts. For those with curbside pickup, the blue cart should be wheeled out to the curb with your black carts every other week according to your pickup schedule.

What if my cart is full before the two weeks? Can I obtain a second cart?

- Residents should take measures to ensure that the space within the cart is used efficiently. This includes collapsing all boxes and flattening large plastic containers such as milk jugs. If the blue cart lid doesn't close comfortably, the cart is too full. Place excess recycling on top of your blue cart the night before your scheduled blue cart pick-up ([see schedule](#)).
- An additional blue cart can be obtained by calling 311. This will require a black cart to be removed from your residence.

Once I start with the blue cart system of recycling, I don't think I will need all my black carts. Can I get rid of one?

- You may find that with the recyclables and yard waste removed from your black carts, you now have one black cart that is always empty. If you would like a black cart removed from your residency, call 311 to schedule the removal.

How are you measuring the results?

- The City is keeping track of the weight of the recyclable materials as well as the quality (contamination levels) of the recyclables collected in the blue cart. Blue cart usage will also be periodically observed to measure the participation rate of the program.

If I put a non-recyclable item in my blue cart, will I ruin the whole cart?

- No, at the sorting center the non-recyclable items will be removed and disposed of.

If a blue cart is filled with garbage, how will that cart be emptied?

- If the recycling crew comes across a blue cart filled with garbage or yard waste, a warning sticker will be placed on top of the cart to notify the resident of the misuse of the cart. The address will be relayed to a garbage crew and the garbage crew will empty the cart within a week.

COSTS AND REVENUE

Who pays for the program?

- The City of Chicago pays for the cost of operating the program. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity provided a grant to pay for the cost of the new blue carts.

Does recycling bring in revenue for the City?

- Yes, the material collected for recycling is sold to a recycling vendor. The City does not have to pay to dispose of this material in a landfill. Therefore, the greater the participation in the program by residents, the less the program will cost as a whole.

OTHER

Can I put single use batteries in the trash?

- As of 1997, the EPA has deemed single use batteries as non-hazardous. Residents can put these batteries into the trash. Home Depot locations throughout Chicago also accept used, single use batteries.

Can I recycle cell phone batteries and accessories?

- Residents can bring in used cell phone batteries and accessories to the Ward 47 Service office (4245 N Lincoln Ave). Donated batteries and accessories can be placed in the Cell Phones for Soldiers box near the entrance. The ward ships all collections directly to this program.

How should I dispose of used electronics?

- Residents are encouraged to donate working, still functional electronic equipment (TVs, Computers, and accessories) to recipient non-profits such as the Salvation Army. Non-working electronics can be brought to the city's Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Facility (see page 10).

Can I put medicine (unused or past expiration date) in the trash?

- Residents of the ward should drop off medication in its original container (if possible) at the 19th District police station (850 W. Addison St.). Drop-offs can be done anytime during regular business hours.

Does the city still collect yard waste (ex: leaves, grass clippings, downed branches)?

- The city no longer does special, yard waste only collections. Yard waste may still be placed in the trash for pick up. Yard waste may also be reused through composting. Please see section on page 16 for more detailed information.

I have pet blankets / toys that I would like to donate. Are there locations in the ward that accept donations?

- Pet toys, blankets, beds, leashes, or food bowls can be reused! Rather than throwing these items away, residents can bring them to the Ward 47 Service office. Donated pet items are disbursed to Animal Care & Control, FOUND, Treehouse, and PAWS.

Are there ways to repurpose common household items and materials?

- Yes! Residents are encouraged to repurpose items in order to cut down on waste. A little creativity and effort can give new life to these items whether functional or artistic. For a sample of ideas, click [here](#).

RECYCLING AT MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (OVER FOUR UNITS)

Q: What are my responsibilities as a residential owner who contracts for private collection?

A: The Reduction and Recycling Ordinance requires all residential owners who contract for private collection to implement an effective recycling plan, as described below. The City of Chicago recommends using a source-separated, single-stream recycling method.

