

Freecycle™

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Freecycle™?

The Freecycle Network is a grassroots and nonprofit community gifting movement made up of thousands of entirely local and individual city groups that promote reuse through local gifting among their members. Members have the opportunity to give and get items for free, in an effort to keep unnecessary waste out of landfills. Numerous local nonprofit organizations in each community are also members of local groups. Each group is run by a local moderator and membership is free.

When was Freecycle founded?

The Freecycle Network, a nonprofit organization, was founded in May 2003 to promote waste reduction in Tucson's downtown and help save desert landscape from being taken over by landfills.

How many members does Freecycle have?

Freecycle currently has over 3,500 community groups and millions of individual members.

What countries is Freecycle currently in?

Freecycle communities currently exist in over 70 countries across the globe.

How do I become a member of Freecycle?

Membership in Freecycle is free and open to all communities and all members that want to participate. To sign up for a Freecycle group, interested users simply need to choose the appropriate region on the www.freecycle.org website. Then one must find the closest Freecycle group to their location. Clicking on the selected location will take the user to the website of the Freecycle group where one can subscribe for membership.

What happens if my city does not have a group already?

If there is no existing Freecycle group in a region, one may request to start a new local group. The section on the website titled "Start a Freecycle group" leads through the instructions to get one started and approved.

Can anyone become a member of The Freecycle Network™?

Anyone can become a member of Freecycle. However, there are rules of membership, and local volunteer moderators ensure that the basic rules are followed amongst local group members.

What is given away on Freecycle?

Although the types of items gifted are up to the giver to decide, typically, goods exchanged include items such as computer equipment, electrical appliances, leftover building supplies, furniture and other household goods.

Are certain items not allowed to be given away on Freecycle?

All items must be free, legal and appropriate for all ages. For example, no alcohol, tobacco, firearms or drugs, legal or otherwise.

Can I advertise on Freecycle?

One may not use Freecycle as a forum to advertise services, yard sales, or other products. Our volunteer moderators in each local group are what keep Freecycle uniquely free of such posting. Indeed, no mention of money is allowed. It's all about giving freely with no strings attached. Freecycle is also not an arena for political jargon, spam or personal attacks on a neighbor!

Do people pay me for the things I post to give away?

Goods that are given away from another are donated in a charitable manner and no payment is permitted. One person's trash is another person's treasure. It is, of course, up to the recipient to pick up the items from the offerer within a timeframe which meets the offerer's wishes.

Is Freecycle responsible if I do not like what I get from a posting or if I have a bad experience picking up/giving away an item?

Freecycle assumes no responsibility for the items you chose to acquire. Freecycle also assumes no responsibility for the risk you inherently take when meeting someone you have not met before to pick up or give away an item. It is important to arrange to meet in a public place or leave your item out for one to pick up without making mention as to whether you will be home at the time of the pick up.

If I have a question about how Freecycle works, who do I contact?

If at any time you need help or have a question about Freecycle services, you may email info@freecycle.org.

Does Freecycle accept monetary donations if I would like to be philanthropic?

If you would like to make a charitable donation to Freecycle, you can do so via the website, www.freecycle.org. Donations are processed via Pay Pal, a secure internet payment processor.