



Home updates: Reuse opportunities

Plymouth Environmental Academy

November 16, 2021





Member-based network of reuse businesses, supporters, and advocates

Founded in 2012

Vision: A strong Minnesota reuse economy

- Leads the nation in well-paying reuse jobs and sales
- Is driven by citizens and institutions intentionally choosing to maximize use of what's already available
- Supports a circular economy
- Has documented environmental benefits

We promote Minnesota's resale, rental, and repair sector and highlight the benefits of reuse.

Reuse is NOT



Landfilling



Waste to Energy

Reuse is NOT



Recycling



Composting





Reuse – Using items and materials multiple times for their original purpose or “upcycling” into new items.

Often a fundamental shift in (mainstream) way of thinking that frequently requires an adjustment in behavior.

Intersection with waste prevention



Waste prevention includes all of the design, purchasing, and consumption changes *before* end-of-life management.

PREVENTION

- Source materials secondhand
- **Design for durability** and disassembly and repair to extend the product life
- Choosing to **repair** and maintain items in order to keep in use/circulation

DESIGN

USE

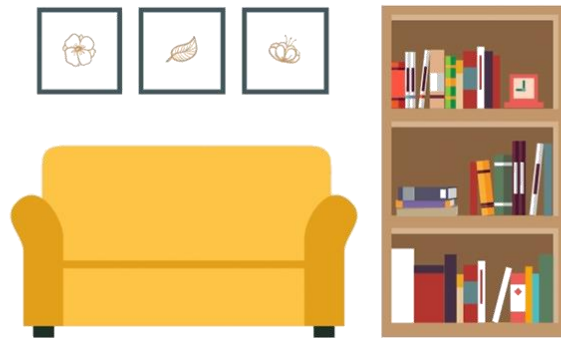


FASHION



Secondhand retail, clothing rental, tailoring, repair

FURNISHING



Secondhand or antique retail, repair, reupholstery

BUILDING



Salvaged material retail, deconstruction, preservation

ELECTRONICS



Refurbished retail, electronics rental, repair

Reuse is extending the life of a product that is already available.

Reuse starts with choices here



Not here



Once a new product is in your hand, it's too late to prevent waste.

Reuse in remodeling



- Purchase used materials
 - Flooring
 - Windows
 - Doors
 - Fixtures
- Restoration
- Deconstruction
 - Partial or whole structure
 - Apply for Hennepin County grants
- Whole house move
- Donate usable materials
- Donate unneeded equipment
- Borrow/rent equipment
- Ask a neighbor

Residential deconstruction



St. Louis Park: 5639 Minnetonka Blvd

Total reclaimed: 8.2 tons (4.2%)

- 2.88 tons dimensional lumber
- 1.38 wood flooring

Total recycled: 125.26 tons (63.9%)

Total landfilled: 61.52 tons



Commercial deconstruction



St. Louis Park: Westwood Hills Nature Center

Total reclaimed: 29.17 tons (7.5% of total)

- 10.6 tons laminated beams
- 8.6 tons knotty pine ceiling paneling
- 1.4 tons 2" polyisocyanurate (roof) insulation

Total recycled: 300.1 (77.15%)

Total reused (alternative daily cover): 25.61 (6.58%)

Total landfilled: 34.11 (8.77%)







Beams to benches: Several benches were constructed for use at the new facility.

Reuse in refurnishing



- Purchase used furniture and décor
- Repurpose building materials as décor
- Repair/refurbish furniture
 - Reupholster
 - Repair wood
 - Repaint/stain
- Rent artwork
- Donate usable items
- Join a Buy Nothing group





Minnesota examples



Building materials

- Take a home maintenance class with Rethos
- Visit Habitat Restore or Better Futures warehouse for used building materials
- Get a Tool Library membership to borrow tools

Furnishings/decor

- Purchase used household items
 - Habitat ReStore
 - Old School thrift store
 - Empty the Nest
 - Arc's Value Village
 - Facebook marketplace
- Donate items to Bridging or Habitat ReStore





Change can be hard...

ReUSE Minnesota is here to help!

Join us!



Membership – individuals, businesses, and organizations can join

Volunteer – ongoing opportunities and events including conference

Board – watch for nominations in fall

Participate and advocate

- Attend events
- Follow and support reuse legislation; encourage your community to adopt policy to promote reuse
- Tell your family and friends what changes you are making
- Follow us on social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter) @reUSEMN

QUESTIONS?

R E U S E

ReUSE: Upcycle Your Life



THANK YOU!

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