

Do you want to reduce waste and save money?

Do you have “stuff” you no longer need but feel it could be of use to someone? Perhaps you have a broken item that you feel somebody with more skill than you could repair? Why not give it away? I have given away obscure books and maps that a charity shop would struggle to sell, lots of cardboard egg cartons and I am currently hoping to give away a Christmas tree stand. A broken dehumidifier went to someone who believed he could fix it. I have found it especially pleasing that some items have gone to community and charity projects. For example, some local history books that went to a local history group and the egg cartons that went to a charity food project.

Perhaps you need more items for your home and would like to save some money and reduce waste at the same time. Why not submit a post asking for the items you need? A few months ago, I needed some sturdy cardboard boxes and was able to collect exactly what I needed locally.

There are flourishing local community networks of ‘Freeglers’ and ‘Freecyclers’.

If you have a smartphone, I recommend installing the Trash Nothing app. This allows you to simultaneously post items you wish to give away, or receive for free, across a few local sites



Hillingdon Freecycle does not participate in Trash Nothing, so you may wish to sign up separately via their website.

[The Freecycle Network](https://uk.freecycle.org/)

<https://uk.freecycle.org/>



If you wish to sign up directly with Freegle you can do so via their website:

[Freegle - Don't throw it away, give it away! \(ilovefreegle.org\)](https://www.ilovefreegle.org/)

<https://www.ilovefreegle.org/>



Even more locally I also let the neighbours in my street know about anything I am giving away, via our WhatsApp group.

Some things to consider/note:

Please remember that all usual COVID restrictions apply. Once you have agreed a gift arrangement, you may agree for it to be left in a front porch to enable “contact free” collection.

As always, remember personal safety and avoid inviting unknown people into your home or leaving your front door open while you go to get something from another room.

Do think about the carbon footprint of journeys made; if you do drive try to combine with a journey you would make anyway. If giving items away and several people are interested, you may wish to choose the most local. Having said this, there is still likely to be a significant saving in CO₂ emissions because you are saving all the energy consumption in raw materials extraction, manufacture and distribution of new items and reducing the size of the waste disposal problem.

Freecycle, Freegle, Trash Nothing are all FREE. It is strictly forbidden to ask for (or offer) money. You can also post items on Nextdoor (<https://nextdoor.co.uk>) or on Facebook Marketplace, where you can choose whether to give things away or to sell them. An item that fails to sell for £5 will often be snapped up within ours once you offer to give it away.

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