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Reusing more is good for us and friends

IJ report

That electric pepper grinder you've been wanting is out there and it's not in the store. Someone else wants to get rid of it and, instead of throwing it away, the seller has posted it on www.iReuse.com.

Cleaning out the garage has never been easier — or more earth-friendly — thanks to a new Marin company, iReuse.com.

In March, [iReuse](http://iReuse.com) helped more than 21,800 pounds of material from local residents and businesses avoid the landfill by connecting unwanted items with new homes.

[iReuse](http://iReuse.com) is Marin's community marketplace on the Internet to find stuff, post stuff or get rid of stuff locally. You can even designate a charitable organization to receive the proceeds from the sale of something sitting in your garage you don't want.

In addition to the Web site, the company uses its database of more than 250 Bay Area nonprofit wish lists so customers can donate items to local nonprofits and ensure that as much material as possible is reused before being recycled or sent to the dump.

Autodesk Inc. in San Rafael relied on the new company to organize the reuse of excess office furniture, equipment and other materials to several nonprofits in Marin.

"Autodesk has always been committed to helping our community," says Julie Wilder, Autodesk's manager of community relations. "It is wonderful to work with a company like [iReuse](http://iReuse.com) that has developed a system that is environmentally and socially responsible."

"[iReuse](http://iReuse.com) is committed to saving customers money, time, energy and helping the environment by making reuse easy," says [iReuse](http://iReuse.com) president and founder Ken Kurtzig of Sausalito. "We especially enjoy working with customers like Autodesk that are dedicated to sustainability."