

Protecting Clean Water Together Series: Going in circles? That can be a good thing!

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CAPTION: Nearly New in Cresco, PA, accepts men’s and women’s clothing, housewares, toys, and more.

Have you ever taken work jeans or kitchenware to the Salvation Army? Maybe you’ve bought or sold on eBay, Craig’s List, or Facebook Marketplace. Or maybe you donated last season’s clothes to Echo Thrift Boutique in Stroudsburg or housewares and toys to Nearly New in Cresco. Or gone thrifting at the Old Engine Works, Olde Village Trader or Peddler’s Village.

Yes? Then you’re part of the “circular economy.”

It goes by other names — closed loop, sustainable living, recycling, and freecycling, for instance. Whatever you call it, the idea is simple: perfectly good stuff doesn’t belong in a landfill.

For some folks, it can be a money-making side hustle. For others, it’s a way to declutter without hiring a (costly) dumpster. For some, reusing, repairing, and recycling is just a way of life.

Did you know that “circular living” also saves tons of water? Manufacturing just about everything you use in your daily life — cellphone, clothes, car — uses water, often in surprisingly huge amounts. 40,000 gallons for a new car. 2,700 gallons to make a new cotton tee shirt. 3,400 gallons for a new phone. Even when you don’t choose to buy used, you can at least make sure that that investment in water (and other resources) gets another life, by passing used items on.

Saving water may not be your top motivation when you buy or sell pre-owned goods. You'll also save money. (Buying a used car means a much lower purchase price and hundreds less every year in loan payments.)

But more important, planet Earth is a mostly closed system. When you throw a pair of shoes “away,” all you're doing is getting them out of your sight. Whether they end up rotting in a garbage dump, or mistaken for food by an endangered whale — or giving someone a deal on new-to-them shoes — well, that's up to you.



CAPTION: At the Olde Engine Works in Stroudsburg, PA, dozens of re-sellers tempt collectors and thrifters with eclectic wares.

For more information on the circular economy

<https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/what-circular-economy>

For benefits of buying used cars

<https://www.autoinadash.com/blog/environmental-benefits-of-buying-used-car/#:~:text=>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cradle-to-cradle design](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cradle-to-cradle_design) Cradle to cradle

Brodhead Watershed Association protects water quality and quantity throughout our area. Get involved! Become a member! www.brodheadwatershed.org