Part I- At least three recyclable materials.

At least three of the recyclable materials listed below must be placed in a blue bag or an entirely separate container. These recyclables must be kept separate from trash and delivered to a recycling facility.

Part II- A written plan

A written recycling plan should be maintained and distributed to residents in the multi-unit building. The plan should include a recycling schedule, how to prepare recyclables, describe where the recycling goes once the waste haulers remove it, and any contamination reports from the waste hauler.

Part III- Educational program

An annual recycling information seminar should be held with information on how to participate in the recycling program and how to prepare recyclables.

- newspaper
- mixed residential paper
- corrugated cardboard
- magazines and catalogs
- glass bottles and jars
- aluminum cans
- plastic film
- steel and bi-metal cans
- plastic containers
- fluorescent bulbs
- high-intensity discharge lamps

If you'd prefer to recycle independently, you can take your recycling to a single stream drop-off center--see page 8 for closest locations.

For more information visit the City of Chicago's website www.ChicagoRecycles.org



RECYCLING AT BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

Q: What are my responsibilities as a business owner?

A: All commercial establishments that are required to have a Chicago business license and contract for private collection are required to have recycling programs under the Chicago High Density Residential and Commercial Source Reduction and Recycling Ordinance.

Q: What are the basic requirements under the Reduction and Recycling Ordinance?

A: The basic requirement for commercial establishments is to recycle at least three recyclable items from the list below.

- newspaper
- high grade paper
- mixed paper
- steel and bi-metal cans
- high-intensity discharge lamps
- magazines and catalogs
- glass bottles and jars
- aluminum cans, foil, and pans
- plastic film
- fats, oils, and greases
- corrugated cardboard
- plastic containers
- wooden pallets
- fluorescent bulbs



Q: Do restaurants and bars have the same requirements as other commercial establishments?

A: As specialized commercial establishments, the Reduction and Recycling Ordinance allows bars and restaurants to recycle fewer than three items. A commercial establishment may recycle only 1 item if it can establish through a waste audit that one recyclable item constitutes more than 51% by weight of the waste stream. You must keep your results from the waste audit with your recycling plan for review by the Department of Environment.

*For more information, visit the City of Chicago's site for [Recycling in Commercial/Retail Spaces](#).

SINGLE-STREAM DROP-OFF CENTERS

At the Residential Recycling Drop-Off Centers, Chicagoans can bring paper, plastics and glass for separate recycling during daylight hours. The Centers accept the same full range of materials as the Blue Carts and all recyclables can be tossed in together. The closest locations to the 47th Ward are **5430 W. Gale St** (City Clerk Office), **1633 W. Medill Av** (city facility) and **6441 N. Ravenswood Av** (49th Ward Yard). Anyone can use this but it is great for those who live in areas where the Blue carts haven't been phased in or larger buildings that don't have recycling programs.



Place recyclables in the Drop-Off Box. There is no need to separate these items by kind nor do they need to be bagged to go into the Center box.

- Glass jars and bottles
- Aluminum cans, foil and pie tins
- Tin or Steel cans
- Cereal boxes, paper towel rolls
- Cardboard
- Plastic bottles and containers #1-5, #7
- Junk mail
- Magazines and catalogs
- Telephone books
- Paper bags
- Office paper and file folders
- Newspaper and inserts

ITEMS TO PUT IN THE DROP-OFF CENTER FOR RECYCLING



ITEMS NOT TO PUT IN THE DROP-OFF CENTER FOR RECYCLING



Certain items should NOT be placed in the drop-off center.

