



WASTE NOT, WANT NOT: old goods to find new homes in waste management initiative

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People will be able to give away unwanted goods for free instead of dumping them, under a new web-based scheme launched by the four local authorities in the greater Dublin area. The move is intended to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites.

The councils expect first-time housebuyers, landlords and students to be particularly interested in using the service.

Launched yesterday by Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr Vincent Jackson the new website had 65 items available by mid-afternoon, including baby carriers, fax machines, computers, cross trainers and an oven.

The website - www.dublinwaste.ie - is aimed at 460,000 households in greater Dublin.

"Now that we have established a strong network of recycling facilities in Dublin and the public are actively recycling, we are moving our focus to encouraging people to reuse as well," said Cllr Jackson. "People moving house or redecorating often want to change their suite of furniture or TV but can't trade-in the old one and that's where www.dublinwaste.ie comes in."

Dublin City Council senior executive officer Hugh Coughlan said the "Free Trade" site was inspired by similar models in Canada and Switzerland and fitted neatly into the council's waste management strategy.

Currently, there are 20 categories of household items on the site, ranging from bikes, electronics, household appliances, mobile and home phones, televisions, toys and jewellery and watches.

When interested in an item prospective traders can simply phone or e-mail the advertiser to arrange collection or delivery. Those hoping to pass on unwanted goods register their contact details and upload a maximum of five photos to begin trading.

"We envisage "Free Trade" being very popular among

first-time buyers, students and landlords, but we would encourage everybody in Dublin who is looking for household goods to check out www.dublinwaste.ie before rushing out to spend money on new goods, because everything on the site is usually in good condition and is absolutely free," he said.

"Already there are some items advertised and we envisage the baby and electrical sections will get very busy as the service becomes widely known about."

The site also contains advice on how to take precautions when making arrangements to meet strangers to collect or hand over goods.