



Reuse and Waste Reduction Systems in Colorado: Kickoff Activity

Presented by Ryan Call, Eco-Cycle



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Our mission:

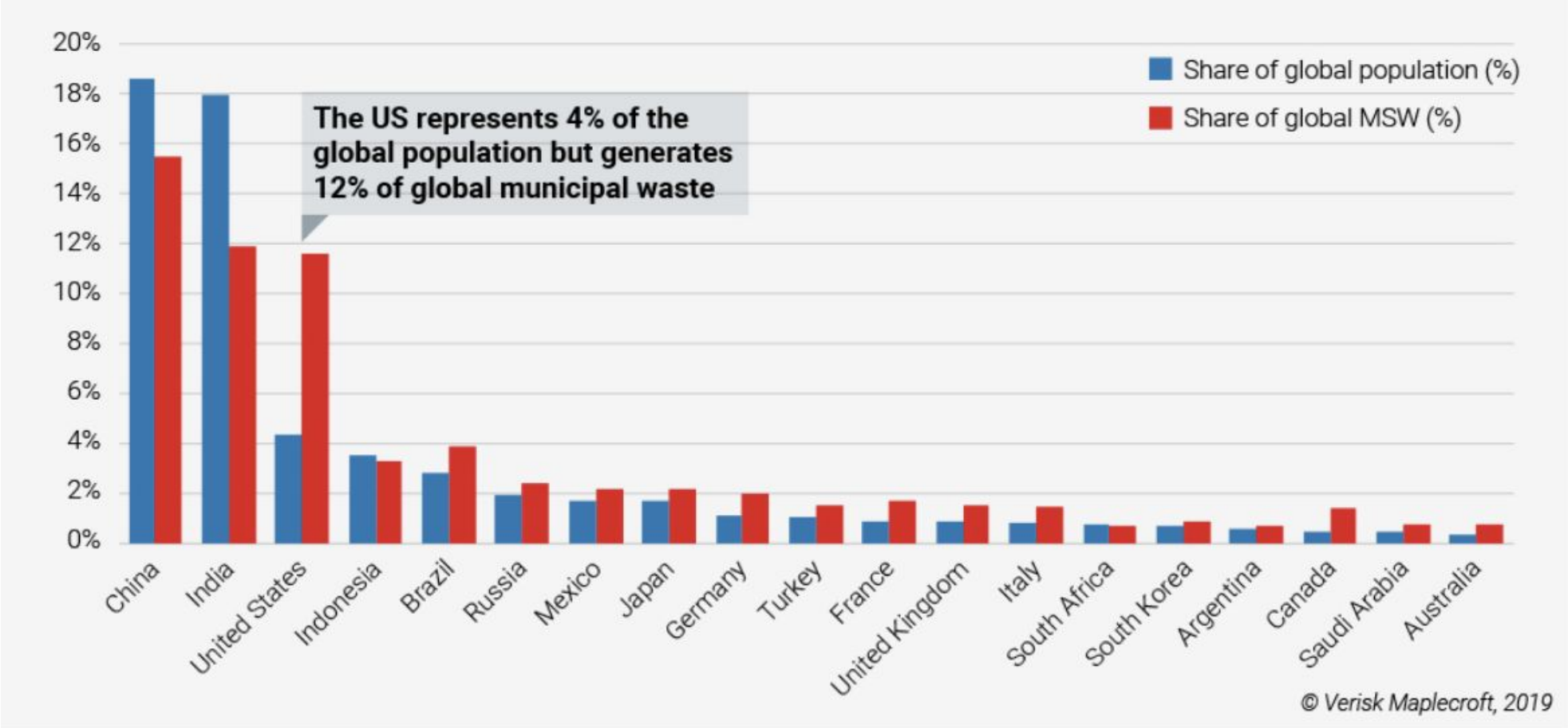
Innovate, implement, and advocate for local and global Zero Waste solutions to foster a more regenerative, equitable, and climate-resilient future.

Waste reduction is underappreciated

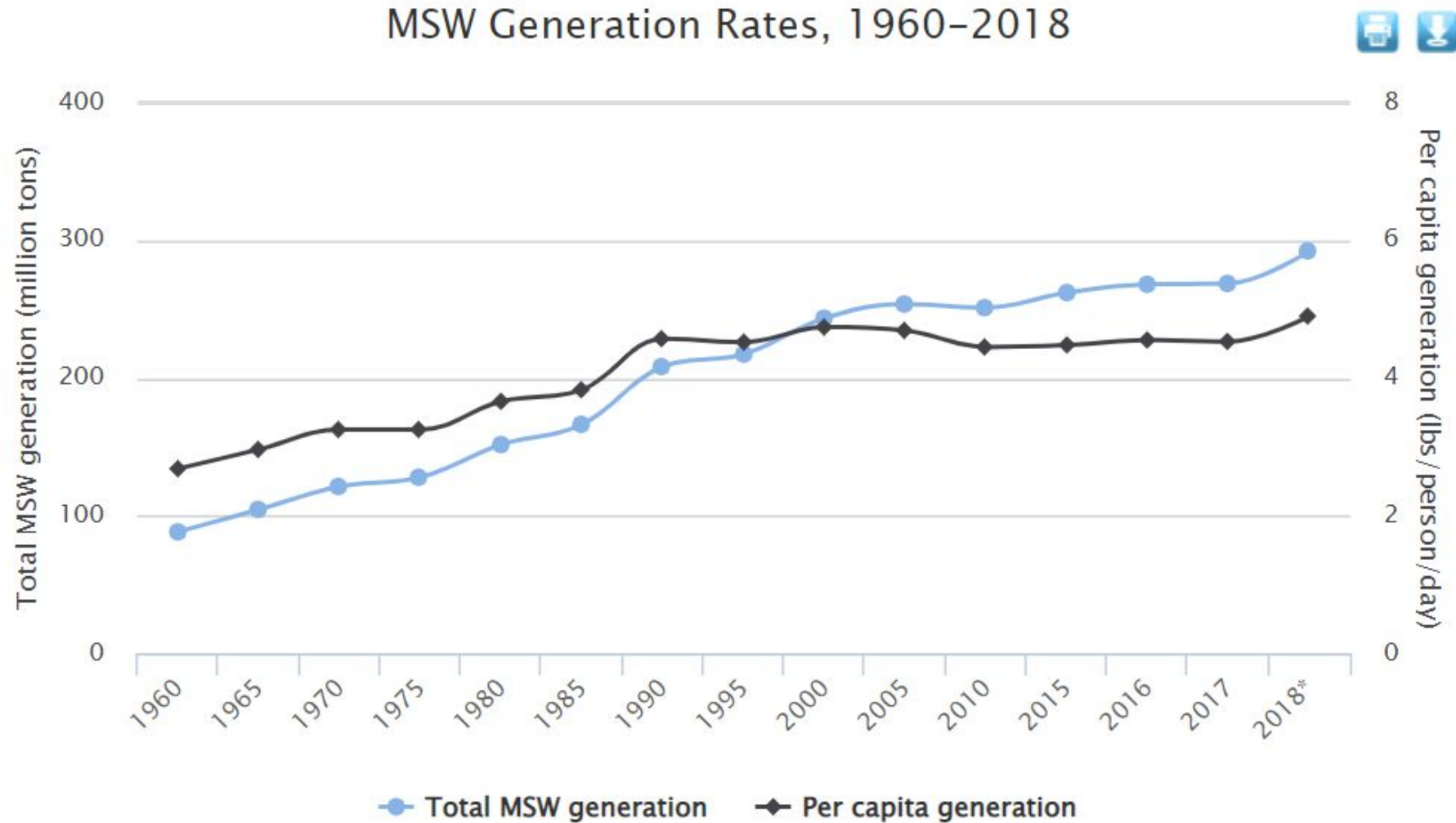
- Reduce, reuse, *then* recycle! The best way to manage waste is to make less of it.
- “Our goal is to ensure more than 50% of Colorado’s current waste stream is diverted to **reuse**/remanufacturing or compost by advancing infrastructure, end markets and policies in **waste reduction**, recovery and diversion.” - Recycle Colorado
- Coloradans generate, on average, **6.3 pounds** of municipal solid waste per person, per day. (Source: CDPHE)

Global Population vs. Share of MSW generation

(Source: Verisk Maplecroft, 2019)

