



Freegle Focus

Social Housing

Freegle - making a house a home

Supporting stable & sustainable tenancies

Reducing Furniture Poverty





Freegle can help.

Freegle works with local authorities, social housing providers and landlords to help create stable and sustainable social housing tenancies. When Freegle is visible to tenants at key points during their tenancy, councils and their tenants can be helped in a number of ways. Think FREEGLE!

F

Freegle - a simple way to access furniture, tools, gadgets and other essential household items for FREE, at the start of a tenancy. Freegle reduces social and financial exclusion.

R

Reduced financial strain on families when Freegle is available. Less likelihood of rent arrears and other financial compromises. Tenancies become more stable and sustainable.

E

Easy on-going access to the things people need - locally and for free. The Freegle app is accessible and very simple to use.

E

End of tenancy. Unwanted items can be re-listed on Freegle and passed on to help others, saving £££ on clearance and disposal costs and reducing local incidents of fly tipping.

G

Giving is good. Freegle helps families and individuals to become more resilient; neighbourhoods more supportive and communities more sustainable.

L

Large bulky items like furniture, white goods and mattresses can be kept in use and out of communal areas and the waste stream.

E

End Furniture Poverty. Millions of families living across the UK are unable to afford to buy or replace essential furniture items. Freegle gives them options.



What is Freegle?

Freegle is the UK's biggest and friendliest FREE online reuse network. Freegle has over 3.6 million members in more than 460 local communities.

- ✓ FREE to join
- ✓ FREE to use
- ✓ Everything on it is FREE



Why reuse?

Freegle helps people give and get useful things for free in their local community. Some people have stuff they don't want any more. Other people would like things they don't have. Freegle matches them up. Reuse has countless environmental, social and financial benefits and helps to create a more circular economy.

How to get started.

You can freegle items from the comfort of your own home.

Visit www.ilovefreegle.org to find your local community.

You can also download the app: <https://www.ilovefreegle.org/mobile>.

Don't throw it away, give it away! If it's free and legal then it can be Freegled.