- **YARD WASTE** - Yard waste is not accepted at the Drop-Off Center. You should continue to place your yard waste in blue bags or learn how to compost your material at home.
- **NON-RECYCLEABLE TRASH** -- Non-recyclables should continue to go into your black garbage cart for regular city trash pickup.
- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS** - Take all household hazardous waste and old, non-working electronics, computers and related equipment, rechargeable batteries, paints, cleaners, solvents and other chemicals, to the Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Facility located at 1150 N. North Branch Street.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ELECTRONICS


A city-wide Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Facility, HCCRF is open regularly throughout the year for the disposal of common household items that are neither fit for garbage nor recycling.

Located at 1150 N. North Branch Street, which is two blocks east of the Kennedy Expressway at Division Street, the center's hours are Tuesdays—7AM to 12 noon, Thursdays—2PM to 7PM, and the first Saturday of the month from 8AM to 3PM.

For more information, visit the [HCCRF website](#).



What to Drop-Off: Acceptable Materials

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• antifreeze• unused/expired medications• used motor oil• old gasoline• oil-based paints• paint thinners• aerosol paints and pesticides• herbicides, pesticides, insecticides• propane tanks, flares• lead acid batteries• lawn chemicals• solvents• drain cleaners• cleaning products | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• pool chemicals• hobby chemicals• mercury CFL & fluorescent light bulbs• computers & peripherals• cell phones & accessories• household electronics & TVs• rechargeable batteries  |
|---|--|

What Not to Drop-Off

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• agricultural waste• smoke detectors (now can be thrown away with regular trash) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• explosives• fireworks• fire extinguishers• farm machinery oil• appliances | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• business/commercial sector waste• institutional waste• medical waste (such as sharps)• latex paint (not toxic)• non-rechargeable, single use batteries (not toxic) |
|--|---|--|

What happens to the materials after I drop them off at the Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling facility?

Items are recycled, incinerated, or put in landfills. Combustible items such as used oil and gasoline are sent to secondary fuel or fuel blending facilities. Rechargeable batteries and like items are sent to a recycling facility where the metal components are removed and recycled. Some items are sent to specially constructed incinerators with state-of-the-art air pollution control

equipment. If items can't be recycled or incinerated, they are sent to landfills specifically constructed to receive hazardous waste.

Why should I recycle my old electronics?

Electronic products often contain hazardous and toxic materials that pose environmental risks if they are put in a landfill or incinerated. Recycling these electronics reduces the amount of toxic and hazardous substances that may enter the environment through disposal. Recycling electronic equipment also conserves energy and raw materials and reduces pollution in manufacturing by allowing product components, such as metals and plastics, to be used in other products.

Where should I recycle my old electronics? Update!

Best Buy locations are accepting most old electronics as part of their consumer electronics recycling program. They will accept most electronics televisions, DVD players, computer monitors, AV cables, cell phones, etc. This is at no cost to the consumer and the electronics do not have to have been bought at Best Buy. See [link](#) for a few items that are not available for recycling through Best Buy:

Best Buy Locations:

2650 North Clark Street (773) 388-2920
2100 North Elston Avenue (773) 486-0142
3262 West Belmont Avenue (773) 279-3799

If my computer is recycled, what's to stop people refurbishing it from finding out my private information?

All computers dropped off at the facility have their hard drives wiped clean before any work is done.

What is the training center?

Through a partnership with the Illinois Department of Corrections and Computers for Schools, the City of Chicago has developed a training program that will utilize the Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Facility to train ex-offenders in electronics recycling, internships, and job placement assistance. Computers and other electronics recycled through the facility and program will then be made available to area schools, churches, non-profit groups, and low-income families.

Can I still receive free blue bags or new gas cans in exchange for old cans when I drop off my hazardous wastes and old electronics?

We will not be exchanging gas cans at the facility or giving away blue bags anymore.

What was the site before?

The site was a former animal incinerator operated by the Dept. of Streets & Sanitation. The incinerator ceased operations around 1998. Subsequently, it was used for the storage of city vehicles, such as sewer vacuum trucks. In 2003, DOE initiated plans to convert the facility to an HHW facility. Construction began in September 2005. The total building footprint is approximately 24,000 sf (12,000 sf for electronics recycling and 12,000 sf for HHW).