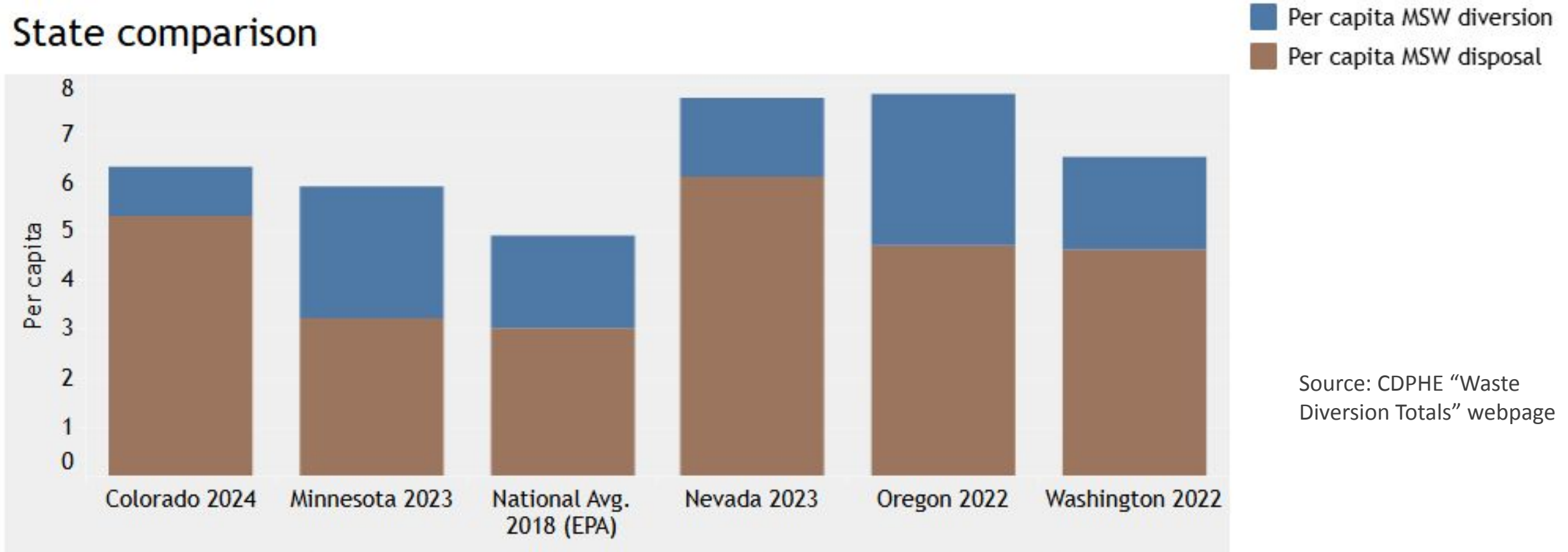


National Average [\(Source: EPA\)](#)



Waste generation per capita - State comparison

State comparison



Source: CDPHE "Waste Diversion Totals" webpage

Per capita MSW diversion and Per capita MSW disposal for each State. Color shows details about Per capita MSW diversion and Per capita MSW disposal. Measurements in pounds.

Waste generation per capita - State comparison

State	Per capita MSW diversion	Per capita MSW disposal	Per capita MSW generation	Population
Colorado 2024	1.0	5.3	6.3	5,957,493
Minnesota 2023	2.7	3.2	5.9	5,800,306
National Avg. 2018 (EPA)	1.9	3.0	4.9	327,200,000
Nevada 2023	1.6	6.1	7.7	3,214,636
Oregon 2022	3.1	4.7	7.8	4,281,851
Washington 2022	1.9	4.6	6.5	7,864,400

The data shows that Colorado residents generate municipal solid waste at rates similar to residents in other states. However, Colorado residents recycle less material, at 1.1 pounds per person per day, compared to residents of other states.

Topics in reuse and waste reduction

- Reuse and waste reduction in EPR
- Waste reduction in the food service ware sector
- Reuse in the construction and demolition sector
 - *Reclaimed lumber, deconstruction*
- Thrift and second hand economy
- Materials reduction ordinances and goals
 - *Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, Skip the Stuff*
- Consumer-facing refill retail stores
- Repair clinics
- Food waste reduction and rescue

“...MINIMIZE WASTE and to INCREASE REUSE and recycling of products and packaging.”

— *HB22-1355 (EPR law) Legislative Declaration* —



Through a Producer Responsibility policy for containers, packaging, and printed paper, Colorado can:

INCREASE RECYCLING, REDUCE UNNECESARY PACKAGING, & STRENGTHEN SUPPLY CHAINS

US Plastic Pact Problematic and Unnecessary Materials List

- Materials to be eliminated by 2025*
 - Cutlery
 - Intentionally added PFAS
 - Non-detectable pigments, carbon black
 - Opaque or pigmented PET bottles
 - Oxo-degradable additives
 - PETG - Polyethylene Terephthalate Glycol
 - PS - Polystyrene
 - Problematic label constructions
 - PVC - polyvinyl chloride
 - Stirrers
 - Straws

Kickoff Activity: Future Headlines

- Introduce yourself to your table.
 - What interests you about reuse and waste reduction?
- **Collaborate to create a “future headline!”**
 - What do you hope to see Colorado achieve regarding reuse and waste reduction?
 - *When* is this headline set?
- Present your future headline.
 - Decide who at your table will present to the larger audience.

Join Eco-Cycle's Colorado Reuse Leaders network!

- Collaborate on Colorado-specific reuse and waste reduction topics and connect with others interested in this field.
- Upcoming “show and tell” activity.
- Sign up at ecocycle.org/reuse-leaders
- Email me (ryan@ecocycle.org) for recordings and notes



Thank you for your time and attention!

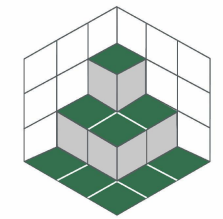
Contact: ryan@ecocycle.org

Website: ecocycle.org

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WOOD REUSE

WHO WE ARE



130+

Total Staff

70+

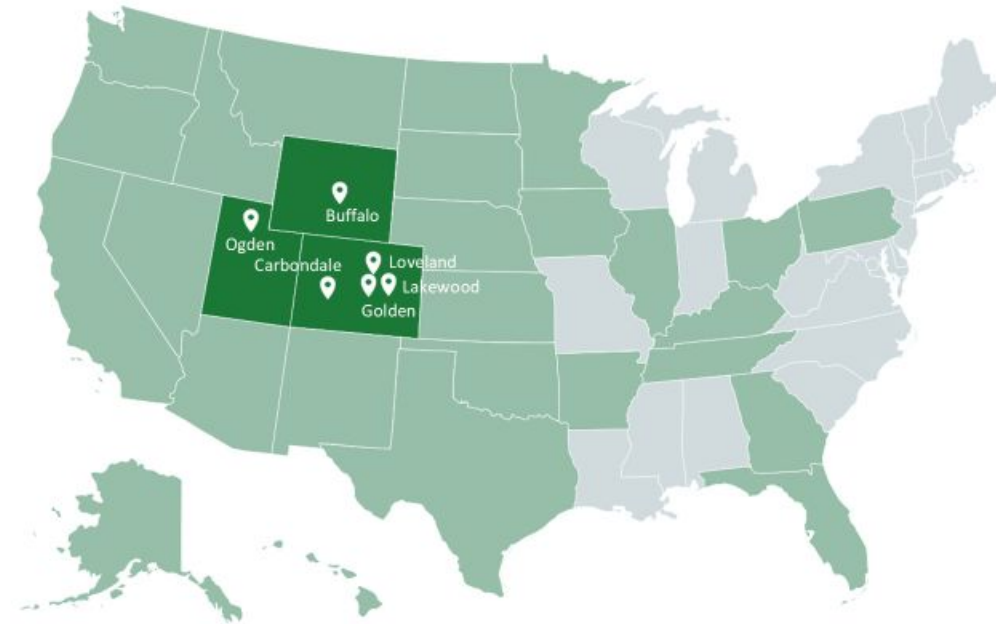
Licensed
Engineers

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Offices

31

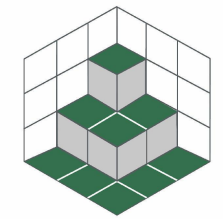
Years in
business



SERVICES

- Structural Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Embodied Carbon Consulting
- Steel Detailing
- Steel Construction Management
- Mass Timber Construction Management

