

How to Stretch a Landfill

Meeting ACC's Waste Reduction Goals through Creative Reuse

ACC Solid Waste Department
Waste Reduction
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Leveraging Existing Resources

- ▶ This project is contingent on approval of #49, moving the Recovered Material Processing Facility (RMPF) from 699 Hancock Industrial Way to the ACC Landfill at 5700 Lexington Road
- ▶ Existing, popular projects would move to 699 Hancock - CHaRM, Teacher Reuse Store (TRS) and ToolShed are all currently located at 1005 College Ave
- ▶ This project would add a Creative Reuse program to 'rescue' usable material from disposal
- ▶ Staff to determine materials for Teacher Reuse Store vs. Creative Reuse program

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Why Move?

- ▶ 1005 College Avenue site currently housing CHaRM, TRS and ToolShed may be sold for private development
- ▶ CHaRM, TRS, ToolShed and Creative Reuse are better neighbors for the expanded Bulldog Park than the existing recyclables processing facility.
- ▶ College Avenue site lacks sheltered room for Creative Reuse programming beyond TRS

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Creative Reuse: *the process of transforming by-products or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality.*
(AKA Upcycling.)

- ▶ Staff regularly sees material that can be reused in some capacity
- ▶ Diverting this material will help the Department achieve the ACC Waste Reduction Goals, and support area non-profits and small businesses. The program will not compete with existing reuse infrastructure.
- ▶ Creative Reuse will replace and expand the defunct Trash to Treasures auction that benefitted Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful
- ▶ New Corrections position at Landfill allows better use of inmate labor to maximize material diversion from existing Material Recovery Facility, allowing this facility to reach its potential
- ▶ Project is consistent with Department's shift from resource-intensive single-day events to jointly housed ongoing programs
- ▶ Many items worthy of reuse are problematic for landfill operations (mattresses, furniture, electrical cords, hoses)
- ▶ Other Communities with similar demographics have thriving reuse programs

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There is Potential Now

"Man, I can't believe someone got rid of this thing - it's in perfect condition!"

We need a space

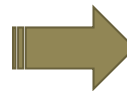


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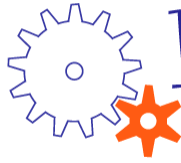
Repair and Reuse as Waste Reduction

- Staff routinely sees material with reuse potential - in pickup trucks at landfill, recycling drop-off sites. Also apartment move in-move out, bulky waste amnesty days and 'spring cleaning' generate usable material
- Volunteer-staffed 'Repair Cafés' are popular
- Staff uses volunteers to organize Teacher Reuse Store and sort materials
- Supports local non-profits (Project Safe)
- Staff will recover operational costs by leasing space and/or selling refurbished/created items, similar to other regional models
- Program would fill a void left by UGA's Material Reuse Program



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Toss it? No way!



Repair Café

- Reuse projects are flourishing in places like Atlanta and Raleigh-Durham NC
- Projects range from simple to complex
- Etsy, Goodwill



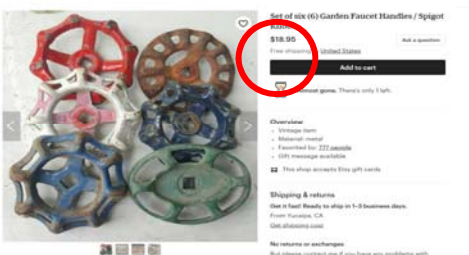
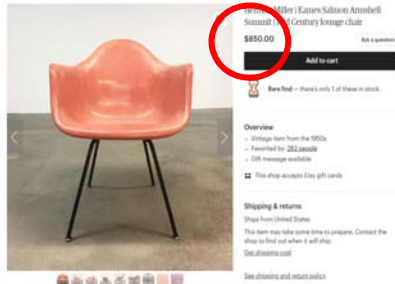
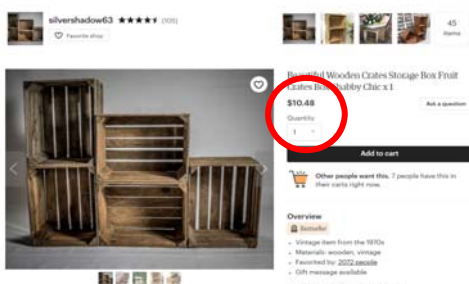
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Creative Reuse in Portland, Oregon



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Much of society has moved from 'seconds' to 'retro'



Blouse: Banana Republic \$5.99.
 Skirt: Ann Taylor \$5.99
 Shoes: Sam Edelman slingbacks \$6.00!
 Accessories: Pearl strand bracelets \$0.99 each.
Total Cost: \$19.96
 - From Goodwill Fashionista blog

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Logistics

- ▶ Department staff moved CHaRM operations to current location with minimal assistance
- ▶ The large, open area of the recycling processing facility is well - suited for CHaRM and TRS operations.
- ▶ The climate-controlled administrative portions (offices, classroom, breakroom) will work well for classes, workshops and group activities

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Questions?

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