

## Moving your Home or Office? Tips for a Less Stressful and More Environmentally Conscious Move

### Minimize Packaging Waste

Consider getting cardboard boxes from grocery stores and wine shops, which discard many boxes on a daily basis. Or have gently used boxes delivered directly to you from [www.UsedCardboardBoxes.com](http://www.UsedCardboardBoxes.com). Boxes from this company are less expensive than new boxes, and a much more eco-friendly option. After your move, you can send the boxes back to the company to be reused again or recycled depending on their condition.

When packing fragile items, use household materials such as blankets, sheets, towels, and the old standby - newspaper - for padding, thus reducing your need for brand new bubble wrap.

Remember to save boxes and packing materials to wrap presents or for other uses throughout the year or recycle them properly.

### Donate Reusables

From clothing you no longer wear to furniture you won't need in your new home or office, many usable goods can be donated to others rather than discarded during a move. In addition to local charities, try posting items online on New York's Freecycle™ group or craigslist to be given away.

Contact your Great Forest consultant to find out how your building or company can benefit from tax-deductible donations of office supplies or furniture to local charities.

### Feature of the Month



**everydaytrash.com**  
A closer look at what we throw away

Everydaytrash.com may be the first weblog focused specifically on garbage, a 'garblog' if you will, with an inclination toward NYC's waste stream. Leila Darabi, a Brooklyn-based journalist, started the blog in 2006 to examine the art and politics of the world through the lens of garbage.

The site features regular posts with news about trash around the world, interviews with authors and industry experts, and a plethora of resources about garbage worldwide.

### Recycle Regulated Materials

While packing, you will undoubtedly discover old, broken or obsolete items, such as cell phones and other electronics, that cannot be donated. Be sure to dispose of these regulated materials, as well as others such as paints and chemicals, properly. For information about recycling these items in NYC see: [www.nycwasteless.org](http://www.nycwasteless.org) and click on "Recycling in NYC".

Prior to an office move, contact your Great Forest consultant for information about how to properly dispose of any electronics or other hazardous wastes.

### Reduce Junk Mail

Filing a change of address form at the US Post Office could lead to increased junk mail at your new location. Avoid this unnecessary waste by opting out of mailing lists or registering with the Direct Marketing Association's "do not mail" list ([www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailing](http://www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailing)) with your new address immediately.

### More Information: Green Moving Guides

The environmental resource website Care2.com offers a green moving guide with tips and useful user comments: [www.care2.com/greenliving/green-moving-guide.html](http://www.care2.com/greenliving/green-moving-guide.html)

Online real estate site Move.com offers a weblog with green moving tips and other information about living green: <http://blogs.move.com/do-it-green/>



## Upcoming Eco-Events

**Cleaning Up NYC's Waste Stream: A Panel on Long-Term Sustainable Solutions For Managing New York's Refuse, Sept. 18, 10am-Noon, Baruch College, Free** – This panel, hosted by Senator Liz Krueger, features Barbara Warren of Sustainable South Bronx, Steve Cohen of Columbia University's Earth Institute, and author, Benjamin Miller. Topics of discussion include zero waste, job creation through the solid waste industry, and pay-as-you-throw programs. For more info: e-mail [liz@lizkrueger.com](mailto:liz@lizkrueger.com) or call Travis at 212-490-9535.

**Electronics Recycling Events** – Recycle working and non-working computers (laptop & desktop), servers, printers, scanners, fax machines, copiers, peripherals (keyboards, mice, cables, etc.), TVs, radios, cell phones, floppy discs, VHS tapes and more at the following events. See the websites below for additional information.

- Bronx, Sept. 16, 8am-2pm, Lehman College North Lot ☺
- Queens, Sept. 29, 8am-2pm, St. John's University, Alumni Hall Parking Lot ☺
- Brooklyn, Sept. 30, 8am-2pm, Keyspan Park, Coney Island ☺
- Upper East Side, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3-7pm, Church of the Heavenly Rest, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between East 89<sup>th</sup> & 90<sup>th</sup> Streets ☺

☺ [www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/recycling/fall2007events.shtml#when-where](http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/recycling/fall2007events.shtml#when-where)

☺ [www.lesecologycenter.org/ewaste\\_FAQ.html](http://www.lesecologycenter.org/ewaste_FAQ.html)

**Film Screening and Discussion - *Birdsong & Coffee: A Wake Up Call*, Sept. 20, 8-10pm, Times Up, 49 East Houston Street, Free** – Coffee drinkers will learn how their lives are environmentally linked to the lives of coffee farmers from regions such as Costa Rica. Discussion to follow with guest speakers from Central America. For more info: <http://wetlands-preserve.org/?page=EventsCal>.

**Solar One Presents An Autumn's Tale: A Samhain Bedtime Story/Open House NY, Oct. 6, 9am-9pm and Oct. 7, 12pm-6pm, Free** – DIMMI Project and Open House New York create an enchanted world, using both natural and manufactured materials to design a landscape that offers an understanding of the past, present and future environment. Hosted by Solar One. For more info, visit [www.solar1.org/about/events](http://www.solar1.org/about/events).

## News From Around the Planet



### Bronx Now Ships Trash Entirely by Rail

As part of Mayor Bloomberg's plan to reduce the number of garbage trucks on the city streets and improve air quality, the Bronx will now ship all residential trash by rail for disposal out of state. Over 2,000 tons of garbage are shipped out of the Bronx each day, which includes trash generated in Queens and Manhattan.

In May, Staten Island became the first borough to ship household waste by rail, exporting 950 tons per day. The rail-link project is part of the city's comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), enabling the city's garbage trucks to travel 5.7 million fewer miles each year.

For More Information:

New York Times, published 8/15/07: [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

### “Community Cooker” in Africa Reduces Trash, Joblessness and Disease

Over 60% of the population of Nairobi live in “informal settlements” where garbage is not collected and piles up, contaminating drinking water and accumulating along river banks where children play. A new “community cooker” project in Kibera, the largest of these impoverished areas with more than 800,000 people, offers a way of reducing Nairobi's overwhelming and unsanitary garbage crisis while creating jobs and much needed resources for local people.

The project involves a simple, labor intensive machine which burns trash (at a high enough temperature to burn off associated pollutants) and provides a cooking surface and hot water. Local youth are paid to collect rubbish door to door and can then exchange this compensation for cooking time or hot water.

“Most people dump in rivers and roadsides, on top of roofs, or on railway sidings. Finally there is somewhere we can take our waste,” said Celine Achieng of the Umande Trust NGO working in Kibera.

For More Information:

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44045/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44045/story.htm)

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