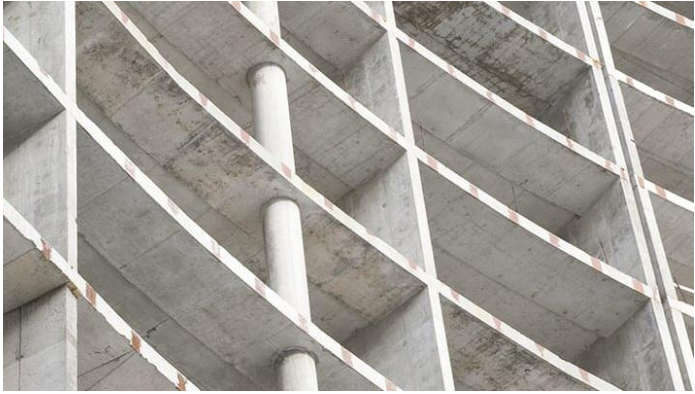
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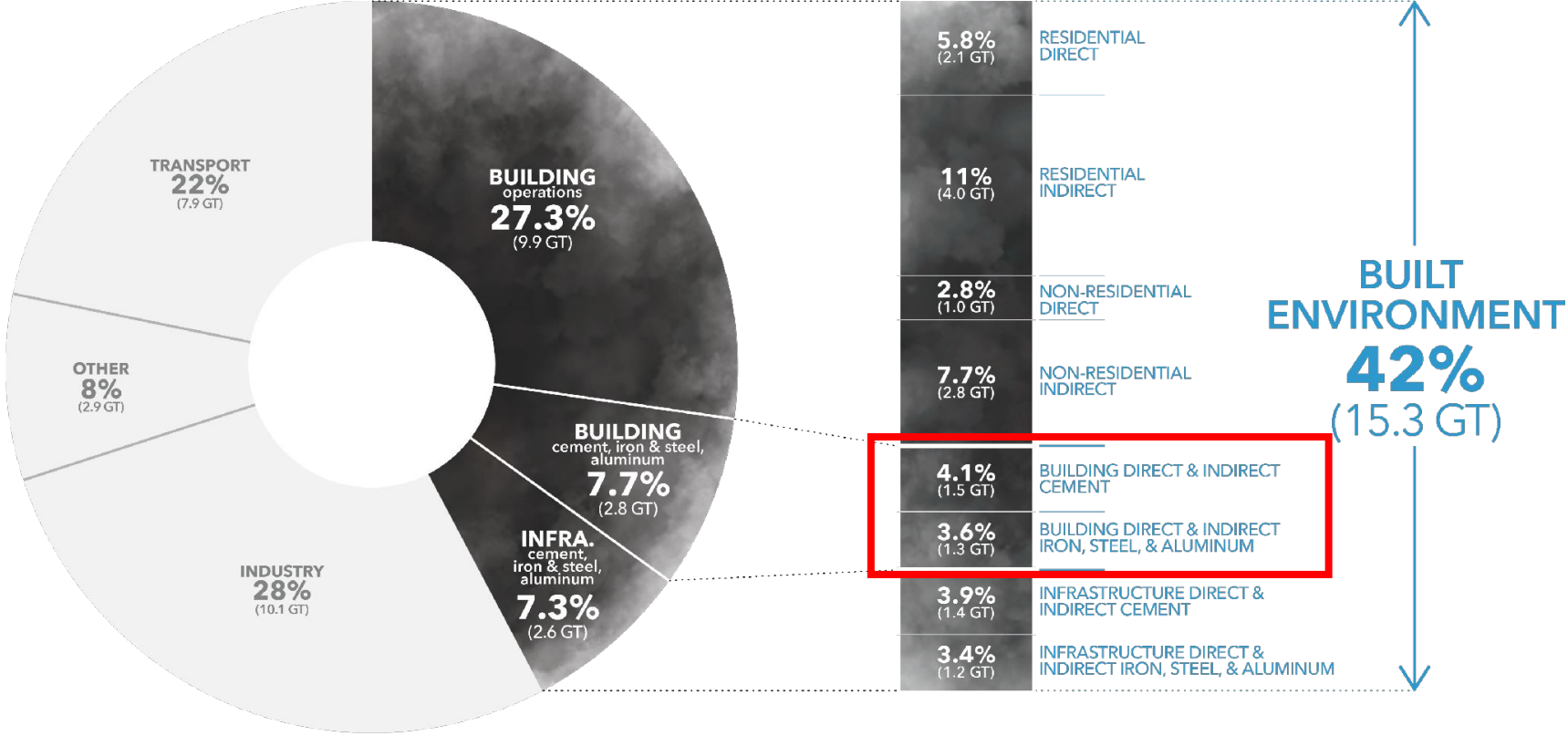
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EMBODIED CARBON

EMBODIED CARBON INDUSTRY OVERVIEW



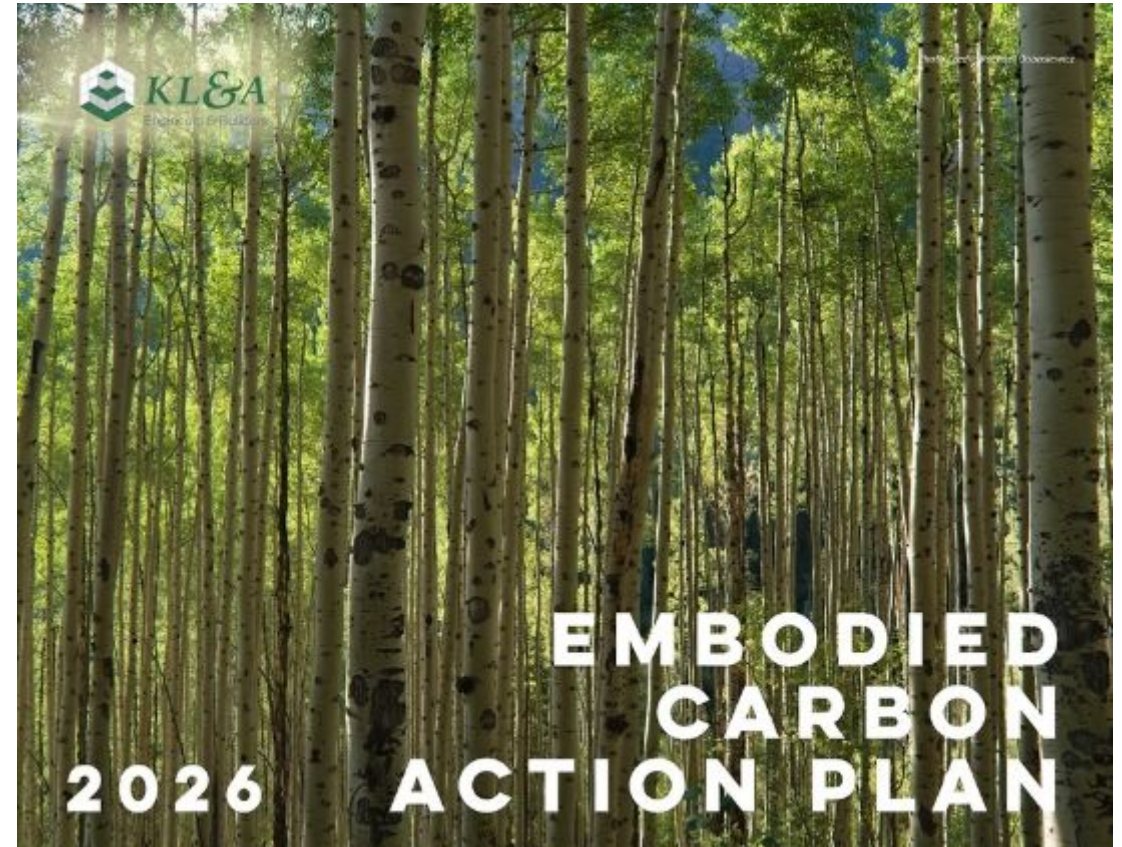
TOTAL ANNUAL GLOBAL CO₂ EMISSIONS Direct & Indirect Energy & Process Emissions (36.3 GT)



