



email: info@uwsr.org

Upper West Side Recycling

website: www.uwsr.org

WHAT TO DO WITH HARD-TO-RECYCLE ITEMS IN NYC

Please send queries or updates to Jeff Twine at info@uwsr.org.

**IF YOU DON'T KNOW IF AN ITEM IS ACCEPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION (DSNY), CONTACT THEM (SEE BELOW).
CALL ORGANIZATIONS BEFORE BRINGING OR SENDING MATERIALS .*

GENERAL INFORMATION

- *FreeCycle.org*; www.freecycle.org; freecyclenewyorkcity-moderator@yahoogroups.com (Online materials exchange).
- *Grow NYC*, (212) 788-7964; www.grownyc.org. (“Stop N’ Swap” goods exchanges, composting, electronics, textiles)
- *Lower East Side Ecology*, (212) 477-4022; www.lesecologycenter.org. (E-Waste collection, composting)
- *Morningside Heights-West Harlem Sanitation Coalition*, (212) 666-6157; Joan Levine, jslevine100@msn.com. (Recycling events and information)
- *NYC Department of Sanitation*, call 311; <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml>. (For more on recycling collection schedules, NYC recycling information and laws, and other ways to reduce the waste stream)
- *NYC Stuff Exchange*, www.nyc.gov/stuffexchange. (To find places to buy, sell or donate used goods in your neighborhood)
- *ReUse NYC Donations Exchange*, (212) 650-5832; <http://exchange.reusenyc.info/exchange/>. donations@reusenyc.info. (Materials exchange service for businesses and non-profits).
- *Upper Green Side*; www.uppergreenside.org, uppergreenside@gmail.com. (Upper East Side recycling)
- *Upper West Side Recycling*; jtwine@synerjy.com. (Publisher of the *UWSR Eco Letter*)
- *WeHateToWaste.com*, (212) 879-4160; <http://www.wehatetowaste.com/>.

BATTERIES & LIGHTING (see also Household Hazardous Waste)

Batteries: All rechargeable batteries must be recycled; you can bring them back to most stores that sell them. Many jewelers accept button cells. Cover contacts of rechargeable batteries with tape before recycling. Lead-acid car batteries must be accepted by the retailers that sell them.

Fluorescent Bulbs: Businesses must recycle fluorescent bulbs. Compact fluorescent light bulbs, which should be bagged, are called CFLs below.

- *Beacon Hardware*, 371 Amsterdam Avenue (78-79th Sts.), (212) 787-1090. (Accepts CFLs for recycling)
- *Best Buy Stores*; www.bestbuy.com. Uptown locations: 1280 Lexington Avenue (86th St.), (917) 492-9959; 1880 Broadway (62nd St.), (212) 246-9734; 750 Seventh Avenue, (49th St.), (212) 265-3984. (Accepts flashlight-type rechargeable batteries)
- *Big Reuse*, <http://www.bigreuse.org>. Non-profit retail outlet for salvaged or surplus building materials, lighting and appliances. Drop-off centers are located in Brooklyn (69 Ninth Street, Gowanus; 718-725-8925; brooklyn@bigreuse.org) and Queens (3-17 26th Avenue, Astoria; 718-777-0132;

queens@bigreuse.org) accept materials. Pickup and deconstruction services are available for large quantities.

- *Eastern Environmental Technologies*, 47 Purdy Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573, (914) 934-2100; (800) 808-7227; www.easternenvironmental.com. (Accepts and recycles bagged fluorescent lights, transformers and ballasts, as well as batteries on a fee basis; will pick up large quantities)
- *Grow NYC*, (212) 788-7476; www.grownyc.org. (Accepts rechargeable batteries at some of its Upper Manhattan Greenmarket; call for locations and hours)
- *Home Depot*, 980 Third Avenue (59th St.), (212) 888-1512; 40 West 23rd Street, (212) 929-9571; www.homedepot.com. (Accepts bagged, unbroken CFLs and all flashlight-type batteries)
- *NYC Department of Sanitation*, 74 Pike Slip (between Cherry and South Sts. under the Manhattan Bridge); open 10am-5pm Saturdays and last Friday of the month, except legal holidays; call 311; <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml>. (Accepts and recycles bagged fluorescent lights, as well as all batteries; call for locations and hours)
- *Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation*, (877) 723-2925; www.call2recycle.org/newyork. (Lists stores that take rechargeable batteries in or near your zip code)

