

WA Reuses platform frequently asked questions

How is this different from Facebook Marketplace/Craigslist /Rheaply?

- WA Reuses focuses primarily on commercial and industrial by-products, discards, etc, and is a not-for-profit collaboration designed to serve public interest. The other services may incorporate these but not as strongly. Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, OfferUp well serve individual to individual exchanges. Rheaply is for profit.
- WA Reuses will be governed locally and collaboratively by community-based organizations and its user-members, designed to evolve in response to the needs of the network to build a circular economy ecosystem.
- The tool is designed both to support entities in moving their unneeded materials (particularly hard-to-dispose of / recycle items) as well as create a network of connections, helping divert & calculate waste.
- Importantly it will allow for the measurement of diversion and additional metrics as time goes on.

How is this different from recycling?

- WA Reuses is designed for items that are difficult to recycle, or would be otherwise headed to the landfill.
- Materials that are normally collected in the recycling stream, such as paper, metal cans, glass bottles, on an ongoing basis are not the target for this initiative. On the other hand, you might have unique versions of these items - such as large clean sheets of cardboard or old bottles that have an interesting reuse potential - that might be useful for others and would be great to post.

What material streams are recommended/allowed?

- A wide range of materials will be allowed. Generally, it is expected that the items posted will be by-products, discards, surplus items, items that are difficult to recycle, architectural salvage, used furniture and furnishings, etc.
- Not permitted:
 - Live animals
 - Illegal goods

- New (unused) items, unless they would otherwise be discarded (Surplus OKAY)
- Personal items
- Services
- Opened chemicals
- Hazardous waste. WA Reuses is not responsible for the determination of what may constitute a hazardous substance or create a hazardous situation. WA Reuses does not make judgments or recommendations with respect to any legal requirements, particularly for storage, transportation, treatment, or disposal of what may be defined as a hazardous substance.

How are logistics and transportation handled for materials exchanged?

When a posted item is finalized for exchange, the exchanging parties are solely responsible for facilitating transportation and receipt of materials. We hope to develop support for logistics as the marketplace evolves.

Does the platform handle payments or transactions?

No. All payments and transactions happen directly between users outside of the platform. The platform facilitates listing, bidding, awarding, and communication, but does not process any financial exchanges.

Is there a cost to join or to list items on the WA Reuses platform?

- A membership will be required to list or respond to postings on the WA Reuses platform. There will be no charge for memberships (i.e., it will be free) for the first 2 years. After that time, there may be a sliding scale membership fee based on the size of business / organization. We will work to secure sponsorships so that we can continue the free membership.
- There is no cost to list items. Business and organizational representatives can browse listings but people will need to create an account to see more detailed information, or to post listings.

What types of listings can be posted?

Two types of listings can be posted:

- Available listings: Items or materials to offer - either for sale or to give away.

- Wanted listings: Items or materials people are looking to acquire - either for purchase or for free.

Who can use the platform?

- Businesses, governmental agencies, and nonprofit organizations can register on the platform (for free) to find and share surplus or byproduct materials at affordable costs or free.
- Any community project that would benefit from the exchange can also register.
- Those outside of the state of Washington are welcome to use the platform to make exchanges with Washington-based entities.

How do users claim listed items?

- Users place “bids” on available listings to offer a price or quantity. Posters can review bids and choose how to allocate items by awarding one or more bids. Users can message posters within the platform to express their desired quantities.