How much did the building cost and where did the funds come from?

The total cost for the facility construction is \$3,800,000. Funding for the project came from the following sources:

- IEPA 319 Grant - \$306,000
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity - \$780,000
- Illinois Clean Energy Fund - \$10,000
- City of Chicago - Remainder of the costs

LATEX PAINT

There's an easier way to dispose of leftover latex paint. As of 2009, the Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility is no longer accepting latex paint because of its high disposal cost and very low environmental impact. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency encourages residents to safely dispose of old or unwanted latex paint on their own.

Here's what you can do with your leftover latex paint:

- **Keep painting:** Save leftover paint for a new project or paint scrap lumber or cardboard. Let the empty paint can dry, then recycle the empty can.
- **Dry it up:** Use kitty litter, shredded paper or sawdust to absorb the remaining paint, or pour the paint into a bag. After it dries, throw the bag or absorbent material away and recycle the empty can.
- **Donate it:** Ask friends and neighbors if they need paint for a small project. Local schools or theater groups sometimes look for free paint for sets and art projects.
- **Store it:** Save the leftover paint for touch-ups in the future. To prevent the paint from drying out, wrap the can's lid with plastic wrap, making sure the lid fits on securely and doesn't leak.

EXPIRED MEDICINE / DRUG DISPOSAL

To help prevent pharmaceuticals from entering our water supply, dispose of expired medications at:

- The 19th District Community Policing Office located at 850 W. Addison Street. Call 312-744-8320 for more info.

Medications that are not disposed of properly can easily find their way into Chicago's water table. A recent study by the Associated Press found: "A vast array of pharmaceuticals -- including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones -- have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans," - Chicago Tribune¹.



BATTERIES

As of 2012, only **rechargeable batteries** are toxic enough to warrant special disposal/recycling. Regular batteries can be disposed of along with regular garbage. Rechargeable batteries can be taken to:

- RadioShack – 3417 W. Irving Park Rd – 773-583-3174
- RadioShack – 3336 N. Western Av – 773-477-3119
- RadioShack – 1965 W. Lawrence Av – 773-334-6296
- RadioShack – 2923 N. Ashland Av – 773-929-3360
- Staples – 4610 N. Clark St – 773-769-0536
- Home Depot – N. Kimball Av – 773-463-6306
- Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility – 1150 N. North Branch St

Car batteries should be taken to a nearby auto shop to be recycled. Local auto shops that accept old car batteries include:

- Lincoln Square Service – 2201 W. Lawrence Ave – 773-561-6358
- Ashland Tire & Auto – 3737 N. Ashland Ave – 773-549-0084
- Eliot's Complete Auto Repair Shop – 3658 N. Lincoln Ave – 773-935-2400

¹ <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/sns-ap-pharmawater-i,0,3802677.story>

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT (CFL) BULBS

The new energy saving and longer lasting CFL bulbs can also be recycled. They use up to 66% less energy and last up to 10 times longer than regular incandescent bulbs. They can be dropped off at:

- Any Home Depot store (for locations, see www.HomeDepot.com or call 800-553-3199)
- Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Facility (HCCRF) at 1150 N. North Branch Street, see page 8



Each CFL bulb contains a small amount of mercury that is not enough to harm you. A large accumulation of fluorescent bulbs dumped into landfills does significantly impact our environment and health so recycling them does matter. If you do break a fluorescent bulb at home, please take the appropriate precautions.

EYEGASSES

Donate Glasses to Illinois Lions: World's Largest Eyeglass Collection. Let a child read and learn. Help an adult earn a living.

Illinois Lions and the Chicago Fire Department have launched the world's largest collection of used eyeglasses to help improve the impaired vision 153 million children and adults in developing nations who have little or no access to basic eye care.

If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed.



Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers nearest to the 47th Ward:
Alamo Shoes, 5321 N. Clark St.
Lakeview Funeral Home, 1458 W. Belmont Ave.

