

# RECYCLING INFORMATION

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**WATER** - Since the June 2021 flooding in the part of LaGrange off Brainard and the Golf Course, the Village and others have endeavored to recycle the water into places other than basements. Visit: Sewer Services/Flood Mitigation page of the Village. For one view, check DryUp LaGrange on their web. See: MIT Technology Review issue (January/February 2022)

**Tools** - The Chicago Tool Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization  
1048 W 37th St Ste #102 Chicago, IL 60609 | 773.242.0923 |  
team@chicagotoollibrary.org

Hours + Contact

- Wednesdays 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- Thursdays 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- Saturdays 10:00am – 4:00pm
- Sundays 10:00am – 4:00pm

They have over 2,500 tools you can borrow – from table saws to sewing machines to camping tents. They accept donations of used tools. Generous terms on returns and breaks of borrowed stuff. Call ahead to see if any current needs. Screwdrivers?

**Print/Paper/Magazines** - put wherever you put your clean cardboard

**Plastic Bags** – Near the entrance door to most grocery stores (Jewel, Marianos, Trader Joes, Target. Etc), there should be a receptacle clearly marked for disposal of plastic bags. Your biggest fear, with the shortage of workers, is that they wind up in the dumpster out back. If confident that won't happen, also drop off empty plastic bread bags, dry cleaning plastic covers, and trash can liners. Good one = Jewel in LaGrange Park.

**Needles** – Some Locations only accept home-generated medical sharps. No business, commercial or institutional sharps waste will be accepted. Nearest I could find was Westmont Police Dept - 500 N. Cass. Dropoff in a container sealed with duct tape on M-Fri from 8:00 until 3:00. No matter where you are: Sharps should never be thrown loosely into the trash or toilet. Sharps should never be recycled. Sharps that retract after use, or are very small, should be disposed of like all other sharps.

**Batteries** – Big Green Box. (expensive) Tips available from several sources: [www.irsrecycles.com/tips-for-the-proper-disposal-of-batteries/](http://www.irsrecycles.com/tips-for-the-proper-disposal-of-batteries/) also, [www.swanccorg/batteries](http://www.swanccorg/batteries) Big difference between AAAs and lithium ion. Lilon battery recycling finder = [www.Glitch.com](http://www.Glitch.com) Car and marine 12 Volt batteries (and 12V with F2 terminals) can find a home with ABT – call ahead. Argonne's ReCell Center is actively looking at advanced EV battery recycling approaches. (<https://recellcenter.org/>)

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**Books & Stuff** – If your local library doesn't have a donation program for books, records, DVDs, CDs etc, consider the Newberry Library annual book & stuff sale.

Especially if the books are in good shape and unique.

Tons of programs to get books into other hands, young ones(schools), old ones(homes) and homeless ones(streets/BEDS). [www.open-books.org](http://www.open-books.org) [www.cdrecyclingcenter.org](http://www.cdrecyclingcenter.org) [www.childrensbookproject.org](http://www.childrensbookproject.org)

**Cradles to Crayons:** has a collection box in FUMCLG lobby (the chapel entrance on Cossitt). Open normally from 9:00 to 5:00 weekdays and Sunday morning. They supply new and like-new clothing, books, school supplies, diapers, etc. to children in Chicago. The Church preschool families keep the box full most of the time, <https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/chicago/take-action/donate-goods/items-we-accept/> they provided a supplemental list on their website to help people recycle items that Cradle to Crayons will not accept, like furniture.



**Corks** – [www.recork.org](http://www.recork.org). I collect them for several purposes related to recycling. I make monthly pickups from local restaurants. Other collection points include The Wine Cellar Outlet, Oak Brook, 3021 Butterfield Rd., Oak Brook, IL 60523; 630-320-2305. Ask for Josh.

**Carpets and Padding** – Nationwide? try Flor (866)952-4093 [www.flor.com/responsible](http://www.flor.com/responsible) they recycle old carpet tiles into new. Also check with Lakeshore Recycling Systems if willing to pay a set drop off fee of \$7 & a \$73 weight (Up to a ton) fee. There is a padding only recycler in Chicago at 3423 N Drake (773) 267-7327.