COMPOST (Disease-free food scraps and other plant matter only)

- *Build It Green!NYC*, 3-17 26th Avenue, Astoria, Queens, (718) 777-0132 x104; www.bignyc.org; compost@bignyc.org. (Accepts food scraps at several Queens drop-off sites)
- *Compost On-The-Go* (GrowNYC), (212) 788-7900; <https://www.grownyc.org/compost-go>. (Operates nine compost collection sites in Northern Manhattan. These include a total of three on the Upper West Side and the Upper East Side, open on Wednesdays: at 110th Street and Central Park West, 110th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue and 96th Street and Lexington Avenue; for a full list of locations and times, see website.)
- *GrowNYC*, (212) 788-7964; www.grownyc.org/compost. (Food scrap compost program at various greenmarket locations; see website for times. On the Upper West Side: Tucker Square Greenmarket [66th and Columbus Avenue], 8 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Saturdays; 79th Street Greenmarket [79th & Columbus Avenue], 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays; 97th Street Greenmarket [97th & Columbus Avenue], 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Fridays; Columbia University Greenmarket [Broadway between 114th-115th Sts.], 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays)
- *Lower East Side Ecology*, (212) 477-4022; www.lesecologycenter.org. (Eight year-round food scraps and plant matter drop-off sites in Manhattan; workshops; composting containers. Drop-off sites near the Upper West Side are: 23rd Street west of 8th Avenue, open Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00-11:00 a.m.; 127th Street & Malcolm X Boulevard, open Wednesday, 8:00-11:00 a.m.)
- *NYC Department of Sanitation*, call 311; <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml>. (Free pick-up of food waste from residential buildings with 10 or more units.)

COMPUTERS, CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

As of April 1, 2015 it became illegal to put E-Waste into your trash. Since April 2011, manufacturers have been required to accept computer equipment at no charge in New York State. For further information, see www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless/electronics.

A. CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND RECYCLERS

- *Amazon.com*, www.amazon.com/trade-in. (You can get a store credit when you trade in electronic equipment.)
- *Computers for Youth*, 520 Eighth Avenue; (917) 677-5506; www.cfy.org; CFY-NYC@cfy.org. (Accepts newer PC systems from corporations and refurbishes them for reuse in schools and other non-profits; minimum of 50 pieces; will pick up)

- *E-Commerce/Goodwill*, (347) 218-2206. www.goodwill.org; Brooklyn NY. (Free pick-up of large quantities—100 pieces or more—of computers and peripherals, TVs, cell and wall phones, small appliances and other small electronic equipment.)
- *The Fourth Bin*, 708 Third Avenue, 646-747-5985, (855) ECYCLE1; www.4thbin.com; ecyclenow@4thbin.com. (Accepts computers and peripherals, TVs, other small electronic equipment and phones; will pick up from businesses or residences for a fee)
- *Gazelle.com*, www.gazelle.com. (Buys and sells electronic equipment.)
- *Goodwill*, 157 West 72nd Street, (212) 799-2723; 217 West 79th Street, (212) 874-5050; www.goodwillnynj.org. (Accepts small amounts of a variety of computers and peripherals, TVs [flat screen only], cell and wall phones and other small electronic equipment and some small appliances; items must be in working condition; pick-ups for large quantities from organizations; call first.)
- *Greenchip Electronic Waste Solutions*, 540 Kingsland Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11222, (718) 349-3094; www.greenchiprecycling.com. (Picks up E-Waste for a per-pound fee)
- *Grow NYC*, (212) 788-7476; www.grownyc.org. (Accepts cell phones at some of its Upper Manhattan Greenmarkets; call for locations and hours)
- *iFixit* provides advice via the internet for those who like to repair things themselves, as well as components and repair manuals for almost anything, including computers and other electronic devices; (866) 613-4948; <https://www.ifixit.com/info>
- *Materials for the Arts*, 33-00 Northern Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101, (718) 729-3001; info@mfta.nyc.gov; www.mfta.org. (Accepts newer computer systems in working condition [up to 5 years old only] and other electronic equipment; will pick up)
- *Non-Profit Computing*, (212) 759-2368; german63@hotmail.com. (Clearing house for a variety of computers, faxes, telephone systems and other electronic equipment)
- *NYC Department of Sanitation (e-cycle NYC)*, call 311 or (212) 437-4675; <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml>. (Free pickup of E-Waste from residential buildings with ten or more units)
- *nycRecycleMe.com*, (347) 690-5670; <http://www.nycrecycleme.com/>. (Accepts computers, flat screen monitors or TVs, CD/DVD media and portable electronics such as phones or tablets (no CRT monitors or CRT TV's please. Call or e-mail to schedule a pickup or get more information, nycrecycleme@gmail.com).
- *Per Scholas*, 1375 Bronx River Avenue, Bronx NY 10460, (718) 991-8400, (800)-877-4068; www.perscholas.org. (Picks up computer systems, including monitors, components and cells phones for a fee, depending on quantity and quality; free IT training courses)
- *Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation*, (877) 723-2925; www.call2recycle.org. (Lists cell phone recycling locations)
- *Salvation Army*, 268 West 96th Street, NYC, (212) 663-2258, (212) 337-7200; www.salvationarmy-newyork.org. (Accepts small amounts of a variety of computers and peripherals, TVs, cell and wall phones and other small electronic equipment and some small appliances; call first. Free pick-up service is available at <https://satruck.org/> or call (212) 757-2311 or (800) 728-7825; items should be in working condition; two-bag minimum.)
- *United War Veterans Council*, (212) 838-8982, (203) 434-4170; info@uwvrecycling.org; <http://www.uwvrecycling.org/>. (Will pick up computers and other electronic goods, including small appliances; can be mixed with other household items; no minimum quantity, though they prefer at least one bag or box.)