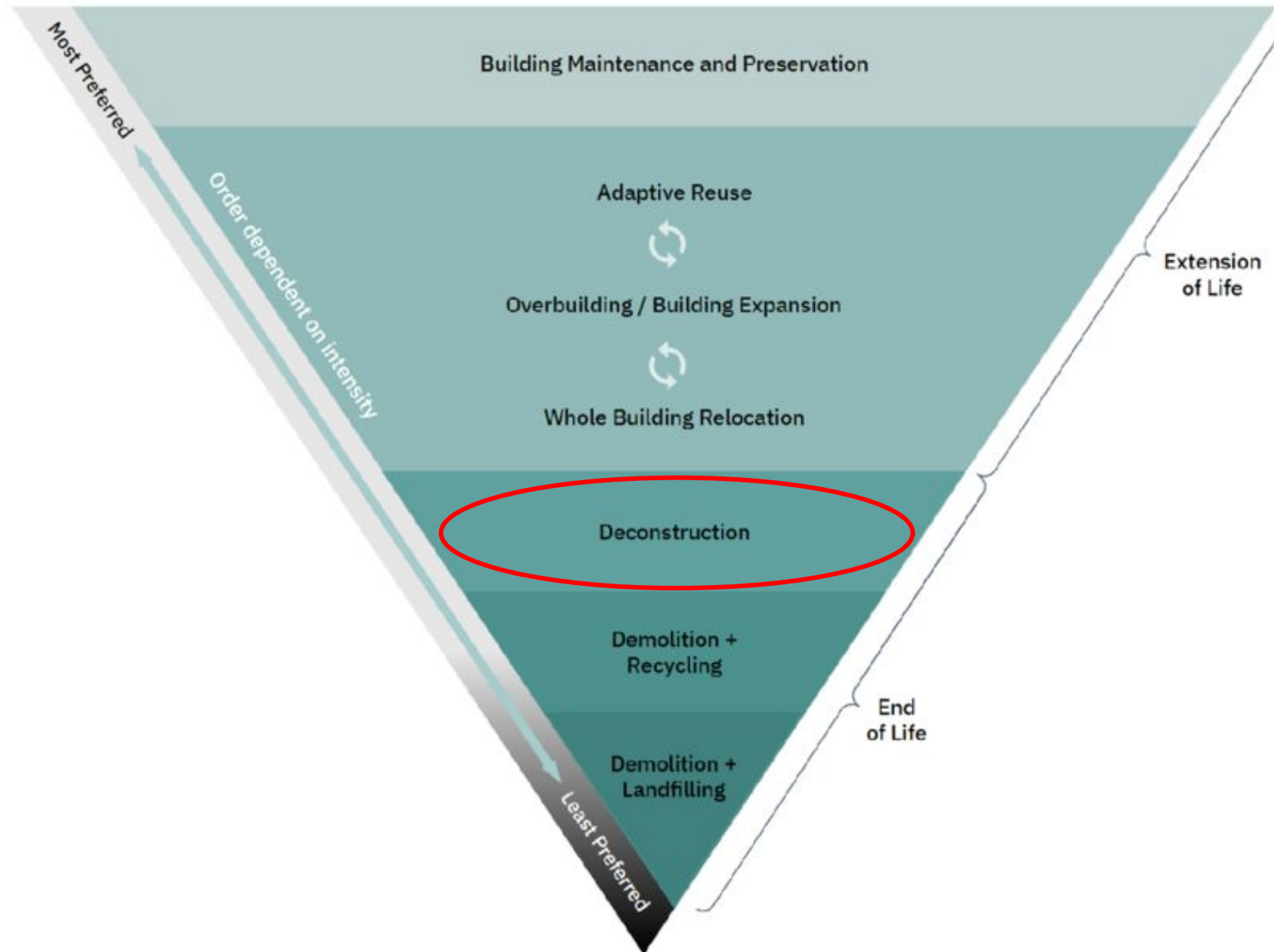
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Analysis & Aggregation by Architecture 2030 using data sources from IEA & Statista.

10 STRATEGIES TO REDUCE EMBODIED CARBON

1. Start Now
2. Big Rocks First
3. Innovate
- 4. Reuse Buildings & Components**
5. More Biogenic Materials
6. Less Cement
7. Long Life, Loose Fit
8. Cost Matters
9. Market Evolution & Incentives
10. Open-Source Effort



REUSE



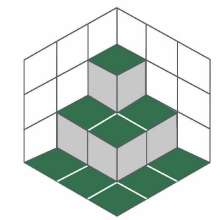
DESIGN FOR DISASSEMBLY

Simplified connections!



Panelized systems!

Photo by Joel Vodell on Unsplash



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REUSE PROJECTS

COMPONENT REUSE - 2004



16TH Street Pedestrian Bridge

MATERIAL REUSE - 2010



National Renewable Energy Lab

DECON, SALVAGE, AND REUSE – 2020-2026



Boulder Community Hospital (Deconstruction)

Site and Building Owner	City of Boulder
General Contractor	Ameresco Inc.
Deconstruction Contractor	Colorado Cleanup Corporation
Steel Stockpile Owner	City of Boulder
Steel Decon & Stockpile Manager	KL&A Engineers & Builders - Team Carbon



Boulder Fire Station 3 (New Construction)

Owner	City of Boulder
General Contractor	Mark Young Construction
AOR	Davis Partnership
EOR	KL&A Engineers & Builders
Steel Fabricator	Full Metal Iron

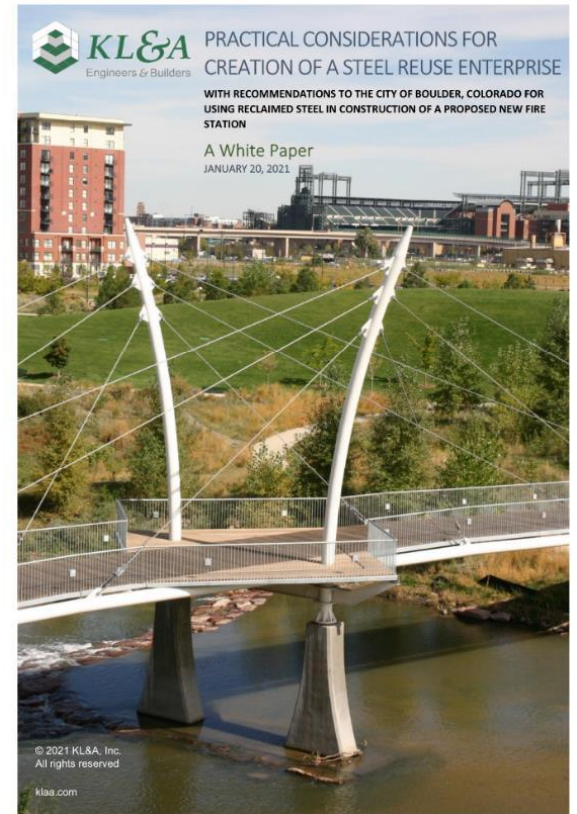
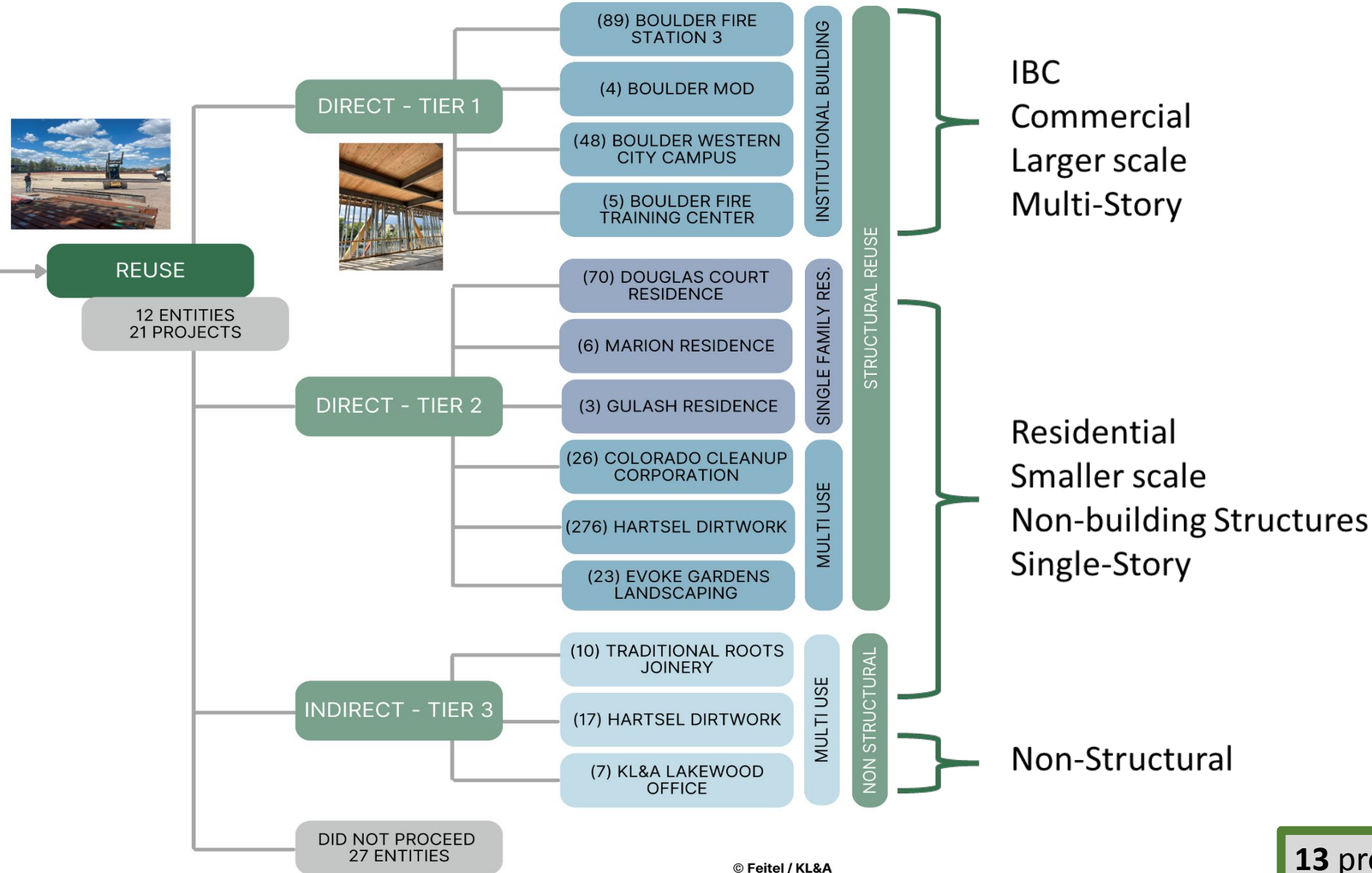