Illinois is on the threshold of a plan to encourage [the recycling of carpeting](#).

**Shoes** – [www.Soles4souls.org](http://www.Soles4souls.org); JAYNES on Harris - drop off box just inside front door during business hours. Or drop off slightly used shoes at DSW in Oak Brook. They get reconditioned and wind up in 3<sup>rd</sup> world hands courtesy of Zappos. Or if really bad, ground up into playground cushiony stuff.

**LGBA** - allows me to provide a "Go Green LaGrange" table for collection of corks, shoes and other items; as well as promote local business environmental efforts. Rain barrel, metal hangers, milkweed seeds, whatever. Every Thursday morning during the LG Farmers Market in the Summer & Fall. (May-Oct)

**Oak Saplings** – MWRD & La Grange ParkDistrict in the spring for planting. Saplings (Bur, Pin, Red, and Swamp White Oaks) available in the Fall on first come first got basis at the Stickney plant off Pershing Rd parking lot on Wednesdays. Once planted properly, bring back the potting plant container for recycling (again) "Restore the Canopy" program at mwr.org and partnered with Chicago Region Trees Initiative (312)751-6633

**Pumpkins** – SMASH in November, usually the first Saturday after Halloween. Drop at the LG Park Public Works facility South of 31<sup>st</sup> and the tracks.

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## Lights & Trees – *Christmas Tree Collection*

Holiday greenery must have all tinsel, ornaments, lights, and nails removed before being placed out at the curb for pickup. Holiday greenery collection and pickup is free of charge and will take place the first 2 weeks of January. Collection of holiday greenery after the third week of January will be billed as a bulk item pick up on your next invoice.

**Garbage** – Flood Bros 630 261-0400. Each Village, including LaGrange, has a web site concerning trash collection. See also, SCARCE for recycling options of stuff.

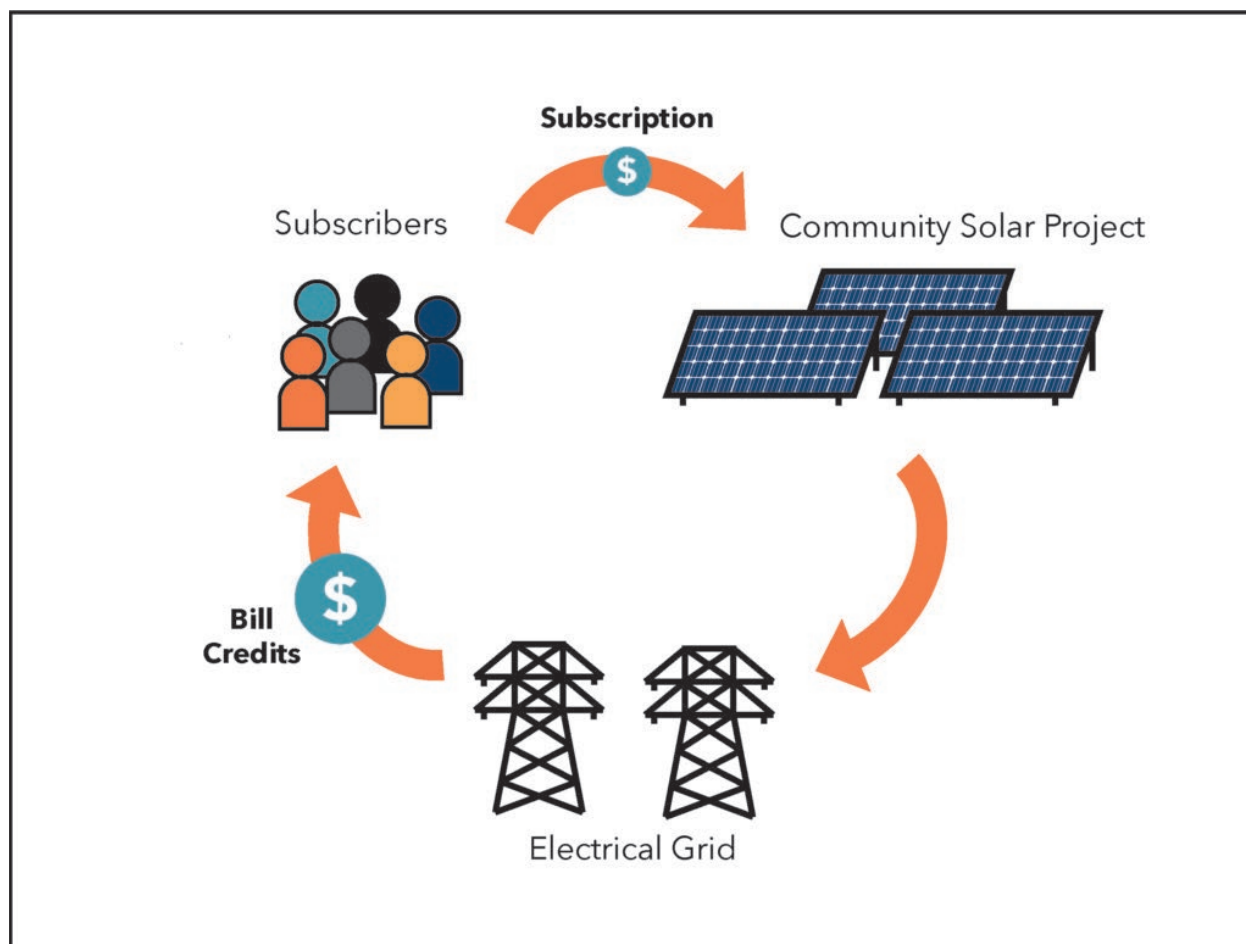
**Cooking Oil** – from that deep fried 22 lb turkey or deep-fried Twinkies, the leftover oil can be deposited in the Mahoney Bin in the Alley just South of Tate behind Aging Care Connections. Other locations? [www.mahoneyES.com](http://www.mahoneyES.com) or 800 892-9392. Across Chicago, try Green Grease Environmental (855) 645-2246 (OIL-BIO)[info@greengreasechicago.com](mailto:info@greengreasechicago.com) 14500 S Alice Ave, Burnham, IL 60633 partners with restaurants and heavy users.

