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Green living: Reuse, recycle, reduce waste with ReSource

BY KELLIE FALBO • GREEN LIVING • OCTOBER 27, 2009

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Construction and demolition waste currently take up 25 percent to 30 percent of area landfill space.

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Every individual effort helps. ReSource is one way for you to help decrease this throw-away factor. ReSource accepts donations of reusable building materials and then resells these reclaimed materials for home projects at 50 percent to 90 percent below retail cost.

Using recycled materials like those found at ReSource encourages more materials to be recycled instead of discarded. Everything at ReSource is donated by homeowners, businesses, contractors or deconstruction experts. ReSource is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit so your donations are tax-deductible.

ReSource accepts cabinets, solid core doors, lumber and timbers, plumbing fixtures, sinks, bathtubs, landscaping materials, fencing, wood stoves, trim, shutters, roofing materials and much more, based on staff approval.

ReSource can also help with deconstruction, which is the systematic dismantling of part or all of a building. Instead of the entire structure going to a landfill, reusable and recyclable materials are removed first. In addition to significantly reducing waste, if you donate the salvaged materials to a non-profit like ReSource, your tax deduction can offset the cost of deconstruction, making the process comparable to the cost of demolition.

Deconstruction has vast environmental, economic and social benefits such as saving natural resources, reducing our carbon footprint, supporting a local economy and building

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community.

Volunteers create the foundation for ReSource. Volunteer opportunities range from yard cleanup and materials processing to deconstruction and event planning.

ReSource welcomes student interns who are motivated, independent, hard workers and want to learn how a well-established nonprofit organization works.

Depending on needs for the specific time of year and the individual's goals and interests, interns can work as event planners, deconstruction assistants, marketing researchers, sales staff and more. Internships are typically done in exchange for college credit. Paid opportunities may arise when specific program funding becomes available.

Kellie Falbo is the executive director of the Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Association. She can be reached at (970) 224-3247 or send e-mail to kellie@sustainablelivingassociation.org.

1 | 2 Next Page 

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