

## Summarizing discussions at the Green Fund workshop series (1)

### What Starts Here Changes C&D Waste Management: Advancing Waste Diversion Practices with CPE

Date: 2/26/2026

#### **Barriers to adopting commercial C&D waste diversion**

1. Physically limited storage
2. Cost to reuse: transportation, storage, handling, coordination
3. Limited time: limited time to connect potential customers, coordinate, and relocate reusable items
4. Lack of incentives
5. Lack of reuse-related information/constraints to the next NC project's stakeholders from the early stage
6. Psychological and cultural aspects of reusing building materials and components

#### **Strategies to facilitate commercial C&D waste diversion**

1. **Proactive coordination/reach-out**
  - a. Reach out to potential customers earlier, potentially through a more user-friendly platform (e.g., COA Rheaply)
  - b. Develop an (AI-assisted) inventory to get a wish list from potential customers in advance, and coordinate the salvaging schedule
  - c. Actively share the list of demolition and NC projects on campus with all stakeholders from the planning stage
  - d. Provide as-built drawings and/or audit info to engineers and architects earlier to brainstorm reuse ideas more creatively
2. **Rebranding reused items**
  - a. Instill UT memories to support item sales (e.g., UT football players' locker gained a lot of attention, Inscribe names)
  - b. Reach out to local artists to create art crafts/accessories from salvaged materials
  - c. Change the culture of reusing building materials and components from old, outdated to a pro-vintage culture, like in fashion
3. **Funding/Workforce development**
  - a. Training abatement workers for reuse
  - b. Use readily available subsidies, such as for COA historic preservation and Texas energy saving, to support funding
4. **Reluctant to start reuse on a large scale from the beginning**

- a. Devote a small area to construct with reused items (e.g., bricks, doors) to remember the CPE and people who used the building

**5. Asking for the campus leadership and policymakers' involvements**

- a. Share reuse expectations with the architects of the next NC building from the bidding stage
- b. Promote the design of materials and new buildings for reuse to all NC and demolition projects
- c. Rethink reuse-related regulations from strictly prohibiting any creative work to minimum guidelines