**Composting** – 1. FEE. Urban Canopy charges us \$25.00/month to haul our food scraps in a 5-gal bucket to the worms to make compost. Every two weeks on Tuesday morning in LaGrange = pickup. We use them. [CompostClub@theUrbanCanopy.org](mailto:CompostClub@theUrbanCanopy.org)

If you want some compost, go to the Stickney plant of the MWRD with a shovel and big bucket. If you want 10 cubic yards or more for your golf course, call ahead. [www.compost.mwrld.org](http://www.compost.mwrld.org)

2. FREE. There is a 3-part compost bin at Field Park Elementary School in Western Springs. It's right along the Burlington tracks on Burlington Street between Willow Springs Rd and Wolf Rd. There is a gardening shed and a community garden also. There are composting instructions posted and at the present time, the right-hand bin is the one to use. It's free.

**Solar** –Illinois Solar Energy Assn for information on recycling the sun hitting your roof. Check out Illinois Shines.com. Also consider community solar options (CSP) – especially the ones that promise to plant milkweed under the panels to attract the Monarch butterflies. Just watch out for rip-offs. If you save \$100 a month on your ComEd bill, the Community Solar project director may take \$70.00 and you get \$30.00 off your bill. The monthly fee is separate from the upfront joining fee. Should ComEd own the CSP?



Community solar can and has been installed on places of worship, in brownfields, and over parking lots. Like LaGrange Parking lots?

For more details on the benefits of community solar, see [this report](#) from Vote Solar, MnSEIA, and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance.

**Eyeglasses** – LIONS Club on 22d & York. They also take Hearing Aids. Drop off boxes in lobby. Lens Crafters? Eye Mechanix accepts donations of eyeglasses and suggests the Western Springs Post Office as well. Recycle contact lens packaging at Family Vision Care at 100 Calendar Ave. in La Grange. Collect plastic lens containers and foil seals in separate bags (e.g., plastic grocery bags) and drop off in the office's vestibule.