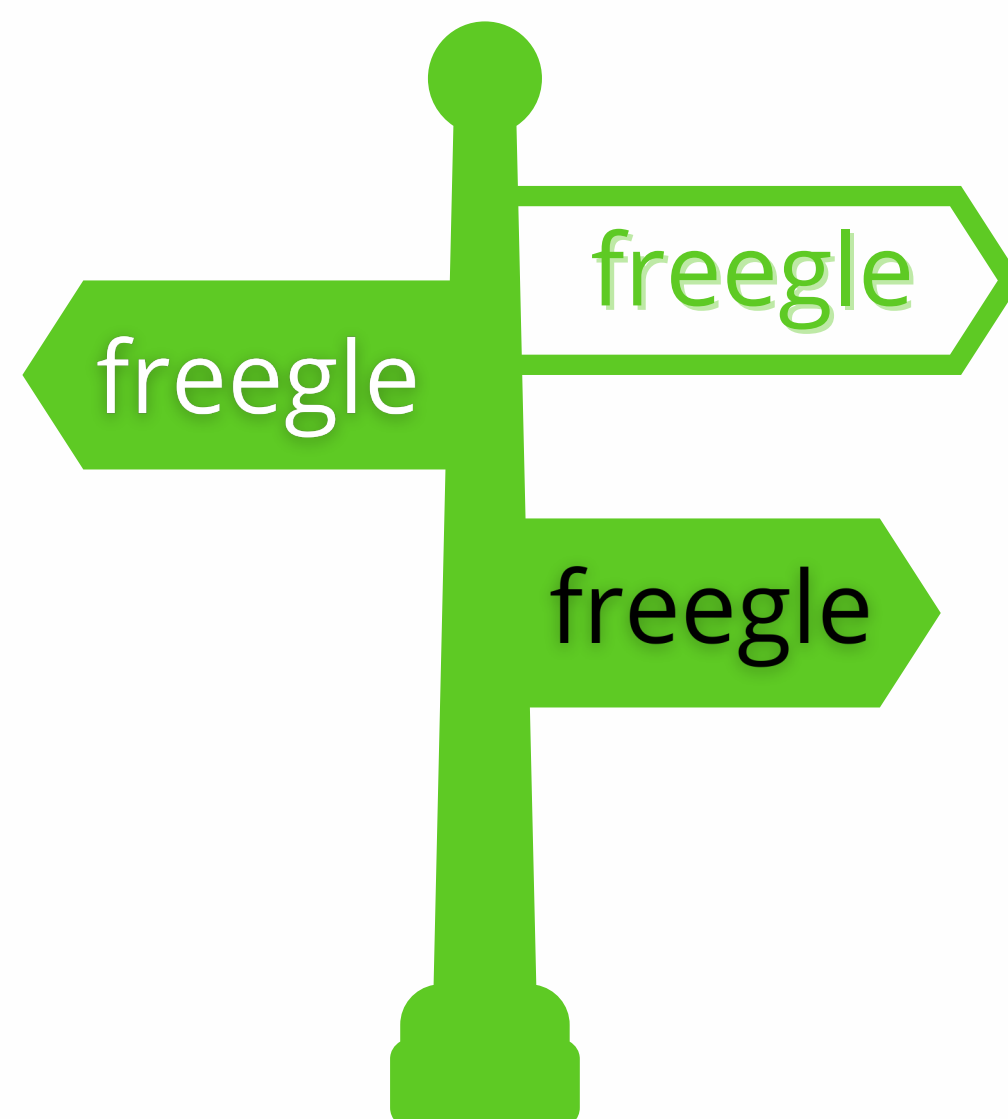


Linking to Freegle.

Freegle is working with local authorities and other social housing providers to find new ways of signposting tenants towards their local Freegle communities.

By highlighting Freegle on existing communication channels such as housing management systems, noticeboards, newsletters and other correspondence with residents, we can spread the Freegle message to tenants at crucial points in their tenancies.

Get in touch with us at councils@ilovefreegle.org to find out more about all the ways Freegle can be signposted.



Software integration.



In 2021, Freegle successfully integrated with Rubixx's Housing Management System software to ensure that Freegle was visible to tenants throughout key points in the tenancy process.

This could be easily replicated at no cost in other housing management software. Contact us at councils@ilovefreegle.org to discuss the options.

To find out more about the software integration project read the article from tech in housing e-zine [.digitalbark](http://digitalbark.com).

[Online dating for stuff: How Freegle saves the planet and alleviates poverty at the click of a button](#) (see p.19)





Bulky Waste & Furniture Poverty.

When there isn't enough money for fuel or food - where does the money for furniture and appliances come from?

Bulky items like sofas, tables, chairs and mattresses are frequently taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres or sent for disposal via bulky waste collection services. Research from WRAP shows that **more than half** of those items could be reused with no or minimal 'preparation for reuse' required.

The 2021 'No Place Like Home' report from End Furniture Poverty indicated that social housing tenants, with little or no furniture, have to rely on a patchwork of options to acquire it (primarily local authority grants, charity grants, discretionary funds, friends and family, social security advances, and moderate to high interest lenders). This collage of options, however, appears to be significantly failing to provide adequate material support for those most in need.

To find out more about the issues of Bulky Waste and Furniture Poverty and how these affect local authorities, check out Freegle's report:



[Freegle Focus Report: Bulky Waste - making room for reuse.](#)

“Millions of families are living in Furniture Poverty across the UK, unable to afford to buy or replace essential furniture items, items which local authorities are collecting through bulky household waste contracts and then, in many cases, disposing of. If local authorities take good quality, preloved furniture out of the waste stream, they can be used to help families in a time of need, and potentially ease pressures on other frontline services.”

Claire Donovan
Head of Policy, Research & Campaigns
End Furniture Poverty:



Freegle – Saving £££s.

Local authorities can save significant amounts in disposal costs when they successfully facilitate the diversion of bulky waste and other items away from the waste stream and into reuse.

“Wandsworth Freegle and Richmond-upon-Thames Freegle are two extremely active groups operating across these boroughs. Every tonne of bulky waste diverted from disposal by this freegling activity saves between £120–160 in disposal costs. Local residents initiated the groups, Freegle set them up and all we had to do was link to them on the bulky waste pages of the Councils’ web sites. The local group memberships snowballed from there. The tonnages reused over the last 12 months by these two communities combined is 149 tonnes with associated disposal cost savings of between £17,880 & £23,840.”

Michael Singham
Waste Strategy Manager
Richmond and Wandsworth Councils

Get involved, support reuse.

- ✓ [Sign up to our newsletter for councils: Freegle Bites.](#)
- ✓ Get in touch at: councils@ilovefreegle.org to find out how you can support more reuse in your community.
- ✓ Visit our [Toolkit for local authorities](#) where you will find information, advice and resources.