

The Great Exchange 2021 Review



The Great Exchange is the signature, award-winning program of the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center. This nonprofit has been providing programs and services to help establishments make efficient use of resources and strengthen the sustainability of their operation for nearly 17 years.



The Great Exchange provides an alternative solution for resources that commercial, industrial and service facilities cannot use internally. Classroom resources, creative materials, janitorial and kitchen products, office supplies and furniture, mailing and shipping needs, storage containers and shelves, and even specialty gift items are recovered from entities that are closing, moving or changing operations.

Staff and volunteers recovered nearly 19,000 pounds of unneeded resources at 17 locations, including six businesses, four retailers, three schools, three nonprofits, and a college. These new and like new operating supplies, furniture items and small fixtures that otherwise would have been trashed as the establishments downsized or closed their facilities.

Nearly 600 types of items are now available to not-for-profits and small businesses for close to 50% of retail value to help these establishments be able to invest more in their programs and services. Pictures of available items can be viewed at www.tgedevens.com.



Another load of rescued items arrives at The Great Exchange

Although our activities are still feeling the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, engagement is starting to recover to pre-pandemic level. In 2021, The Great Exchange provided value to 130 commercial and industrial firms, municipal departments, not-for-profits, schools and libraries from over 50 different towns. The program continues to expand its impact - fifty-nine of these entities were first-time visitors to The Great Exchange.



Clear Path New England, the Devens Fire Department and Old Sturbridge Village found the furniture and supplies they needed at The Great Exchange



The Great Exchange was pleased to help HandUp, a new business based in Bedford that plans to recycle challenging materials such as mattresses and dedicate net profits to help vulnerable populations. HandUp found lots of supplies, furniture and fixtures needed for their startup and saved more than \$2,500. (r)



The Great Exchange also donated its inventory to help with needs that the COVID pandemic amplified.



For example, a collaboration was formed with an entity in Western Massachusetts that recovers and distributes tons of bed linens that otherwise would have been discarded by a commercial cleaner because they have minor tears or stains. The Great Exchange staff picked up over 400 sets of sheets and delivered them to two area nonprofits that provide home goods to homeless and immigrant individuals and families moving into new homes (l). We also connected two other nonprofits that will repurpose the linens on a regular basis to benefit large medical emergencies and migrant populations.



Almost 100 trays recovered from a local food manufacturer were donated to program that supports immigrant farmers. (l)

The Great Exchange expanded its value internationally by donating close to 100 new jerry cans to help transport potable water and cases of new pads of paper to support a new school in Bikie, Republic of Congo. (r)



Contact Us

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