



# PLANET-SAVING SOLUTIONS FOR 2017



JOJO CARAMELLO

BY JOJO CARAMELLO

As professional organizers, my sister Debbie and I are committed to our client's success and the success of the planet. With every organizing job, we strive for zero landfill. When helping people to simplify and streamline their lives, we have found that most care deeply

about sustainability and conservation as well. In fact, a big part of why people are reluctant to let things go is that they don't want to "just throw things in the trash," and for good reason.

Being that January is officially "Get Organized Month," here's to out with the old in the hopes to renew! Below are a few of our favorite Planet Saving Solutions to help you let go of what you no longer need or want and how you can benefit your community and the planet simultaneously.

## CELL PHONES

Did you know that less than 20 percent of old cell phones are recycled? This means that over 80 percent end up cluttering drawers in our homes, or are thrown into the landfill and end up breaking down and leaching toxins into our land and water. Did you also know recycling old cell phones through conservation-based organizations like The Phoenix Zoo can help save the Congo? Columbite-tantalite – also known as "coltan" – is just one of many chemicals used in the manufacturing of electronics, and is mined in the Congo. Our demand for the latest and greatest gadgets is destroying the habitat of the already endangered lowland gorillas in the Congo. When you recycle old cell phones, the coltan from our old devices is extracted and recycled to use in new electronics. This, in turn, reduces the demand for new mining.

## CLOTHING AND SHOES

When old clothing, denim, linens, shoes and sneakers have outlived their usefulness, recycle them! Businesses like Phoenix Fibers and Goodwill have bins in parking lots and drop-off points all over the Valley. Did you know that old sneaker soles can be recycled into sport court and foam playground surfaces? Old denim can be recycled into home and automobile insulation, and many other fibers are recycled into new ones. Old t-shirts and linen can be cut and repurposed into cleaning rags. Never throw away linens, clothes or shoes because they have holes or stains on them. They can always be recycled and reused.

## CDS, DVDS, AND ACCESSORIES

Treasures4Teachers in Tempe is a great place to donate old CDs, DVDs, office supplies and odds and ends. On average, teachers spend \$500.00 per year out of their own pockets to ensure student success. Treasures4Teachers is a nonprofit organization that enables teachers and educators to shop (for little to no cost) at their amazing warehouse for the supplies they need all year round.

To avoid re cluttering in the New Year, find opportunities to volunteer your time or expertise in your community. There are homeless shelters, animal rescues, food pantries and more who need our help to make the world a better place.

May your 2017 be filled with joy and free of clutter! 📌

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Jojo Caramello is a Life Transforming Professional Organizer, speaker and founder of 2Sistaz Organizing. Originally from Boston, she has been a small business owner in Arizona since 2004. 2Sistaz Organizing is committed to environmental sustainability and strives for zero landfill with every organizing job by repurposing, recycling and donating excess to local charities. You can reach Jojo at 480-421-8363 or 2sistazorganizing@gmail.com.

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