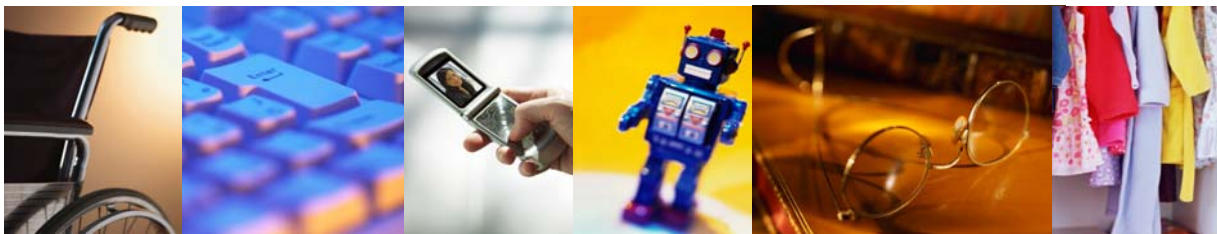




# GREEN Initiatives

“One person’s junk may be another person’s treasure.”



Please think twice before disposing of items. Instead, consider posting items at Illinois Recycling Association’s recycled commodities and services exchange site, Recyc-IL, or alternatives such as those suggested below.

**Athletic Shoes:** Visit [www.letmeplay.com](http://www.letmeplay.com) for collection sites. Nike converts old sneakers into courts for various sports. Or, if your shoes are not too badly tattered and torn, [www.oneworldrunning.com](http://www.oneworldrunning.com) collects athletic shoes and finds US athletes in need.

**Books:** Instead of discarding books, consider donating to lending libraries or community centers.

**Cellular phones:** Cell phones should be donated to a charitable organization (e.g.: The Wireless Foundation via [www.calltoprotect.org](http://www.calltoprotect.org) refurbishes old phones and gives to survivors of domestic violence.) If you have a cellular phone and/or some rechargeable batteries to recycle, visit Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation ( [www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org)) for collection sites.

**Clothing:** Consider donating gently worn clothing to charitable organizations which have a retail component, the sales from which benefit the organization.

**Computers:** Recent legislation in Illinois requires electronics manufacturers to collect and recycle or reuse electronics products. However, charitable organizations and schools are often in need of such equipment. Visit [www.recycles.org](http://www.recycles.org) to complete an on-line donation form non-profit organizations seeking donations apply for donations online.

**Craft items:** Rather than discarding craft items such as unused ribbons, yarn or fabric, consider dropping these items off at your local community center or senior center.

**Eyeglasses:** Old pairs of glasses may be donated to several nonprofit organizations. Among these are New Eyes for the Needy ([www.neweyesfortheneedy.com](http://www.neweyesfortheneedy.com)) or Give the Gift of Sight ([www.givethegiftofsight.org](http://www.givethegiftofsight.org).) Collection locations include eyeglass stores, community centers and major retailers.

**Furniture:** Donate furniture to nonprofit organizations or place an advertisement on [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com).

**Hearing aids:** Similar to eyeglasses, hearing aids may be donated to several nonprofit organizations or community centers. For more details, consider the website of The Starkey Hearing Foundation ([www.sotheworldmayhear.org](http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org)) or the Lions Club ([www.donateglasses.net/hearingaids.html](http://www.donateglasses.net/hearingaids.html).)

**Household items:** Consider donating household items to charitable organizations or thrift stores.

**Medical equipment:** Check with your local community centers for lending closets which may be in need of walkers or wheelchairs. Or, go to [www.lifenets.org/wheelchair](http://www.lifenets.org/wheelchair) to find someone in need.

**Prescription Drugs:** Some unused medications may be collected and given to clinics in Nigeria. Visit [www.thestarfishproject.org](http://www.thestarfishproject.org) for more details.

**Shoes:** Consider donating non-athletic shoes to Shoes for Souls, [www.soles4souls.org](http://www.soles4souls.org), a nonprofit which offers donations to needy communities.

**Sporting equipment:** Gently used sporting equipment could be traded at [www.playitagainsports.com](http://www.playitagainsports.com) or donated to [www.sportsgift.org](http://www.sportsgift.org) which provides equipment to needy children around the globe.

**Toys:** Consider donating toys in good working condition to charitable organizations or thrift stores.

**Videos:** Videotapes are not accepted at recycling centers. However, instead of throwing them out in the trash, consider donating them to charitable organizations and community centers. Or, visit [www.actrecycling.org](http://www.actrecycling.org).