**Fabric** – Wipe It in Hillside (Maria)[NO blankets] Your old underwear, T Shirts, sheets, towels, whatever; are recycled into cleaning rags for services that clean Loop offices at night. They pay me pennies per pound, and I endorse the monthly check over to Soles4Souls. The Burr Ridge recycling outpost also takes textiles, as well as electronics, but I don't get paid.

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**Hangers** (metal) – Ruby has moved to the East side of LaGrange Road as of 12/21. Cleaners at 55<sup>th</sup> & Plainfield (Marshall Shopping Center Across from Fuller's Car Wash) will take back only hangers sourced from their plant. **HELP**

**Light Bulbs/CFL/Tubes** - Check out Naperville. Menards accepts LED bulbs for recycling!

**Drugs** – keep them outside Rx containers and put in plastic zip bag; drop off at LaGrange Police Dept (No needles; NO liquids). New (2022) law in Illinois will let you donate unused, within expiration date, Rx drugs for others to use. Needles go to Westmont Police Dept.

**Rx containers** – local Walgreens near tracks & LG Rd, if labels are removed. Privacy/HIPPA stuff.

**Medical stuff** – Project C.U.R.E. [www.projectcure.org](http://www.projectcure.org) in Woodridge. Beds, crutches, sleep apnea equipment, a huge list on their web site. Senior residential centers use them, like Plymouth Place.

**Makeup** – Drop off your skin care products, compacts, makeup jars, bottles, tubes, at the Beauty Dept of the Oak Brook Nordstrom

**Bras** – Even Titslinger would be amazed. Try SOMAs in Oak Brook Center, next to Ann Taylors (630)571-1773.

Bras can be recycled through the lingerie store, Soma (an affiliate of Chico's). Soma donates new and gently used bras to the non-profit, I Support the Girls ([isupportthegirls.org](http://isupportthegirls.org)) which provides the bras to women who are homeless, impoverished or subject to domestic abuse. If the bras are not in good enough condition to be reused, Soma will donate them to The Bra Recyclers, another non-profit that specializes in recycling all the parts of the bra (cloth, fasteners, etc.) If you have an account with Soma or Chico's, you can earn a \$5.00 store credit for each bra donated (up to 2 per month).

**Body Parts** – your eyes, kidneys, liver and other organs can be used once you die. Even while alive, you can become a donor. Plan ahead. Let your family know about those plans.

- [What Can Be Donated | Organ Donor](#)". 2018. [organdonor.gov](http://organdonor.gov).
- ["Rejuvenating Old Organs Could Increase Donor Pool"](#). 2021. [medicalxpress.com](http://medicalxpress.com).
- ["Organ Donation Statistics | Organ Donor"](#). 2018. [organdonor.gov](http://organdonor.gov).
- ["How Much Are Your Body Parts Worth?"](#). Trace Dominguez, Tara Long, and Laci Green. 2021. Seeker.
- ["Washington Set To Be The First State To Allow The Composting Of Human Bodies"](#). Hu, Jane. 2019. Slate Magazine.
- ["Live long, die green and recycle your discarded body"](#). Robert John Young. 2021. The Ecologist.

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Alkaline hydrolysis is a chemical process that reduces a human body to components of liquid and bone. ... Alkaline hydrolysis was **legalized** in Illinois in 2012, when the legislature redefined "cremation" to specifically include the process. OK with the Catholic Church. Check with your local funeral home, doctor, clergy, estate planner. Bishop Tutu. Donations? [www.giftofhope.org](http://www.giftofhope.org) Spend money for a mushroom shroud? <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/the-mushroom-death-suit-is-the-latest-in-postmortem-ecofriendly-fashion> More info from IL Secty of State at [https://www.lifegoeson.com/about\\_us/home.html](https://www.lifegoeson.com/about_us/home.html)

Just an environmental option for you and a loved one.

