Recycling for Good Causes

A Guide for Fundraising Volunteers

Recycling for Good Causes is a company that works with charities to raise funds through the sale of donated goods. Items sent to them, or collected by them, are sold on through a network of commercial partners to generate the highest value. Anything not saleable as it is can be recycled for its components to reduce waste. After taking a small 25% commission, the proceeds of the sold or recycled items are then paid to the charity of the donor.

Recycling for Good Causes works with over 5000 charities and organisations. It is a well-established service with an excellent reputation. Marie Curie has raised over £30,000 so far through this scheme.

1. What can be recycled?

The main items that can be recycled through this scheme are small, higher value objects such as jewellery and watches, currency, mobile phones, technology and gadgets, cameras and stamps. Items sent for recycling do not have to be in working order and any jewellery or watches can be broken, although working or complete items will tend to be worth more.

This scheme does not recycle clothing, domestic items, furniture etc. These would be best donated to your local Marie Cure shop if they are able to accept these types of items.

Because of the scale of Recycling for Good Causes operation and their large network of buyers, they are able to create income for Marie Curie from seemingly worthless items. SIM cards can, in bulk, provide valuable metals. Bank notes, even those out of circulation, can be of interest to collectors. Stamps, now becoming rarer in an age of email, can find willing buyers around the world.

2. What is the recycling process?

There are four ways that you can make money from recycling items:

Banknotes, Jewellery, Watches, Foreign or UK Banknotes (even if out of circulation) in small amounts: Small amounts of these items can be donated by supporters popping them into an envelope (no bigger than A5 size), and sending to the following freepost address:

- FREEPOST RSXA-GJBY-ARRZ, Marie Curie, Unit 14, Amber Business Village, Amber Close, Tamworth, B77 4RP

Marie Curie is a registered charity in England and Wales (207994) and Scotland (SC038731).
Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England & Wales (507597).
Registered Office: One Embassy Gardens, 8 Viaduct Gardens, London, SW11 7BW.

Stamps: Stamps should be sent separately to other items as the cost of Freepost would be more than their value. Supporters should simply cut or carefully rip off the postage stamp from used envelopes, being careful not to damage the stamp, and once they have a collection post them in an envelope to:

- Marie Curie, PO Box 16992, Sutton Coldfield, B73 9YA

Cameras, Gadgets or larger amounts of Currency, Jewellery and Watches: For donations of larger amounts of items that weigh 10kg or more, Recycling for Good Causes will be happy to arrange collection. You can simply call 0800 633 5323 and you will be sent all that you need to start your recycling project – a leaflet stand with leaflets explaining what items can be recycled and a sack or box to collect their items in. Once the sack is filled to a minimum weight of 10kg (maximum weight of 30kg) you can call 0800 633 5323 and Recycling for Good Causes will arrange collection of it, free of charge.

Remember to include the name and address where Recycling for Good Causes will send out payment in the form of a cheque made payable to Marie Curie, for you (if an individual volunteer) or your fundraising group/event committee to then bank as usual.

Permanent collection points in premises: If you wish to have a permanent collection point in a premises, inform Recycling for Good Causes who will send them a collecting box to place, with a sack to go inside it. Once the box is full, they can simply tie up the sack with the cable tie provided and call 0800 633 5323. A courier will be arranged to collect the sack from the premises and deliver a replacement sack to allow further collections.

Remember to include the name and address where Recycling for Good Causes will send out payment in the form of a cheque made payable to Marie Curie, for you (if an individual volunteer) or your fundraising group/event committee to then bank as usual.

3. Payment

Once items have arrived at Recycling for Good Causes they will be sorted and processed to obtain the best value. For bulk collections (goods collected in sacks by Recycling for Good causes) after 8 weeks, Recycling for Good Causes will send the Fundraising Group a cheque made payable to Marie Curie for the total amount raised, minus their commission. These cheques can then be banked in the usual way to enable credit to be made to the Fundraising Group or volunteer record. For stamps or envelope donations funds will be sent direct to Marie Curie, not the Fundraising Group/volunteer, as these are collected in bulk.

4. Reporting and data protection

Recycling for Good Causes do not hold or retain any data from packages sent to them. Any notes, names and contact details are kept together and sent back to Marie Curie to action or thank as required.

5. Tips for success

- This is best to be seen as a low level activity to supplement your normal fundraising activities.
- It could also be useful in raising the profile of your group by increasing engagement with your community.
- You could collect at your events or put out leaflets in your local area asking for donations to be brough to a central location where you have placed a box.

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