B. MANUFACTURER AND RETAIL TAKE-BACK PROGRAMS

- *Best Buy Stores*, www.bestbuy.com. Uptown locations: 1280 Lexington Avenue (86th St.), (917) 492-9959; 1880 Broadway (62nd St.), (212) 246-9734; 750 Seventh Avenue (49th St.), (212) 265-3984. (Accepts a wide variety of electronic equipment, computers and peripherals, video and audio

equipment, ink and toner cartridges, cameras, as well as some appliances such as fans, vacuum cleaners and hairdryers; call first.)

- Staples, www.staples.com. (Accepts computer equipment, ink-jet and toner cartridges; no TVs)
- Verizon, www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline. (Accepts used cell phones and accessories at their stores)

C. ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENTS/MISCELLANEOUS

- Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, 245 West 104th Street; (212) 866-3970. (Office accepts used cell phones for re-use or recycling on an on-going basis.)
- Lower East Side Ecology, (212) 477-4022; www.lesecologycenter.org. (Hosts E-Waste recycling events during the year throughout Manhattan; also operates a permanent E-Waste collection center at 469 President Street in Brooklyn, Tuesdays through Saturdays; call (718) 858-8777 in advance for hours, materials accepted and other relevant information)
- Donations and Resale: To find a place to donate or sell your working electronics, visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/stuffex/html/home/home.shtml>.
- Take-Back or Drop-Off: Free mail-back options – the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation maintains a website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/82084.html> that lists manufacturers that take back unwanted electronics.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Bethlehem Apparatus Co., Inc., 890 Front Street, PO Box Y, Hellertown, PA 18055; (610) 838-7034 [phone]; (610) 838-6333 [fax]; info@bethlehemapparatus.com. (Recycles mercury thermometers, fluorescent lamps [large and CFL's], and batteries [small alkaline and button cells])
- NYC Department of Sanitation, call 311 for information, instructions and locations of sites and events; <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml>. (Holds SAFE Disposal Events and also has Special Waste Sites: SAFE Disposal Events accept all potentially harmful products including paint, oil, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, light bulbs, cleaners and other materials. The Special Waste Site in Manhattan at 74 Pike Slip [between Cherry and South Sts. under the Manhattan Bridge] accepts latex paint, motor oil and filters, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, thermostats and mercury-containing devices on a weekly basis. The site is open from 10am-5pm every Saturday and the last Friday of the month, except legal holidays. There is also another drop-off site in the South Bronx.)

PAPER SHREDDING

- Time Shred Services, (800) 989-8463, (718) 875-1299; www.timeshred.com.
- Cintas, (800) 257-9805; <http://www.cintas.com/DocumentManagement/Document-Shredding>.
- www.nyc.gov/ShredFest. (Yearly paper shredding events in each borough)
- For information on paper shredding events in Upper Manhattan, see <https://thisweekatthemarket.wordpress.com/>

PLASTIC

All rigid (non-film) plastic, except Styrofoam, is now collected by the NYC Department of Sanitation; this includes plastic straws, CDs and DVDs. *Info:* Call 311 or see <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml>. Plastic bags are required to be accepted for recycling in stores of more than 10,000 sq. ft. and with more than five NYC locations.