Mailing option: package the glasses and mail them to Lions Clubs International, Attention: Receiving Department, 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523

See [Lions Club's Eyeglass Recycling website](#) for more information. If you have any further questions, or would like to open a Lions Collection Box for eyeglasses at your business, school, community center, or places of worship, email Chicago Uptown Lions chairman at suzytraversbyster@yahoo.com.

CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Donate used clothes and household items that are in good condition to local resale stores and charities.

Chicago Department of Human Services

Donate gently used beds, sofas, dinette sets, dressers to help end homelessness. Call Thelma Luciano at 312-746-8545 to schedule a pick-up. For more info, see [Home to Stay Furniture Donation Program](#)

Salvation Army

[Salvation Army](#) Family and Thrift Stores accept donations of clothing, furniture, appliances, electronics, vehicles and more. The proceeds of sales support the Salvation Army's charitable efforts. If you have a large appliance or furniture that needs to be picked up, call 888-5-PICKUP and the Salvation Army will take it from you. Note, however, that the donation must be in good condition and the Salvation Army reserves the right to refuse donations that are in poor condition. Drop-off donations at these locations:

- 4315 N. Broadway Ave
- 2151 W. Devon Ave
- 3301 W. Montrose Ave
- 2270 N. Clybourn
- 3837 W. Fullerton Ave

Change Way - 2117 W. Irving Park – 773-271-7665
“The idea of The Change Way Foundation began to emerge when a group of neighbors came together to address issues that plagued their community on the north side of Chicago. The lack of educational resources for children, parents' lack of interest in their children's education, poverty, and crime threatened the health and vitality of our community. Through a series of community meetings we developed a plan that would support families as they worked toward self-sufficiency, assist children in gaining a solid education, and provide basic necessities for those in need.” Change Way accepts many household items, including: **bicycles, computers and monitors, telephones, televisions, and office machines.**

Computers for Schools Program -

3053 N Knox, Chicago, IL 60641. 773-545-7575
“The Computers for Schools Program welcomes contribution of quality computer equipment. To donate please call, email us at donations@pcsforschools.org, or fax us at 773-454-7502. For large donations please include an inventory list. For corporate donations or large quantities of equipment, other transportation arrangements can be made.”

Share Your Soles

Share Your Soles, a non-profit in Palos Park, Illinois, has delivered over ten thousand pairs of shoes to disadvantaged people around the world, as well as in American Indian reservations and Appalachia in the United States. As a part of this program, a number of Chicago and suburban athletic shoe stores accept donations including:

- Fleet Feet Sports – 4555 N. Lincoln
- Fleet Feet Sports – 210 W. North Ave.
- New Balance - 2369 N. Clark
- Momentum – 2001 N. Clybourn
- Running Away – 1753 N. Damen
- Universal Soles – 3254 N. Lincoln

~There are many other places that accept donations such as freecycle.org and craigslist.org

REFRIGERATORS AND LARGER APPLIANCES

Major home appliances are made primarily from steel, a valuable recyclable commodity. Many of these appliances also contain CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) that can damage the ozone layer if not properly disposed of.

Ways to Recycle Old Appliances:

- When replacing an old appliance, choose a retailer that takes back used appliances when delivering the new ones.
- If you receive waste disposal service from the Department of Streets and Sanitation, simply put old appliances in your alley near your waste carts.
- ComEd will pick up and recycle your older, working refrigerator or freezer for FREE and you'll receive \$35! They'll even take a working room air conditioner, too. [Schedule online](#) or call 1-888-806-2273 7am-8pm M-F, 9am-5:30pm SA.
- **Air conditioners** can be taken to General Metals Company at 1909 N. Clifton. Call Doug ahead of time at 862-823-2448 to arrange a drop-off during their hours of Monday through Friday 7AM to 4PM and Saturday 7AM to 2PM.
- Donate **used appliances to the Salvation Army**. The Salvation Army accepts *working* appliances and will even pick them up from you! Simply call 888-5-PICKUP. Note, however, that Salvation Army reserves the right to refuse any donation if it is in poor condition.
- Local scrap dealers usually accept old appliances. For a complete list of dealers compiled by the Chicago Recycling Coalition, see www.ChicagoRecycles.org.