**Blood** – Given the pandemic and current shortage, blood drives in the LaGrange area are more frequent.

**Brain** – with the pandemic, your brain may become mush and need some recycling of neurons. Help is available

**The Living Room:** 4731 Willow Springs Road, La Grange, IL; 708-582-6434; <https://www.namimetsub.org/>

Open now on Monday – Friday from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday – Sunday from 2:00 to 6:00 pm, the Drop-in center is for adults 18 and over who are experiencing an increase in mental health symptoms. This peer-run alternative to the emergency department provides mental health support and has NAMI and Pillars staff available. Free; no insurance required.

**Flags** – old, torn; at American Legion lot on LaGrange Rd in Countryside. Like a big mail box.

**Metal** – Rebar, wiring, crowbar, steel file cabinet, gutters & downspouts, metal coat hangers, lead pipes, whatever: can generate instant cash at United Scrap(recyclers) at 1545 S Cicero (North of 22d/Cermak) 708 708 6800. Open from 6 to 6 weekdays. Current steel scrap price is \$195.00 per Gross Ton. For my 91 lbs of stuff, I got \$5.89. About \$0.06.5/lb. You too can become a “junker”. See also: Pop Tops. Aluminum & copper get much more \$\$\$

**Bikes** – The Wheel Thing in LaGrange Park (417 N LG Rd) sends old bikes and parts to Working Bikes [www.workingbikes.org](http://www.workingbikes.org) Or consider The Recyclery (7628 N Paulina) 773-262-5900 for tubes and other stuff (No helmets). [www.therecyclery.org](http://www.therecyclery.org) Call ahead.

**Please support establishing a bike path from the Zoo to the IM Canal. Countryside is way ahead.**

**Cars** – Not KARS4KIDS/IMHO. Consider Habitat for Humanity [www.habitat.org/support/donate-your-car](http://www.habitat.org/support/donate-your-car) call 877 277-4344 for pickup, fixup and resale to finance future Habitat homes. Maybe WBEZ will take that jalopy that still runs. Or not. Even Goodwill takes cars.



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**Tires** – nothing local. K&S Tire Recycling 312-805-8266 303 S. State, Chicago Heights. They charge \$3.00 per tire to recycle. [www.kandstirerecycling.com](http://www.kandstirerecycling.com) In Chicago, Liberty Tire, 2044 N Dominick (near Webster & Ashland) on the North Branch of the Chicago River. 60614. If you buy tires for your car, Discount, Firestone, Costco, whoever, will recycle your old ones for a fee in the \$3.00 to \$5.00 range.

**Hazardous Stuff (Household)** – Naperville; 156 Fort Hill Drive (immediately North of Naperville Public Works), DuPage County, [www.naperville.il.us/hhw.aspx](http://www.naperville.il.us/hhw.aspx)  
Hours: Saturdays 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Sundays 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Phone: 630-420-6095. They also take electronics on weekdays (7 until 3:00) with a charge on certain electronics such as CRTs, flat screen TVs and others. Other materials, like paint, are limited to Saturdays and Wednesdays from 8:00 until 5:00.

**Large Appliances** – 15-year-old fridge or freezer will be picked up by ComEd and give you \$50.00. Check their web site for details. If buying a new one, retailer will haul away and recycle the old one (Best Buy, ABT, etc) Check out [www.abt.com/help/green-program](http://www.abt.com/help/green-program) and [www.abt.com/rebates/comed-rebates](http://www.abt.com/rebates/comed-rebates) .

**Appliances in Need of Repair** – CoreCentric Solutions may rescue that Hoover vacuum or Westinghouse washing machine. Or not. E-Mail to [cs@corecentricusa.com](mailto:cs@corecentricusa.com) or <https://corecentricsolutions.com> Check with 866-737-2244 to see if they can manufacture that missing part.

**Electronics** – the common small stuff: cell phones, ink cartridges. Pack, Wrap & Send in Garden Market in Western Springs. Bigger stuff at Best Buy, ABT, Big Box.

