

If you have unwanted items then rather than throwing them away consider the following options:

## 1) Freecycle

The Freecycle Group matches people who have things they need to get rid of with people who can use them in their local area. The goal is to keep usable items out of the landfill. By using what we already have on this earth, we reduce consumerism, manufacture fewer goods, and lessen the impact on the earth. Another benefit of using Freecycle is that it encourages us to get rid of junk that we no longer need and promote community involvement in the process.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN FREECYCLE

When you want to find a new home for something whether it's a chair, a fax machine, piano, or an old door, you simply send an e-mail offering it to members of your Freecycle group.

Or, maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself. Simply respond to a member's offer, and you just might get it. After that, it's up to the giver to decide who receives the gift and to set up a pickup time for passing on the treasure. You can even post a Wanted message to the group because somebody might have just the exact thing you really need stored away in a closet.

**One main rule: Everything posted must be free, legal, and appropriate for all ages.**

There are Freecycle groups in Rutland, Leicester and Leicestershire, to find your nearest group visit [www.freecycle.org/](http://www.freecycle.org/) You will have to register your name and e-mail address and then will receive daily e-mails.

## 2) Charity Shops

Charity shops are an excellent example of reusing items that otherwise would be sent to landfill, they also are a way of giving money to a good cause, there are around 6500 charity shops in the UK so you should find one near you!

More than 90% of the goods sold in charity shops are donated by the public. At most charity shops you simply have to bring your donation to the shop, but you should call first and check before bringing in any large item such as furniture (to make sure they have space) or electrical appliances (to make sure that the shop has a qualified technician to test the goods).

To find your local charity shop you can have a look on the high street, use the Yellow Pages or check out the charities website.

### 5 things to remember!!

- Charity shops work because they can sell items with a second life. Check your donations are both clean and functional e.g. tears or broken zips on clothes – missing chapters in books!
- You are helping a good cause AND the environment – re-use is even better than recycling.
- The best way to donate is to take items directly to your local charity shop. If this isn't possible, you could fill a charity shop collection sack, or take items to clothing banks.
- If you have more specialist items, for example, electrical goods or furniture, it is best to check that the charity shop can accept these items for re-sale before donating.
- If you are not sure whether your clothes can be re-sold – donate them anyway – whatever clothes a charity shop can't sell they can send off for further re-use or recycling!