CDs, DVDs and Cassette Tapes (CDs can also be put into your plastics recycling)

- Best Buy Stores; www.bestbuy.com. Uptown locations: 1280 Lexington Avenue (86th St.), (917) 492-8870; 1880 Broadway (62nd St.), (212) 246-9734; 750 Seventh Avenue (49th St.), (212) 265-3984. (Accept CDs, DVDs and cassette tapes)

- *GreenDisk*; (800) 305-DISK, (425) 392-8700; <http://www.greendisk.com/>. (You can mail smaller quantities of CDs, cassettes, DVDs to them for a set fee; arrangements can be made for them to pick up larger quantities.)
- *Holy Name Roman Catholic Church Thrift Store*, 96th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue, Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (closed Mondays)
- *Lower East Side Ecology*, (212) 477-4022; www.lesecologycenter.org. (Accepts CDs, DVDs and cassette tapes for a per-pound fee at its collection events and warehouse.)
- *Salvation Army*, 96th Street between Broadway and West End Avenue, Monday-Tuesday/Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (closed Sundays)
- *Westsider Books*, 233 West 72 Street, <http://westsiderbooks.com>, (212) 874-1588. Takes CDs (buy or sell)

Miscellaneous

- *Ashley Resins*, 5114 Fort Hamilton Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11219, (718) 851-8111; www.ashleypolymers.com; mail@ashleypolymers.com. (Accepts 5-gallon polycarbonate bottles from water coolers as well as items made of nylon and other plastic resins; will pick up in large quantities)
- *Mail Boxes, Etc.* and *UPS Stores* (various locations), (800) 789-4623. (Accepts expanded polystyrene [Styrofoam] peanuts and other packaging material)
- *Plastic Film*, www.plasticfilm.org for drop-off locations for plastic film (including bags); one location on the Upper West Side is Whole Foods, 808 Columbus Avenue, 212-222-6160
- *Plastic Loosefill Council*, (510) 654-0756; www.loosefillpackaging.com. (Lists local stores accepting polystyrene peanuts)

TEXTILES: FABRIC, SHEETS, CLOTHING, ETC. - No carpet recycling in NYC.

Wearable clothing may also be donated to thrift shops—see below.

A. RECYCLERS

- *Emerson Recycling*, 65 Emerson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11205, (718) 622-1799. (Accepts mixed textile cuttings from companies and ships them overseas for reprocessing and reuse; picks up for free or for a per-pound fee, depending on quality and quantity)
- *Grow NYC*, (212) 788-7964, (212) 788-7964, (212) 788-7476; www.grownyc.org/clothing. (Textiles are accepted at the 79th Street Greenmarket [79th & Columbus Avenue], 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays; at the 97th Street Greenmarket [97th & Columbus Avenue], 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Fridays; and at Columbia University Greenmarket [Broadway betw. 114th-115th Sts.], 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays; also accepted in Inwood and other Manhattan locations; check website for hours)
- *re-fashionNYC*, call 311; www.nyc.gov/refashion. (A partnership between the NYC Sanitation Dept. and Housing Works; free pick-up of textiles from residential buildings with 10 or more units)
- *United War Veterans Council*, (212) 838-8982, (203) 434-4170; info@uwvcrecycling.org; <http://www.uwvcrecycling.org/>. (Will pick up clothing and other textiles; can be mixed with other household items; no minimum quantity, though they prefer at least one bag or box.)
- *Wearable Collections*, (646) 515-4387; www.wearablecollections.com. (Free pick-up of all textiles, except carpeting, from residential buildings, greenmarkets and community organizations; they will site a container in larger buildings or make a weekly pick-up of a minimum of 4-5 large bags of materials; pick-up days are scheduled according to zip code; contact them for more details)

B. THRIFT SHOPS (Upper West Side only – see www.nyc.gov/stuffexchange for other NYC locations)

- *Cathedral of St. John the Divine Clothing Closet*, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (112th Street), (212) 316-7540; <http://www.stjohndivine.org/social/nutrition-health-clothing-center/clothing-closet>; ccc@stjohndivine.org. (Accepts gently used casual and business attire.)
- *Center at the Red Oak*, 135 West 106th Street, (212) 749-7015.

