

What on Earth is a Reuse Fair?

A Reuse Fair is an innovative way to encourage and enable the reuse of household items before they are re-cycled or thrown into the garbage. It is a community event that involves volunteers organizing the day, and individuals collecting items they can reuse.

Donors are happy they can do something practical to reduce waste.

The first one, named a Garbage Fair, a one-day event, was held in the Edmonton community of North Glenora in 1992, when a local concern about the future of the City's landfill site was high.

We wanted to come up with some way in which individuals could get further

use out of many items they normally throw out.

The event was renamed Reuse Fair and the City of Edmonton formed the Reuse Centre, created for year round use, from the concept.

Reuse Fairs divert items from landfill and educate community residents about environmental issues.

The Reuse Fairs have not been organized to make money. There is no charge for items or attendance. Their main purpose has been to divert items from going into the regular garbage and to educate community residents about environmental issues.

We have minimized expenses by using a community hall rent-free, putting an article in the local newsletter and posting to environmental groups. The Reuse Fairs organized to date have been very successful. Residents have said how glad they are to donate things they otherwise may have thrown away, and the organizers had fun in the process. Except for a two year pandemic break, North Glenora has held a Fair every year since 1992.

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