



## Qualities of "Environmentally Preferred Products"

When purchasing environmentally preferred products make it simple by looking for the following characteristics:

- ✓ Durable
- ✓ Repairable
- ✓ Reusable
- ✓ Recyclable
- ✓ Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Contains recycled materials, including "post-consumer" content and "pre-consumer" content
- ✓ Has minimal or recyclable packaging
- ✓ Certified as environmentally preferable by a reputable third party organization (eg. Energy Star for energy-efficient equipment; Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) for registered electronic products; GreenSeal for paper and cleaning products; etc.)
- ✓ Non-toxic or greatly reduced toxic content
- ✓ Poses little or no chemical hazard potential

For more information about buying green and where to find products locally visit [www.fingerlakesbuygreen.org](http://www.fingerlakesbuygreen.org).

Have green purchasing tips of your own? Let us know what you think. Email Nicole, [nstumpf@tompkins-co.org](mailto:nstumpf@tompkins-co.org), with your ideas and suggestions.



## Finger Lakes ReUse Center Grand Opening

The ReUse Center provides an exciting new opportunity to reuse unwanted items that still have value. Community Members and the Chamber of Commerce joined Finger Lakes ReUse, Inc. to celebrate the grand opening of its new ReUse Center in the Triphammer Mall with a ribbon cutting on November 12.

Finger Lakes ReUse, Inc. is a local non-profit organization committed to enhancing community, economy, and environment through reuse. Director Diane Cohen frequently sees wasted goods and materials, especially during construction and demolition projects, and has been working in partnership with numerous other community organizations to develop and create a system to redirect unwanted, but quality materials.

The ReUse Center sells used items including building materials, furniture, and household goods. Many of these items would typically have ended up in a landfill. A sampling of items currently at the ReUse Center includes dining sets, chairs, desks, bookshelves, French doors, cast iron brackets, ornate radiators, office supplies, lighting, dimensional lumber, oak flooring, brand new surplus windows, and more.

The ReUse Center not only offers a convenient retail outlet open 7 days a week, but also will serve as a community-gathering place and education center where people can exchange ideas and learn skills in transforming materials for new uses.

The non-profit will offer a deconstruction service this Spring as an alternative to demolition in order to help reduce waste in the Finger Lakes region.

Store hours are Monday through Saturday 9am to 6pm and Sunday Noon to 5pm.

For more information about current items that can be donated, refer to the back page of this newsletter. In the future, visit [www.fingerlakesreuse.org](http://www.fingerlakesreuse.org) for an updated list of accepted items.



## Acceptable Items for Donation

Finger Lakes ReUse, Inc. is now accepting clean, quality used and surplus building materials, furniture, housewares, electronics, and much more. Donations are tax deductible.

### Building Materials

- Clean Lumber (6' or longer)
- Plywood, Chipboard, OSB, Sheetrock
- Siding (large lots only)
- Roofing (no loose roofing, wrapped only)
- Kitchen and Bath Cabinets (good clean condition, complete)
- Kitchen and Bath Sinks (no rust or chips)
- Toilets (white or off-white only, bowl/tank attached)
- Tile (Glass, Mirror, Brick, Block, Paving)
- Lighting and Ceiling Fans (complete, no PCB ballasts)
- Carpets (New or like-new quality)
- Hardware and Tools
- Doors
- Windows
- Flooring
- Fencing

**Furniture** (Good structural condition, no stains or tears.)

**Housewares** (must be in very good condition)

- Plates, bowls, glassware
- Silverware, utensils
- Serving trays, etc.
- Small appliances (toasters, coffeemakers)



**PLEASE CALL FOR MORE DETAILED INFO  
(607) 257-9699**

## ReBusiness Spotlight: Home Green Home



**Home Green Home** is a retail store that offers a variety of healthy, green products, such as recycled glassware and salvaged wood furniture. The products featured in this store adhere to stringent purchasing guidelines set by the staff.



**Home Green Home** is:

- ✓ Recycling corrugated cardboard, newspaper, office paper, mixed paper, glass containers, metal food and beverage cans, and plastic containers.
- ✓ Utilizing 2-sided copying, cloth towels, scrap paper reuse, toner cartridge recharge, packing material reuse, standard dinnerware, refillable products, bulk purchasing, and collecting food scraps for composting with worms onsite.
- ✓ Returning packaging to the supplier for reuse, reusing materials onsite for shipping merchandise, and reusing materials for decoration when possible.
- ✓ Purchasing 100% recycled content paper, file folders, and envelopes, as well as using green cleaning products.

**Home Green Home** is located at 215 East State Street, on The Commons, or on the web at [www.homegreenhome.com](http://www.homegreenhome.com)



## Random Acts of Waste Reduction

With last minute ordering as well as individual purchases at this time of year, comes increased volumes of packaging waste. Prepare for this increase in waste generated by considering the following options for preventing packaging materials from ending up in a landfill:



- ↘ When purchasing, look for products that have minimal or recyclable packaging. If there is no option available, consider contacting the supplier to express interest in receiving goods in more sustainable packaging.
- ↘ When possible, request the supplier take back packaging materials—they may be able to reuse the supplies. If not, they should be aware that you do not want to have to dispose of the packaging.
- ↘ Reuse cardboard boxes for storage before recycling—post a notice letting others in your office know you have durable cardboard boxes available.
- ↘ Reuse packaging peanuts or give them to a local delivery operation, such as UPS—consult The Re-Directory for more information.
- ↘ Remember to buy local and practice green purchasing for the holidays.
- ↘ For more information visit [NYS DEC website](http://NYS DEC website) and [Recycle Tompkins](http://Recycle Tompkins).



## Recycle Glass Day

Recycle Glass Day is celebrated annually. This year it takes place on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Did you know...**

- 🌍 Glass is 100% recyclable with no wasteful by-products?
- 🌍 Glass recycling saves natural resources and reduces the expensive costs of landfill dumping.
- 🌍 Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a 60-watt lightbulb for 4 hours, a computer for 30 minutes, or a TV for just 20 minutes. That's just 1 bottle!

Reusing your glass containers is also a positive act for the environment. Plan an arts and crafts activity where you turn your used glass containers into a piece of art for your office or home (ie. vase, pencil holder, paper weight).

Visit [www.gpi.org/recycleglassday](http://www.gpi.org/recycleglassday) to find out more ways to reuse, recycle, and celebrate Recycle Glass Day.