- *Goodwill*, 157 West 72nd Street, (212) 799-2723; 217 West 79th Street, (212) 874-5050; www.goodwillnynj.org. (Accepts clothing and other textiles, shoes, etc.; will site containers in large residential buildings; pick-ups for large quantities from organizations; call first.)
- *Housing Works*, 306 Columbus Avenue between 74th & 75th Streets, (212) 579-7566; and 2569 Broadway between 96th & 97th Streets, (212) 222-3550; www.housingworks.org.
- *Salvation Army*, 268 West 96th Street, (212) 663-2258, (212) 337-7200; www.salvationarmy-newyork.org. (Free pick-up of clothing, other textiles, shoes, etc. is available at <https://satruck.org/> or call (212) 757-2311 or (800) 728-7825; items should be wearable or useable; two-bag minimum.)
- *St. Francis Thrift Store*, 217 West 96th Street, (212) 932-8040; <http://www.holynamenyc.org/>. (Accepts clothing, kitchenware and small appliances)

CARPETING

- *Carpet Cycle*, 16 Herbert Street, Newark, NJ 07105, (973-732-48580; www.carpetcycle.com. (Removes and recycles old carpeting and padding from commercial buildings for a fee)

MISCELLANEOUS

- *Big Reuse*, <http://www.bigreuse.org>. Non-profit retail outlet for salvaged or surplus building materials, lighting and appliances. Drop-off centers are located in Brooklyn (69 Ninth Street, Gowanus; 718-725-8925; brooklyn@bigreuse.org) and Queens (3-17 26th Avenue, Astoria; 718-777-0132; queens@bigreuse.org) accept materials. Pickup and deconstruction services are available for large quantities.
- *Books Through Bars*, Brooklyn, NY, (212) 254-3697; www.booksthroughbarsnyc.org. (Donates books to prisoners)
- *Build It Green! NYC*, 3-17 26th Avenue, Astoria, Queens, (718)777-0132; www.bignyc.org. (Accepts building materials, furniture, fixtures and appliances)
- *Goodwill*, 157 West 72nd Street, (212) 799-2723; 217 West 79th Street, (212) 874-5050; www.goodwillnynj.org. (Accepts a variety of household items; *no* furniture.)
- *Housing Works*, 306 Columbus Avenue between 74th & 75th Streets, (212) 579-7566; and 2569 Broadway between 96th & 97th Streets, (212) 222-3550; www.housingworks.org. (Accepts furniture and miscellaneous goods; *no* electronics or appliances; home pick-up available for furniture; call first)
- *iFixit* provides advice via the internet for those who like to repair things themselves, as well as components and repair manuals for almost anything, including computers and other electronic devices; (866) 613-4948; <https://www.ifixit.com/info>
- *Pedals for Progress*, High Bridge, NJ, (908) 638-4811; www.p4p.org; pdls4@comcast.net. (Accepts used bicycles and sewing machines)
- *Pop-up-Repair*, www.popuprepair.com/; fixit@popuprepair.com. (Can fix, alter, sharpen, shine, and polish almost anything.)
- *Recycle-a-Bicycle NYC*, 75 Avenue C, NYC, (212) 475-1655; www.recycleabicycle.org. (Accepts used bicycles)
- *Re Lit NY*; www.relitny.org. (Collects books and distributes them to the public; there is a drop-off box for Re LIT at Whole Foods at 97th & Columbus)
- *Salvation Army*, 268 West 96th Street, NYC, (212) 663-2258, (212) 337-7200; www.salvationarmy-newyork.org. (Free pick-up of bicycles, books, furniture and other household goods is available at <https://satruck.org/> or call (212) 757-2311 or (800) 728-7825; items should be wearable or useable; two-bag minimum.)
- *St. Francis Thrift Store*, 217 West 96th Street, (212) 932-8040; <http://www.holynamenyc.org/>. (Accepts clothing, kitchenware and small appliances)

- *United War Veterans Council*, (212) 838-8982, (203) 434-4170; info@uwvcrecycling.org; <http://www.uwvcrecycling.org/>. (Will pick up a variety of household items; no minimum quantity, though they prefer at least one bag or box.)
- *Whole Foods*, 97th & Columbus Avenue. (Accepts wine bottle corks [real cork, not plastic])

(Revised August 2017)