Boulder Western City Campus (Redevelopment)

Owner	City of Boulder
General Contractor	Saunders
AOR	ZGF
EOR	Anthem
Steel and Timber Subcontractor	KL&A Engineers & Builders

Boulder Community Hospital

DECON, SALVAGE, AND REUSE



13 projects reused steel
40 projects interacted in total

DECON, SALVAGE, AND REUSE

Goal (Boulder ordinance):

75% landfill diversion (by weight)

Achieved:

~**93%** diversion for entire building (including interiors)

~**98%** diversion for core and shell

Salvaged structural steel:

- **584 pieces, 161 tons** of steel recovered
- **< 30 (5%)** pieces lost to damage
- **167,300 kgco₂eq** saved = **39 cars** on the road for 1 year
- **100%** of the undamaged steel was reused

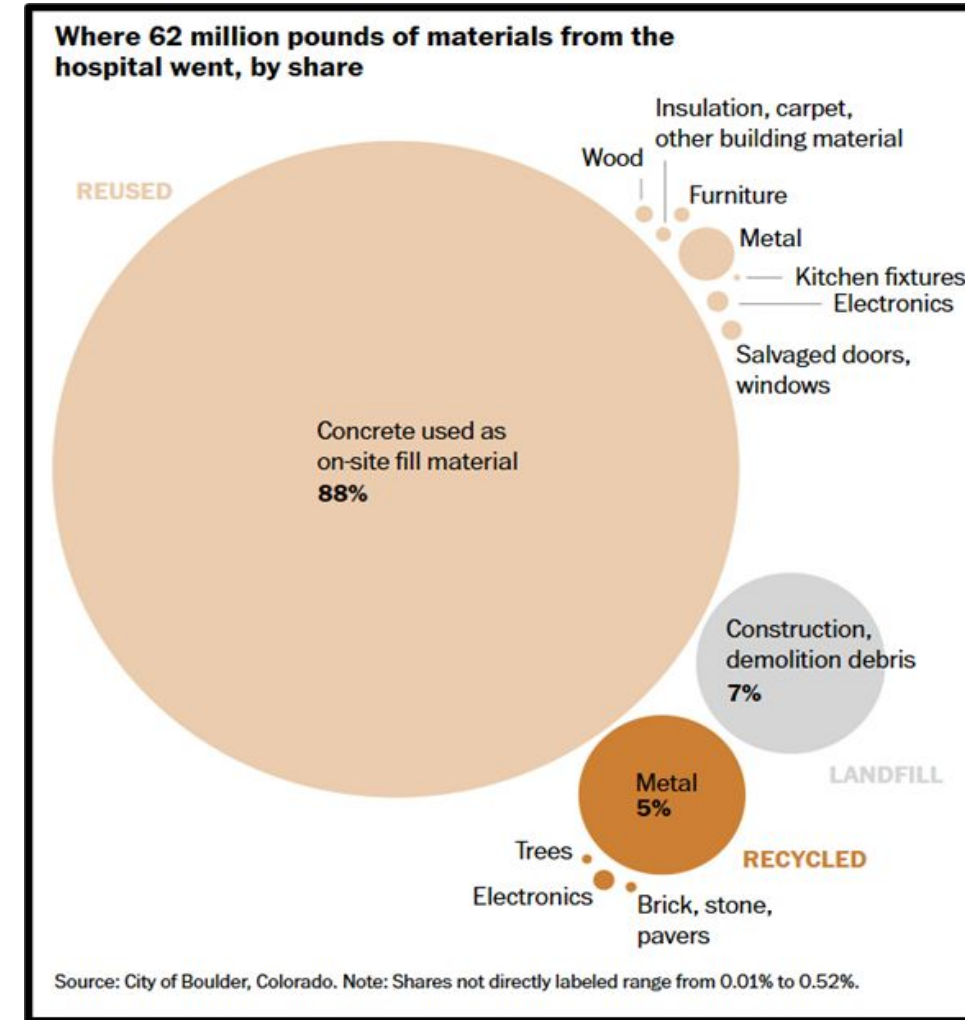
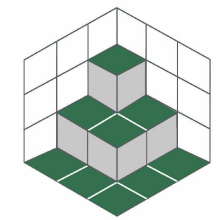


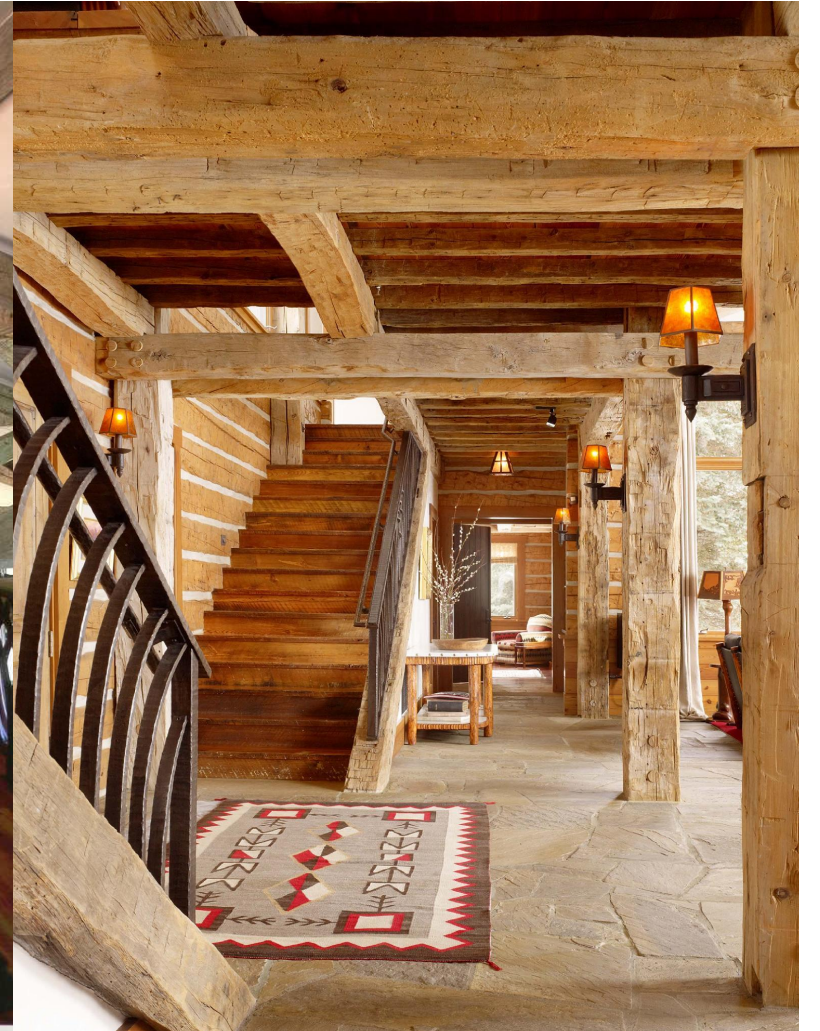
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WOOD REUSE EXAMPLES