Recycling Saves ENERGY

Making a product out of recycled materials saves resources, over mining and manufacturing the virgin material - consequently, it also saves energy. That energy saving translates into fewer greenhouse gases generated to make recycled products.

How Much LESS Energy is Used to Manufacture these Products from Recycled Vs. Virgin Material*

Aluminum	95% less
Steel	80% less
Plastic	80% less
Paper	64% less
Glass	50% less

*from Co-op America Quarterly, No. 73 Fall 2007, p.p. 11

YARD WASTE AND COMPOSTING

Every year, Chicago residents throw out thousands of tons of leaves, lawn clippings and other yard waste. Yard waste makes up more than half of the city's residential trash in the spring and summer growing season, and again in the autumn when the leaves are falling.

Below are just a few of the excellent reasons why so many homeowners, gardeners, and horticulturists are taking advantage of organic composting at home.

- Ideal for growing organic herbs, fruits and vegetables.
- Saves money on fertilizer and other store-bought gardening products.
- A good alternative to chemical fertilizers for parents, pet-owners and others concerned with safety and health.
- Conserves dwindling landfill space.
- Easy, convenient way to dispose of garden refuse (often prohibited from landfills).
- Helps ward off pests and weeds without chemical pesticides or herbicides.
- Improves plant growth and quality.
- Reduces erosion and nutrient run-off.
- Restores nutrients back into the soil.
- Helps loosen soil and can be used as mulch.
- Breaks down clay based soils.



There are two easy ways to recycle yard waste.

1. Yard waste will be collected April – November, the same week as your blue cart pick-up. Place yard waste in a bag beside your blue cart. (Preferably a paper bag, though plastic is accepted as well.) The waste is composted at a commercial composting site in northwestern Indiana.
2. Compost yard waste, raw fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grinds and teabags in your own back yard. Backyard composting turns yard and household waste into beneficial nutrients for the soil, and saves money on fertilizers. If the compost is lifted or moved often then it is odorless.

For step-by-step guides, and home composting “dos and don'ts,” visit the Chicago Home Composting Program website at <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/homecomposting/>.

Fill out the Sustainable Backyard rebate form to receive 50% (up to \$50) back from your next local compost bin purchase. Visit the [Sustainable Backyard Program](#) for further information on rebates for your personal environmentally friendly landscape.

Store locations nearest to the 47th Ward:

Green Sky, 5357 N. Ashland, 773-725-1911

Gethsemane Garden Center, 5739 N. Clark, 773-878-5915

Green Depot, 2500 N. Pulaski, 866-702-7500

Information about the City of Chicago's [Commercial Composting Programs and Resources](#).

VERMICOMPOSTING

Vermicomposting is a composting technique that relies on worms to process kitchen scraps. Vermicomposting is an ideal method for composting food waste because worms can process food waste quickly in a small area. The worms convert kitchen scraps into nutrient rich humus that can be used to enrich your home garden or lawn. Not only do you divert waste from local landfills, you also enrich your soil!

The Shedd Aquarium has a “how-to-guide” to vermincomposting online:
http://www.sheddaquarium.org/worm_composting.html

USED COOKING OIL

Loyola University’s Biodiesel Program accepts donations of used cooking oil. If you have recently deep-fried a turkey, or have a jar of bacon grease, they'll take it! All vegetable oil donated to Loyola will be turned into biodiesel to help run their campus shuttle buses. Simply drop-off your oil in sealed containers at the [Biodiesel Lab, 6317 N. Broadway](#), (M-F 8-3 at Front Desk). If you want to see the Biodiesel Lab please contact the Biodiesel Lab Manager, Zach Waickman (zwaickm@luc.edu or 773-508-8852) to schedule a visit.

