

Salvage and Recycling Capitol Hill Station

Salvage and recycling have been a very important part of Sound Transit's work at the Capitol Hill Station site. As part of Sound Transit's sustainability goals and to reduce the amount of waste during demolition activities, Sound Transit and its contractors have taken many steps to salvage and recycle as many existing building materials as possible prior to and during demolition. Here is a summary of the salvage and recycling activities at the site to date.

Pre-Demolition Salvage

In the summer and fall of 2008, prior to the start of demolition activities, Sound Transit contracted through the City of Seattle with a network of local salvage companies to salvage from the vacant buildings materials such as doors, fixtures, lighting, and appliances that could be reused. A large amount of materials that otherwise would have been taken to landfills was removed for re-use. Among some of the items salvaged were:

- 224 doors
- 180 cabinets
- 18 restaurant booths
- 50 light fixtures
- 29 ranges
- 31 refrigerators
- 13 claw foot tubs
- 21 sinks and toilets
- 60 radiator fins
- 121 ft. wrought iron railing
- 90 ft. wood railing
- Hundreds of feet of trim and molding
- 3500 sq. ft. fir flooring
- 500 sq. ft. tin ceiling panels

Sound Transit also contracted with a house moving company to make several of the houses and buildings on site available for purchase and removal. Unfortunately, the contractor received no potential buyers for the available buildings.

Finally, Sound Transit hosted a community plant salvage event at the Capitol Hill site in August 2008 for neighbors to remove any plants and small trees at the site to replant at their homes. About two dozen shrubs and small plants were relocated in this manner.

Preparation for Demolition

Sound Transit wanted to make sure that the demolition contractor would also take salvage and recycling seriously. To that end, Sound Transit set a contract goal that 75 percent of the on-site material (bricks, wood, etc.) would be salvaged, reused or recycled by the demolition contractor, rather than sent to a landfill.

Demolition Contract

Sound Transit has been fortunate that the Capitol Hill demolition contractor, NRC Environmental, has also embraced the recycling and salvage goals to go above and beyond the requirements of their contract. NRC Environmental has worked hard to ensure that as many materials from the buildings and site are recycled or salvaged and

believes they will exceed the 75 percent recycling/salvage goal by contract end. Some examples of the NRC Environmental's recycling activities to date are listed below:

- The contractor is recycling bricks, wood, metal and other building materials. As of April 15, 2009, the contractor has recycled 1,450 tons of materials. This number will increase considerably when the contractor begins removing and recycling surface asphalt.
- Construction demolition land clearing debris is sent to Pacific Topsoils for recycling. Pacific Topsoils has a 95% recycling rate and makes various landscape materials out of the site debris.
- The contractor has been working with tree transplant companies and individuals who may be able to transplant some of the trees on site. To date, two trees have been removed and donated to a local church for replanting.
- The contractor will be donating tree stumps and root balls of some of the trees that are too large to be transplanted for use in salmon habitat restoration projects in the Puget Sound region.
- On a case by case basis, the demolition contractor has also been providing select items to neighbors and residents who have requested them. Some of these items include building columns, landscape fencing, and windows.

Sound Transit is making recycling and salvage at the Capitol Hill site a top priority and will continue to work on recycling efforts at other future construction sites.

Staying informed

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Sound Transit's maintains a toll-free Construction Hotline available 24-hours-a-day at **1-888-298-2395** to report urgent construction related issues.

For questions about activities related to Sound Transit's University Link light rail construction, please contact Community Outreach Specialist Jeff Munnoch, 206-398-5131 or jeff.munnoch@soundtransit.org.