**Electronics** – Burr Ridge off Plainfield (Public Works) but charges for cleaning up computers and large screen TVs. 451 Commerce St. Open 7:00 until 3:00 Mon-Fri. - Best Buy in Countryside will take electronics for recycling: computers, printers, cartridges, game consoles, TVs (with limitations) Here are the details: <https://www.bestbuy.com/site/services/recycling/pcmcat149900050025.c?id=pcmcat149900050025>

**Goodwill** on Wolf & 31<sup>st</sup> will take LCD screen TVs. In fact, check out their website and click “Goodwill Donation Guidelines” They take lots OF stuff for discount resale and then recycle leftovers. Even shoes and clothes. But NOT exercise equipment; nor coat hangers; best to call ahead. <https://www.amazinggoodwill.com/donating/donor-guidelines>

**Guns/Bullets:** Call ahead to the LaGrange Police Dept to set a time to drop off that old gun (and/or bullets).

**Bread Tags** – Fill a gallon jar with 160K of these and a kid gets a free wheel chair. Check out Danielle Cares for Chairs in Carmel, IN for a great story. Such Tags are part of the “Perpetual Plastics” (“Forever Chemicals”) problem (PFAS). “Single Use” stuff is being banned. **Danielle Cares for Chairs Update:** SCARCE just provided **63 pounds of bread tags** to Danielle Cares for Chairs. The organization recently gifted its **11th wheelchair** to a child!

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**Construction – TAZ Recycling**, 5300 Lawndale, McCook, IL, 630 797 0981  
[www.tazrecycling.com](http://www.tazrecycling.com) They take shingles, wood, drywall, paper, plastic, concrete, bricks, asphalt, dirt, almost all metals. Even batteries and tires at \$10 a pop. NOT wet paint, grass, asbestos, hazard stuff. Ask about glass.

**Furniture** – AmVets, Salvation Army, Goodwill, Sharing Connections <https://www.sharingconnections.org/donate-items.html> 630-971-0565; 5111 Chase Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60515, USA. A person I trust really likes the Chicago Furniture Bank as an option for donating furniture and other large household items (although I don't think this includes building materials); they take these items and turn them around for people transitioning out of homelessness. CFB is also one of the only places I found in the Chicago area who will take *good-condition* mattresses. They request a monetary donation to help cover the costs of the pick-ups, labor, etc., but it goes to a good cause. <https://www.chicagofurniturebank.org>

**Homeless: H2H (Home 2 Home Project)** of Janelle Towne of Western Springs accepts donations to help homeless families transition into independent living. She is looking for a resale shop facility as well as a national partner to expand the concept of helping the homeless. 5316 East Ave, Countryside, IL 60525; 708 505-5496; 501c3 h2hproject.org. I like the concept of recycling the homeless. Check out BEDS as well,

**Sports – Soccer:** Peacepassers accepts gently used soccer equipment – balls, shoes, shin guards, gloves, sets of team jerseys and shorts(for 3<sup>rd</sup> world) plus more. Candace Murray – [PeacePassersinfo@gmail.com](mailto:PeacePassersinfo@gmail.com) and provide the following information in your email inquiry:

1. Summary of items you plan to donate: Please list total # of cleats, balls, or uniforms and whether the items are sizes for kids, teens, or adults.
2. Please provide your shipping location (City, State).

**Sports – Tennis:** <https://www.tennisballrecycling.com>

**Sports** – If your kid grows out of those expensive hockey skates or your daughter has upgraded to a more expensive tennis racket, you may want to consider Play It Again Sports in Westmont (233 W Ogden) 630-810-9811. Ask for Artie. Check the website to see what they currently need. No junk stuff. You might get some trade-in money.

**Toys –LEGO® Replay!**

Play has the power to change children's lives. When children play, they learn how to problem solve, collaborate, and think creatively. By donating your used bricks, you can help share the power of play with children who need it most. Enter your information below to receive your free shipping label and together we can Rebuild The World. Go to <https://www.givebackbox.com/lego/>



**Musical Instruments** – MUST recycles used musical equipment and donates to public schools needing help. (<https://musicinschoolstoday.org>). Old Town School of Music? Anything local? Check out SCARCE.

**Styrofoam** – On the first Saturday of every month, volunteers accept drop-offs of clean Styrofoam between 10:00 and 12:00 near the Community Center parking lot and garages in Western Springs, just north of the BNSF tracks. Popcorn and peanut packaging usually declined here but will be accepted at Pack Wrap and Send. What happens to it? Check out one use: The website is [theperfectblock.com](http://theperfectblock.com). You will love the video.

