



Simply Green

Live Well, Tread Gently

ISSUE VI May, 2008: Think Before You Toss

The SCA's Planet Manhasset committee presents monthly eco-tip sheets, offering easy-to-implement ideas in support of a greener and healthier lifestyle. The committee invites you to share your own green tips by visiting: PlanetManhasset@yahoo.com

In this time of economic uncertainty and ever-rising gas prices, people often forget those who need help the most, and donations often dwindle. Recycling and donating go hand-in-hand. Giving away clothing and other products that are still in good shape but have fallen out of favor not only helps out others, it also prevents the unnecessary production and purchase of new goods. Here are some good resources for both donations and finds:

- Planning a renovation? Don't let your contractor throw out your old windows, cabinets and working appliances. Habitat for Humanity has a ReStore outlet in Ronkonkoma where quality used and surplus building materials are sold at a fraction of normal prices. Proceeds from ReStores help local affiliates fund the construction of Habitat houses within the community. Materials sold by Habitat ReStores are usually donated from building supply stores, contractors, demolition crews or individuals who wish to show their support for Habitat. In addition to raising funds, ReStores help the environment by rechanneling good, usable materials into use. Items include kitchen cabinets, vanities, sinks, bath tubs, & ceramic tiles at way below retail prices. To donate or purchase, contact 631-521-7789, or <http://www.habitat.org/cd/frame/frameset.aspx?url=www.habitatsuffolk.org%2frestore.htm>
- Have a closet full of once or twice-worn dresses that will probably never be used again? Donate used prom dresses, bridesmaid dresses and other special occasion dresses to a new organization called Becca's Closet. Visit www.Beccascloset.org or contact the local donation center: <http://www.beccascloset.org/Port%20Washington.html>
- The Freecycle Network™ is a grassroots, nonprofit movement of people who are giving (& getting) stuff for free in their own towns. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by a local volunteer. Membership is free. Go to www.freecycle.org.
- Empty out that closet full of old sneakers and donate them to Nike's Reuse A Shoe program. Athletic shoes are ground up and used for various sports surfaces, including tennis and basketball courts and playgrounds. Guidelines: Athletic shoes only (any brand); no shoes containing metal; no cleats or dress shoes; no wet or damp shoes. Locally, Niketown (E. 57th St.) and the factory store at the Tanger Mall in Riverhead accept donations of 10 pairs or less, or they can be mailed to: Nike Recycling Center, c/o Reuse-A-Shoe, 26755 SW 95th Ave., Wilsonville, OR 97070. More info at: <http://www.letmeplay.com/reuseashoe>.
- Purchase new and used books from Better World online book store (<http://betterworld.com>). The company helps fund literacy initiatives locally, nationally and around the world. They partner with nearly 1,000 libraries and over 1,600 college campuses across the U.S. and Canada, collecting unwanted textbooks and library discards. Shipping within the US is free and carbon neutral.
- A local family is hosting a garage sale in mid-June to raise \$\$ for a school in South Africa to buy a water pump (students now have to walk 5 miles for fresh water). They are looking for clothes, toys and housewares. Please email mcc4@optonline.net to arrange for a pickup at your house.
- On an ongoing basis, the Congregational Church accepts donations of gently used clothes, toys, books, school supplies, baby/toddler items (no cribs) and household items (no stuffed animals, please) to send to the Saratoga Family Inn in Queens. This shelter keeps families together while they work to get out of homelessness. Donations are used by families in the shelter, and in their own new apartments when they are able to move out of the shelter. Please leave donations in the Cloak Room on the lower level of the Congregational Church.
- Please don't forget our local food banks, which are in dire need of donations right now. The Interfaith Nutrition Network in Hempstead can be contacted at: <http://www.the-inn.org/>

For more information on Planet Manhasset or any SCA committee/event, please visit

www.manhassetsca.org

Questions/comments? Please e-mail: PlanetManhasset@yahoo.com

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