



VBMX, the Vermont Business Material Exchange, is a web-based listing service to help businesses find and get rid of used materials. This online exchange <http://vbmex.net/> is funded through a grant from the Agency of Natural Resources as a service to reduce waste, reduce greenhouse gases, save energy, and conserve resources..

The Agency launched the VBMX in 1993 to support the waste management hierarchy of reduce, REUSE, recycle. Over the next five years, the VBMX manager mailed out four catalogues with materials listings each year. In 1998, it moved into the internet age.

Businesses list their reusable materials in 24 categories, including packaging, office supplies, construction and salvage, and restaurant equipment. Using the VBMX saves them money on disposal fees for their items or the cost to buy the item new. Here's a sample of some recent VBMX exchanges

- Kim Bent, Artistic Director for Lost Nation Theatre in Montpelier found tables, listed by Norwich University, for the lobby; a working copy machine from Vermont Community Land Trust, and a bolt of cloth from a company in Elmore.
- Mike Doran, maintenance manager with the Lake Champlain Waldorf School in Shelburne, found about 20 gallons of cleaning supplies and six phones that matched their phone system. He estimates that the phones would have cost the school about anywhere from \$100 to \$200 each. The cleaning supplies saved the school about \$300 in purchase costs and the donor avoided paying the disposal fees.

In these tight economic times, the VBMX supports Vermont's economy and helps protect its cherished environment. Check out the VBMX <http://vbmex.net/>