JACKSON, WY PRIVATE RESIDENCE- 1996



JACKSON, WY PRIVATE RESIDENCE- 1996



Piece#	BeamDes	Species	Grade	LoadData				TEST DATA										Design Values					Properties			Required			Demand/Capacity			Steel?			
				L	W	Lr	Ureq	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test	Test		Test	Test	Test
	C3	Pine		240	115	115	22.0	7.0	###	129	0.31	0.34	###	1.06	1551	1259	43	1.00	1551	1445.94	65	102	1457.5	###	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND				
	C4	Pine		240	###	###	22.0	7.0	###	1.10	0.25	0.27	###	0.91	1351	1021	38	1.00	1351	1050.00	65	150	1953.1	313	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND				
	C4 BOT CHOI	Pine		240	###	###	11.0	22.0	7.0	###	0.96	0.22	0.22	###	0.83	1832	1111	36	1.00	###	1050.00	65	176	1164.6	212	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND			
	C4 TOP CHOI	Beech		240	8.0	###	22.0	7.0	###	1.01	0.20	0.32	0.1019	0.85	2006	1134	34	1.00	###	1650.00	60	80	666.67	133	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND				
	C5 TOP CHOI	Pine		16	711	240	###	11.0	14.8	3.0	###	0.52	0.25	0.25	###	0.31	1466	678	52	1.00	###	1050.00	65	110	1109.2	###	131	894	260	1.19	0.81	1.29	YES	Sr	
	C5 BOT CHOI	Dak		240	CRACKED																														
	C6	Pine		240	11.0	11.5	13.7	7.0	###	1.00	0.42	0.28	###	0.69	512	1109	38	1.00	512	1008.87	65	127	1394.1	###	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	ND				
23	FB1-1	Beech	Decay	15	711	240	9.5	11.0	15.6	5.0	###	0.35	0.09	0.15	###	0.27	2198	877	40	1.00	###	1650.00	90	105	1053.7	192	89	491	145	0.85	0.47	0.76	ND		
26	FB1-2	Dak	Decay	15	711	240	3.8	###	15.6	5.0	###	0.44	0.14	0.16	###	0.35	1822	895	40	1.00	###	1350.00	80	105	1009.4	188	100	533	178	0.95	0.53	0.95	ND		
90	FB11-1	Beech		15	323	240	9.3	9.8	13.5	3.5	###	0.54	0.17	0.30	###	0.37	1716	932	60	1.00	1716	1650.00	90	90	714.45	147	40	286	66	0.45	0.40	0.45	ND		
88	FB11-2	Dak		15	323	240	###	9.8	13.5	3.5	###	0.61	0.19	0.27	###	0.44	1365	981	57	1.00	###	1350.00	80	98	772.38	158	45	359	81	0.47	0.47	0.51	ND		
96	FB11-3	Pine	Prem	15	323	240	7.5	9.5	22.0	7.0	###	1.40	0.21	0.23	###	1.28	1203	968	27	1.00	###	1050.00	65	71	535.86	113	56	408	104	0.78	0.76	0.92	ND		
100	FB11-4	Pine	Prem	15	323	240	7.5	9.5	22.0	7.0	###	1.50	0.22	0.22	###	1.41	1512	1340	38	1.00	1512	1219.65	65	71	535.86	113	56	325	89	0.78	0.61	0.79	ND		
71	FB13-1	Beech	Prem	3	638	240	3.5	6.5	10.0	3.0	###	0.29	0.11	0.11	###	0.27	2528	1399	63	1.00	###	1650.00	90	62	217.41	67	48	83	47	0.77	0.38	0.70	ND		
81	FB13-2	Beech		3	638	240	3.5	6.5	10.0	3.0	###	0.37	0.13	0.13	###	0.33	2068	1399	63	1.00	###	1650.00	90	62	217.41	67	48	101	47	0.77	0.47	0.70	ND		
83	FB13-3	Beech		3	638	240	3.5	6.5	10.0	3.0	###	0.32	0.12	0.12	###	0.29	2353	1399	63	1.00	###	1650.00	90	62	217.41	67	48	89	47	0.77	0.41	0.70	ND		
70	FB15-1	Beech		3	425	240	3.5	3.5	13.5	3.5	###	0.62	0.24	0.26	###	0.63	1055	1058	60	1.00	###	362.88	30	60	678.76	143	32	132	54	0.35	0.19	0.38	ND		
	FB2-1	Dak		17	711	240	###	###	17.3	5.0	###	0.61	0.14	0.17	###	0.53	1738	960	40	1.00	###	1350.00	60	105	875	175	113	904	228	1.08	1.03	1.30	YES	Both	
21	FB2-2	Dak	Prem	17	711	240	3.3	11.0	17.3	5.0	###	1.17	0.28	0.28	###	0.98	1088	1222	56	1.00	###	1112.24	80	102	1026	187	113	1445	277	1.11	1.41	1.49	YES	Both	
17	FB3-1	Pine		10	711	240	3.0	11.0	11.0	3.0	###	0.73	0.20	0.20	###	0.56	478	754	58	1.00	478	885.88	65	99	998.25	182	82	670	155	0.83	0.67	0.86	ND		
14	FB3-2	Pine		10	711	240	###	###	11.0	3.0	###	0.44	0.18	0.18	###	0.30	1077	821	57	1.00	###	875.00	65	100	833.33	167	82	237	122	0.82	0.36	0.73	ND		
22	FB5-1	Pine	Wall 40	21	620	240	11.5	###	20.2	6.5	###	0.45	0.27	0.23	###	0.22	1497	477	28	1.00	###	1050.00	65	207	5599	621	150	1726	391	0.73	0.31	0.63	ND		
23	FB5-2	Dak	Insect	21	620	240	###	###	20.2	6.5	###	0.52	0.16	0.16	###	0.41	1731	906	37	1.00	1731	1950.00	80	152	2667.5	###	122	1493	304	0.80	0.55	0.83	ND		
10	RB1-1	Beech	Decay	#	883	240	9.5	###	21.0	7.0	###	1.50	0.25	0.25	###	1.35	1139	1161	35	1.15	1139	1215.42	104	97	852.54	166	99	2159	337	1.02	2.53	2.03	YES	Both	
40	RB1-2	Beech	Decay	#	883	240	3.5	11.5	21.0	7.0	###	1.64	0.38	0.33	0.112	1.40	1284	1524	52	1.15	###	1595.27	104	109	1204	###	###	99	195	257	0.91	1.59	1.23	YES	Both
67	RB10-1	Beech	Decay	12	630	240	###	###	3.0	3.0	###	0.25	0.14	0.14	###	0.14	1464	821	57	1.15	###	1610.00	104	100	833.33	167	55	335	85	0.55	0.40	0.51	ND		
77	RB10-2	Beech	Prem	12	630	240	3.0	11.0	13.5	4.0	###	0.44	0.13	0.14	###	0.36	1467	1005	58	1.15	###	1610.00	104	99	998.25	182	55	334	85	0.55	0.33	0.47	ND		
78	RB10-3	Pine	Prem	12	630	240	7.8	9.8	13.5	4.0	###	0.60	0.18	0.17	###	0.51	1641	1407	71	1.15	1641	1472.73	75	76	598.6	123	76	298	92	1.00	0.50	0.75	ND		
92	RB10-4	Pine	Prem	12	630	240	8.8	###	3.0	3.0	###	0.42	0.23	0.23	###	0.23	1020	938	65	1.15	###	1006.25	98	88	723.17	146	76	480	135	0.87	0.66	0.93	ND		
9	RB11-1	Beech		#	315	240	11.0	11.5	22.0	7.0	###	1.60	0.25	0.43	###	1.36	1204	1247	43	1.15	###	1305.22	104	127	1394.1	###	###	50	1253	175	0.40	0.90	0.72	ND	
54	RB11-2	Pine		#	315	240	###	###	11.5	22.0	7.0	###	1.09	0.13	0.19	###	1.01	1319	1016	35	1.15	1319	1207.50	70	121	1330.8	231	70	1144	189	0.58	0.86	0.82	ND	
3	RB12	Beech		#	420	240	###	###	22.0	7.0	###	1.23	0.21	0.33	###	1.08	1904	1437	45	1.15	###	1897.50	104	110	1012.9	133	67	1057	161	0.61	1.04	0.83	YES	Stiff	
	RB13	Dak		16	840	240	###	###	20.3	6.5	###	0.81	0.27	0.27	###	0.59	1403	907	41	1.15	###	1552.50	32	140	2286.7	###	###	110	1104	208	0.78	0.48	0.64	ND	
24	RB2	Dak		#	578	240	###	###	22.0	7.0	###	1.69	0.36	0.36	###	1.42	1042	1226	46	1.15	###	1282.72	92	125	1627.6	###	###	94	1937	270	0.75	1.23	1.04	YES	Both
43	RB3	Pine	Prem	17	683	240	3.8	###	19.0	6.0	###	0.69	0.23	0.23	###	0.52	1495	924	43	1.15	###	1207.50	75	132	1499.1	###	###	116	1010	245	0.85	0.51	0.83	ND	
48	RB4-1	Dak	Prem	17	578	240	3.5	###	19.3	6.0	###	1.43	0.29	0.38	0.152	1.21	1441	1587	57	1.15	1441	1640.23	92	100	916.45	175	80	887	153	0.80	0.97	0.88	ND		
50	RB4-2	Beech		17	578	240	###	###	18.7	6.0	###	0.49	0.18	0.25	###	0.33	2310	876	38	1.15	###	1897.50	104	150	1953.1	313	71	553	132	0.47	0.28	0.42	ND		
53	RB5-1	Pine	Prem	14	683	240	11.0	###	13.7	4.0	###	0.27	0.09	0.10	###	0.20	1215	546	38	1.15	1215	1207.50	75	149	2295.3	###	###	96	694	166	0.65	0.31	0.50	ND	



