

Reclaim, Reuse, Repair

Better for your wallet,
and our world!



Community Forklift: thrift store for Home Improvement



Old materials are worth a lot!

We realized the value of “harvesting the urban forest” when we reclaimed wood flooring from old public housing in DC.



Benefits of Donating:

- Tax deduction
- Reduces dumpster and tipping fees
- LEED points
- Be a good corporate citizen = good P.R.!
- Your donations make repairs more affordable for low-income homeowners, small businesses, and nonprofits – and fixing up local buildings “lifts” the entire community and tax base.
- Supports artisans – we often lend or donate materials to theatre groups, sculptors, etc.

More benefits!

- Owners of old homes are able to find period hardware and materials. We make it easier to preserve existing historic structures.
- Keeps value of materials in the community – rather than paying to haul them away... then paying to extract virgin materials, to manufacture them, and to ship them around the world.
- Reduces waste
- Embodied energy – reclaiming materials drastically reduces the use of fossil fuels

Small projects...



Mosaic Floors

From Scattered Pieces To Unique Designs



Whole Buildings!

Chuck Witmer of Scale House Design designed & built this shed completely from reclaimed materials... and it won International Shed of the Year!



...After completing this shed, I now have a place to build furniture and my wife has a painting studio!"



Scott DeGraf & his wife Linda built a one room cottage in WV out of natural and recycled materials. It has a living roof, locust posts, and cordwood and strawbale walls. Most of the reclaimed material is from CF, including the doors, windows, lumber, insulation, woodstove, and stove pipe.





Improving housing stock & property tax values



Creating work for local tradespeople



A 17-piece cherry cabinet set – you wouldn't believe how nice these donated kitchens can be!

James Ferguson bought a piece of granite to create a kitchen island. The cost of the finished granite, including fabrication, was less than \$100 (Irwin Aguilar fabricated the granite).





**Serving as an
anchor store” for
a green shopping
district...**

Marcus Sims of
Treeincarnation
consigns his reclaimed
wood at Community
Forklift.

Artisans

Mark Z uses old trim for beautiful “vintage” signs



**Benefits to
small businesses
& nonprofit groups**



We got a huge, 15-tier **chandelier**, which is now being used in a café.

We got dozens of **church pews** –
The Capitol Fringe Festival
now uses them for seating.



What to do with non-residential stuff, or large amounts of stuff?

- www.BuildersRecyclingGuide.com – FANTASTIC guide! It is a yellow pages for reuse; basically, it tells you where to take what
- www.GreenRecyclingNetwork.com - a private company that specializes in the deconstruction of entire commercial buildings and interiors (cost is competitive to traditional demolition)
- www.RMBrokerage.com – a company that recycles carpets and ceiling tiles...and also helps you figure out where to take everything else. “One call for all your waste.”
- C&D waste recycling companies are popping up – they sort through your dumpsters. Two examples: Environmental Alternatives Incorporated (EAI) and Ace Waste.
- www.Freecycle.org
- The free section of www.Craigslist.org
- DC Materials Exchange for Nonprofits – contact me at Ruthie@CommunityForklift.com or 301-985-5180 or go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DCMaterialsExchange/>