

Reuse Economics

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Construction Junction (CJ)

Promoting Conservation through the Reuse of Building Materials

Pittsburgh's 1st nonprofit reuse retailer

20 years of operation

Launched in Partnership:

Pennsylvania Resources Council

Conservation Consultants

PGH Green Building Alliance



Core Programs

Diversion of Used & Surplus Building Materials

Public Retail Sales

Reuse & Recycling Partnerships

Project RE_

Job Training Partnership

Steel City Big Pour





The Store is the Reuse Engine

CJ 2019 Impacts

Sold **1,854,573 million dollars** in material and received **1.8 million dollars** in value of donated material.

20% deconstruction, **38%** free pick up **42%** drop off

Employment fluctuates between **27 and 32** people

49,928 customer transactions

Over **7,000** donation receipts

20,265 paid hours of training/work experience for Goodwill clients with disabilities.

Since **1999** we have diverted for reuse:

61,808 Cabinets

66,246 Plumbing Fixtures

75,750 Doors

128,992 Lighting items

And this does not include the **100,000's** of pieces of lumber and hardware

Operating Revenue

Sales cover 82% of total operating budget

Big Pour and Grants cover 18%

CJ receives no government funding

Since 2008: \$2,375,000 in grant funding

Project RE_

Reuse Retail

Deconstruction Job Training

Goodwill Job Training

Since 2007: Big Pour net is \$1.6 million

Why shop?

40% Product Selection

26% Price

22% Non-profit mission

Deconstruction @ CJ

Launched in 2004, the operation has averaged 3 crew members and has done predominantly salvage. Material pays for labor. Jobs are residential, schools, and hospitals. Adds unique materials to inventory. **Last 5 years: \$1,077,823 of value**



Deconstruction Workforce Development



South Hilltop Group

1,400 hours
employment/trainin
g in 2019.

17 men served by
program

7 men found full
time employment
outside the program

Wages supported by
grant funding



Economic Conditions

- City has lost population (600,000 to 330,000 last 50 years)
- Large backlog of condemned housing stock
- City of Pittsburgh is the driver of residential demolition in PGH
- **Access** to salvage properties before demolition is limited
- City funded demolition is awarded to low bidder
- Landfill is less than \$50/ton
- No ordinances in place to divert useable building materials or require deconstruction

Project RE_



“reuse materials, rebuild communities, restore lives”



The Program:

Project RE is a 10,000 square foot production facility (wood and welding shop) within Construction Junction in which architecture students within the UDBS work with the reclaimed materials and job skill training programs on community construction projects. We are also exploring partnerships with local makers to create value added product from CJ inventory