JACKSON, WY PRIVATE RESIDENCES- 2004 & 2007



DENVER CENTRAL MARKET- 2016

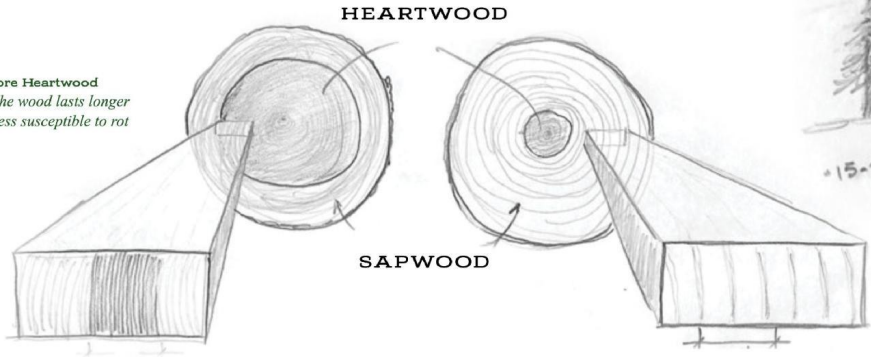


DIMENSION LUMBER

OLD GROWTH TIMBER vs. NEW GROWTH TIMBER

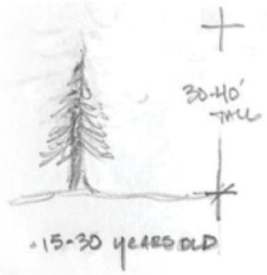


More Heartwood means the wood lasts longer and is less susceptible to rot



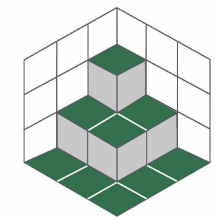
12-25 growth rings per inch

More Growth Rings means the wood is more stable and less susceptible to warp



3-4 growth rings per inch





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WHAT'S NEXT

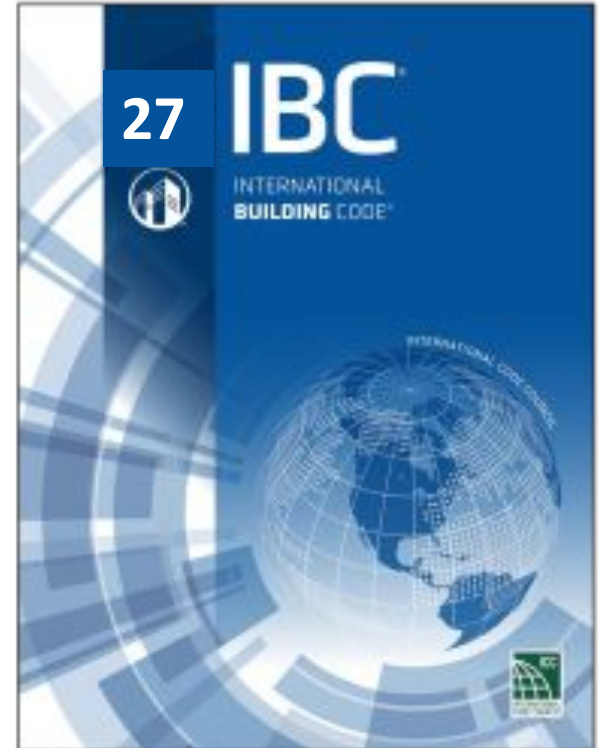
2027 International Building Code language change (same for International Residential Code)

IBC Chapter 23 "Wood"

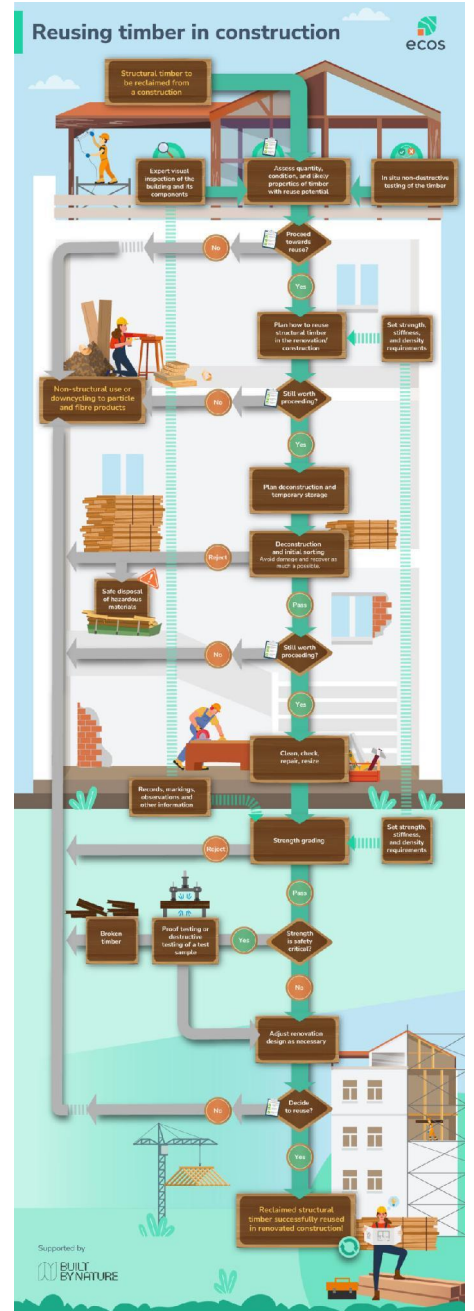
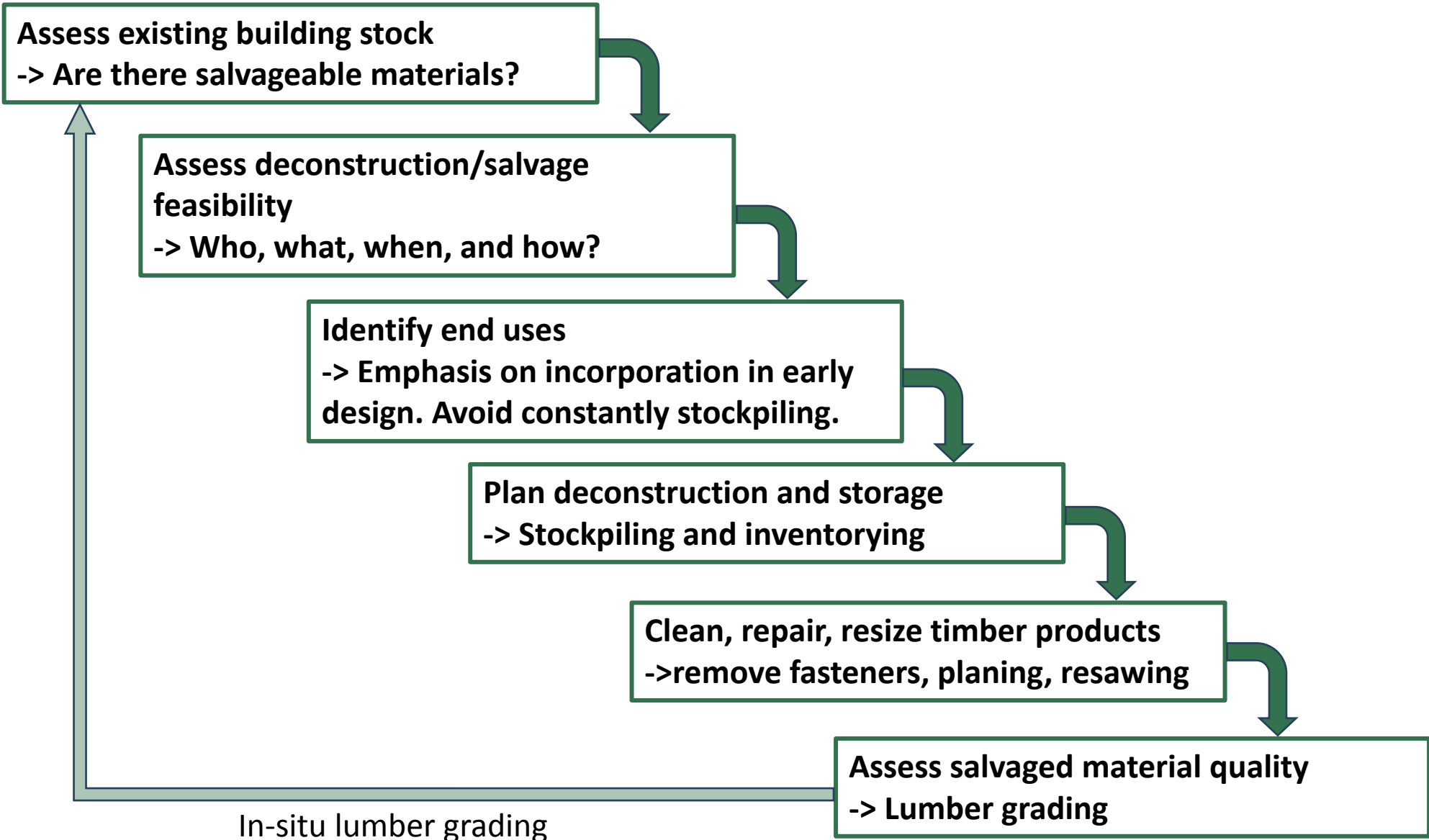
2303.1.1.3 Salvage lumber in structural applications.