VEHICLES

Before deciding to “junk” your car, consider donating it to one of these local or national charities:

Local

- 1) **Goodwill Industries** - (<http://www.goodwillsew.com/>)
- 2) **The Salvation Army** - 877-SA3-AUTO or 877-723-2886 (can have the car picked up)
- 3) **The Society of St. Vincent DePaul** - accepts donated cars in working order to re-sell at reasonable prices to needy clients. Only donate if your car runs and can actually help someone. For information, call 773-378- 8022.

National

- 1) **American Lung Association** - (<http://www.donateyourcar.com/>)
- 2) **America’s Car Donations Charity Center** - (<http://www.donateacar.com/>)
- 3) **Wheels for Wishes** – (<http://illinois.wheelsforwishes.org/>)
- 4) **Easter Seal’s Car Donation Program** - (<http://www.vehicledonation.com/>)

MOTOR OIL

Did you know...?

- The used oil from one oil change (approximately 4 quarts of oil), dumped down a storm drain, can contaminate 1 million gallons of water—a year’s supply for 50 people.
- One pint of oil can produce an oil slick nearly one acre in size.
- Dumping used oil onto the ground contaminates underground water supplies and is nearly impossible to clean up.



About half of all motor oil used in cars in Chicago is replaced by car owners who change the oil themselves. Often these individuals dispose of the oil by pouring it on the ground or into the sewer,

which is illegal. Because used oil does not readily dissolve in water and is slow to degrade in the environment, improper disposal of used oil pollutes our soil and water, and can damage local water treatment plants.

The two nearest drop-offs to the 47th Ward are:

- **Jiffy Lube** - 5601 N. Ashland Ave. (773) 561-1188
- **Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Facility** - 1150 N. Branch St.

- Used motor oil can be re-processed, re-refined and re-used.
- If you change your motor oil yourself, please dispose of the used oil by taking it to a nearby facility for recycling.
- Used motor oil can be dropped off at any Household Hazardous Waste Collection site.
- Many auto-care businesses now accept motor oil for recycling; guaranteeing that people have a safe, legal place to take used motor oil.

TIRES

The City began a tire bounty collection program in the spring of 1992 with the goal of cleaning up abandoned tires throughout the city, offering support to nonprofit groups, and giving residents a place to dispose of old, used tires.



Here's how the program works:

1. Weeks before the tire bounty day, community and church groups clean up their neighborhoods and surrounding areas by collecting discarded tires from vacant lots. The Department of Streets and Sanitation advertises tire collection sites where groups can bring car or truck loads of the tires they have gathered.
2. Volunteers from the Departments of Streets and Sanitation direct traffic and record addresses and other information on participating groups. After the tires have been counted, the group receives a receipt and in the following weeks they receive a check from the City. The City pays 50 cents for each tire brought to the collection day, and also pays to have the tires shredded for reuse.
3. The collections take place semi-annually, usually in the spring and fall of each year. Check back soon for the date of the next collection.

Save Money and Energy: Use Public Transportation

“Commuting by public transit is one of the most significant actions to reduce household carbon emissions. Riding CTA reduces energy consumption by 40 percent and carbon emissions by 60 percent compared to driving.”* Also, the CTA is increasing its energy efficiency. The CTA is adding diesel-electric hybrid buses and making their stations more energy efficient.

“One individual using public transit instead of driving a car saves the environment over 4,800 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year.”*

*According to the CTA's 2008 Green Report



OTHER RESOURCES

Earth911

www.Earth911.com

Earth911.com is your one-stop shop for all you need to know about reducing your impact, reusing what you've got and recycling your trash. Type in what you want to recycle or have reused and your zip code, and a list of the nearest resources will appear.