**Film** – If you inherited the old 8mm and 16mm film and photos of your Chicago youth (and nobody wants them), consider donation to the Chicago Film Archives (Brian Belek [brian@chicagofilmarchives.org](mailto:brian@chicagofilmarchives.org) -312 243-1808). You lose copyright. Details at [www.chicagofilmarchives.org](http://www.chicagofilmarchives.org) If old LaGrange, contact the Historical Society.

**Flowers** – if still fresh and worth recycling to cheer someone, contact Interfaith Community Partners and they will get them (and the vase) to deliver to a shut in at home or hospital. 708 354-9328 Amy Watkins.

**Vases** – a local flower shop accepts flower vases and clay pots as a policy to help the environment. Maria's Floral Studio at 26 Arcade Place. 708 352-5262. Small ones can be dropped off at Interfaith Community Partners located on the second floor of the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. [interfaithcommunitypartners.org](http://interfaithcommunitypartners.org) (708) 354 9328. Call ahead. Large vases for flowers can also be dropped on the front porch at 143 S Ashland Ave. LaGrange.

**Cardboard** – just recycle the clean stuff. Make sure to break up the boxes to lay flat. Box cutter required.

**Pop Tops** (Aluminum) from beer and soft drink cans. Put in plastic bag and hold onto collection until the Farmers Market opens and then bring to the Go Green LaGrange table. Winds up at Ronald McDonald House in Maywood.

Major center for recycling is called SCARCE (Addison, IL). Partial list of what they accept:

What We Accept:

- Books - any & all
- LP Records
- Holiday Lights
- Music CDs with cases (commercially-made only)
- DVD movies with cases (commercially-made only, no home recordings)
- Keys (household, luggage, car)
- Inkjet cartridges (No toners)
- Cords & wires (phone, computer, etc)

- [Bikes, Bike parts & accessories](#)
- [X-ray, MRI, and Lithographic Film](#)
- Eyeglasses & Sunglasses (no cases)
- Hearing Aids
- [Plastic Bread Tags](#)
- [School supplies: new/like-new](#)
- [Office supplies: new/like-new](#)
- Paper: unused, all kinds
- Writing Utensils: pens, pencils, markers etc
- Art Supplies: unused/like-new only
- Crayons
- Poster board : unused/like-new
- Like-new games, puzzles, flash cards
- White boards, cork boards
- Musical Instruments
- 35mm Film Canisters
- Box Tops for Education
- Metal Jewelry - like-new, used or broken
- See below for more items!

We also take these items!

SCARCE participates in unique recycling programs through [Terracycle](#).

Commercial Services - AVA Recycling: Local Pick Up and 20+ drop off points

[avarecycling.com](http://avarecycling.com)

Chicago Asset Recycling: Chicago Asset Recycling & Data Shred

[chicagoshredder.com](http://chicagoshredder.com)

General Recycling – WARNING – Fraud in labeling exists. People see the triangle shape with arrows chasing each other and a number in the center ... SO WHAT!

California just passed a law (2021) that addresses this issue but doesn't come into full effect until 2024: the governor of California approved on October 4th a bill aimed at reducing deceptive and misleading environmental marketing claims in the state, specifically focusing on the use of recycling or "chasing arrows" emblems. The bill amends Sections 17580 and 17580.5 of the state's Business and Professions Code – which currently address environmental marketing claims generally.

It states that "a product or packaging that displays a chasing arrows symbol, a chasing arrows symbol surrounding a resin identification code, or any other symbol or statement indicating the product or packaging is recyclable, or otherwise directing the consumer to recycle the product or packaging, is deemed to be a deceptive or misleading claim pursuant to this section and Section 17580.5 of the Business and Professions Code unless the product or packaging is considered recyclable in the state" pursuant to certain criteria enacted by the state's Department of Resources Recycling and

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Recovery, and “is of a material type and form that routinely becomes feedstock used in the production of new products or packaging.”

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# Go Green LaGrange