Chicago Recycling Coalition

www.ChicagoRecycles.org

The Chicago Recycling Coalition champions environmentally and fiscally sound management of solid waste through research, education, and advocacy, emphasizing waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and buying recycled. Note the link "Recycle Your Stuff A-Z."

Illinois Recycling Association

www.IllinoisRecycles.org

The Illinois Recycling Association's mission is to encourage the responsible use of resources by promoting Waste Reduction, Re-Use, and Recycling.

Salvage One

1840 W. Hubbard Street, Chicago, IL 60622
312-773-0098

Salvage One is an architectural salvage company that sells refurbished architectural materials. Construction waste contributes to a third of the total waste sent to landfills. By using salvaged materials, you are reducing waste and excess energy production by throwing away the old and buying new. Salvage One accepts and picks up donations of salvage materials. Their hours are Monday to Friday 12PM to 7PM, Saturday 9AM to 5PM, Sunday 12PM to 5PM, and by appointment.

The Resource Center

info@resourcecenterchicago.org
www.ResourceCenterChicago.org
773-821-1351

For over 30 years, the Resource Center, a non-profit environmental education organization, has led the way in demonstrating innovative techniques for recycling and reusing materials. Their recovery work aims to reverse waste and to improve the quality of life for urban dwellers through recycling, urban gardening and other programs that reclaim and reuse resources. Their northside recycling drop-off facilities are the **Uptown Recycling Station**, 4716 N. Sheridan Road (9AM to 5PM closed Wednesdays, Sundays and holidays), and **North Park Village**, 5801 N. Pulaski Road (9AM to 5PM daily).

Working Bikes

2434 S. Western Av
workingbikes@yahoo.com
<http://workingbikes.org/donate/dropoff>
312-421-5048

Working Bikes is a not-for-profit cooperative that diverts bicycles from the waste stream by repairing them for sale and charity. Funded through the local sale of bicycles repaired, Working Bikes is then able to donate bicycles to charity organizations within Chicagoland and to ship to the Gulf Coast, Cuba, Guatemala, Ecuador, and many other places of need. The store and drop-off hours are Wednesday, Saturday and Sundays from 12 noon to 5pm.

Rain Barrels

Recycle rain by installing rain barrels! The City of Chicago's Sustainable Backyard Workshop Program (www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel) offers all you need to know about rain barrels. Fill out the [rebate form](#) for 50% (up to \$40) back from your next local rain barrel purchase.

Store locations nearest to the 47th Ward:

Green Sky, 5357 N. Ashland, 773-725-1911
Gethsemane Garden Center, 5739 N. Clark,
773-878-5915
Green Depot, 2500 N. Pulaski, 866-702-7500

Gumdrop Bin – Chewing gum bins made from your old recycled gum! Check out the Gumdrop cycle at www.gumdropbin.com. If you are an educational establishment or local council and would like to take part in the “GUMDROP Eco-Generation Gumdrop Campaign 2011,” please contact laura@gumdropltd.com.

Plastic Bag Crochet Crafts – Re-cycle your plastic bags.

Send your own creative re-use and repurposing project resources, ideas, pictures and/or instructions to info@chicago47.org, subject: Recycling Guide Creative Re-Use.

Online Reuse Services:

www.FreeCycle.org & www.Craigslist.org

Join the local Chicago chapter to give away and/or receive items for free using FreeCycle or to sale and buy items using Craig’s List by setting up a free account and using emails.

[Construction Material Depot](#)

An online “bulletin board” for used construction materials. CMDepot does not have a warehouse, rather they connect buyer and seller.

[Chicago Recycling Guide A - Z](#)

What materials can you recycle? And *how*? Look it up here, in the city's A to Z guide.

[Chicago Sustainable Backyard Program](#)

All you need to know about trees, native plants, rain barrels and compost bins for your personal environmentally friendly landscape. Fill out Sustainable Backyard rebate forms for up to 50% off your next local purchase.

[Composting at Home](#)

A step by step guides to composting at home.