Salvage lumber shall be permitted to use not greater than 90% of the design values assigned to the species and grade of sawn lumber in the AWC NDS provided an *approved* entity, including but not limited to a grading or inspection agency or a *registered design professional*, inspects the *salvage lumber* to confirm all of the following conditions are met:

1. The *salvage lumber* is identified by a *grade mark* conforming with 2303.1.1; or is accompanied by a certificate of inspection issued by a lumber grading or inspection agency conforming with 2303.1.1.1 detailing the species and grade; or is accompanied by a *technical opinion* and report prepared by a qualified professional with experience in evaluating and interpreting visual grading
2. The *salvage lumber* is free of net section reductions.
3. The *salvage lumber* is free of areas of decay, fire damage, or insect damage.
4. The *salvage lumber* shows no signs of failure nor strength reducing characteristics as a result of structural loading, deconstruction, or other causes.
5. The *salvage lumber* has not been subjected to temperatures continuously above 100°F (38°C), both day and night, for a period exceeding six months.
6. The word "Salvage" and the name of the *approved* entity confirming compliance with Items 1 through 5 shall be legibly applied in indelible ink.



PROCESS



LESSONS LEARNED

1. Reuse works, but changing mindsets is the challenge.
2. A motivated owner is key.
3. Feasibility requires connecting to an end-use or market.
 - Prior to deconstruction
 - Marketing strategy
 - Balance on-site efforts vs re-fabrication
 - Storage
4. Structural elements for reuse is unique
5. Success depends on the onsite deconstruction team.
6. Documentation, sizes, and testing results should be available to new construction projects prior to design.

KL&A'S DECONSTRUCTION AND REUSE SERVICES

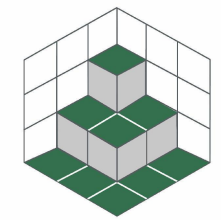
1. Building Audit / Feasibility Assessment
2. Qualified Lumber Grading
3. Structural Deconstruction Specification and Management
4. Material Testing Protocol
5. Inventory Creation – digital list and cut sheets
6. Inventory Management – connecting end use
7. End-use Design Guidance



Project: City of Boulder Community Hospital
 Proj #: 20058
 Engineer: AJF
 Date: 4/11/2025

Reclaimed Source Steel Inventory: Wide Flange Columns - Source A

Shape	Mark	ASTM Material	Length (ft)	Usable Length (ft)	Measured Length (ft)	Intermediate Connections	Building	Base Level	Grid Location	Estimated Weight (lb)	Measured Weight (lb)	Claimed	Material Testing	Site Location
W10x49	A-257	A36	05.9	05.96	05.96		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	6/B					
W10x49	A-253	A36	11.52	00.0	00.0		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	6/B	564.48	330.00		ASTM A36	24 PP
W10x49	A-218	A36	08.93	06.93	06.93		Laborator y Addition	BASEMENT	7/D	437.57	610.00			11 A
W10x49	A-207	A36	08.94	06.94	06.94		Laborator y Addition	BASEMENT	1.5/F	438.06	410.00			11 E
W10x49	A-237	A36	09.19	07.19	07.19		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	1/E.8	450.31	430.00			11 E
W10x49	A-239	A36	09.19	07.19	07.19		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	2/C	450.31	430.00			7 A
W10x49	A-256	A36	09.32	07.32	07.32		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	7/D	456.68	440.00			11 B
W10x49	A-238	A36	09.34	07.34	08.08		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	1.5/F	457.66	450.00			11 D
W10x49	A-254	A36	10.34	08.34	08.34		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	7/A.3	506.66	420.00			11 F
W10x49	A-230	A36	10.27	08.27	08.27		Laborator y Addition	LEVEL 1	7/D	503.23	710.00			11 A
W10x49	A-222	A36	10.29	08.29	08.75		Laborator y Addition	LEVEL 1	1.5/F	504.21	500.00			11 E
W10x49	A-252	A36	11.52	00.0	00.0		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	6/A	564.48	420.00			11 B
W10x49	A-243	A36	09.32	07.32	07.32		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	3/D	605.80	450.00			11 H
W10x49	A-248	A36	09.32	07.32	07.32		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	4/D	605.80	480.00			11 C
W10x49	A-251	A36	09.34	07.34	07.34		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	2/F	607.10	430.00			11 B
W10x54	A-255	A36	09.33	07.33	07.33		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	7/B	457.17	430.00			11 F
W10x54	A-231	A36	10.34	08.34	08.34		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	1.6/C	506.66	350.00			11 G
W10x54	A-236	A36	10.34	08.34	08.34		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	1/E	703.12	420.00		No Test Backup	7 A
W12x26	A-261	A36	10.2	10.2	10.2	W CONNX	OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 3	5-7.2/B		270.00			24 PP
W12x65	A-244	A36	09.34	07.34	8.9		OB/GYN Remodel	LEVEL 2	3/E	607.10	580.00			15 A/B



KL&A

Engineers & Builders

Thank you!

Reach out to Team Carbon with any questions at teamcarbon@klaa.com

FRESH VEG



From Policy to Pour: What It Takes to Build Reuse Infrastructure



Panelists:

Submit
questions
here:



Hayden van Andel
SustainableBreck



Rachel Irons
Nude Foods Market



Susan Fecko
Black Dog Studio



Meredith "MK" Katz
Retrocycle
Moderator

Keep the Conversation Going!

Meredith "MK" Katz
meredith@retrocycle.org

Hayden van Andel
haydenv@townofbreckenridge.com

Rachel Irons
rachel@nudefoodsmarket.com

Susan Fecko
sfecko@blackdogstudiopr.com

Hosted by

retrocycle





Preventing Waste with Food Service Providers: It's Good Business

Brian Loma
GreenLatinos CO
Moderator



Becky Goyton
CASR - Denver
Panelist



Amber Barbella
Diversion Designers
Panelist



Marissa Major
CET
Panelist





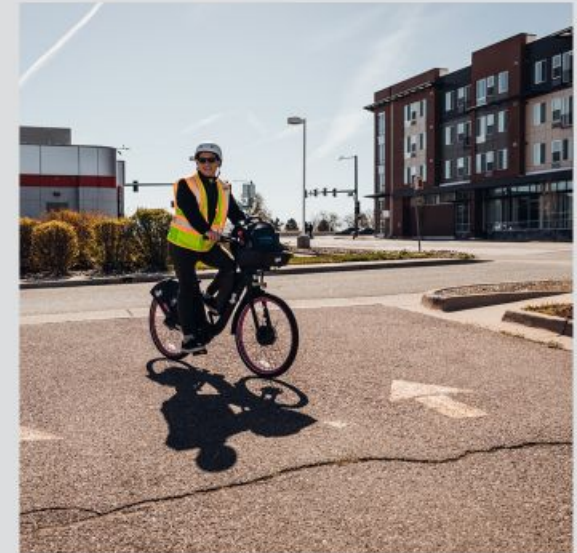
Zero Waste Support for Food Service Providers

Who We Are

Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency, established 2020, is answering the community's call for climate action with urgency and a focus on equity.

The climate crisis is solvable. Together, we are the ones to solve it.

Denver is eliminating pollution and waste while investing in clean energy and resiliency to protect all our communities for future generations.



Our Program Partner

Diversion Designers is a female-owned Waste Consulting Agency, established to tackle the global waste issue. We specialize in resource stewardship and waste consulting to identify problems within waste systems, create innovative solutions, and save businesses money in the process.





Reuse Denver Incentives

Switch from Disposable to Reusable Service Ware



Reuse Denver Incentive Goals

- Transition food service providers to reusable service ware for dine-in customers.
- Help small businesses save money and create a better dining experience for customers.
- Offer technical assistance and up to \$1000 worth of reusable service ware that meets each participant's operational needs and aesthetic.
- Encourage any business with washing capabilities and disposables for dine-in service in Denver to apply.
- Collect data on cost savings and reduction in disposables.



2024 Reuse Denver Results

- 27 participants collectively:
 - Prevented 957,322 disposable food service ware items from being purchased and entering the waste stream annually.
 - Saved \$97,304 from avoided purchases of disposables.
- Reduced an average of 36,456 disposables items and saved \$3600 annually per participant.



Case Study: Hamburger Mary's Denver

- 150-250 Daily Customers
- Initial investment = \$552.81
- Replaced disposable plates and ramekins with ceramic plates and metal and glass ramekins.
- Reduction of 160,400 units of disposable items annually.
- Reduce trash volume by 40%.



Impacts: Hamburger Mary's Denver

Annual Cost Savings from Disposables Reduction*	Annual Costs for Reusables**	Payback Period***	Annual Net Cost Savings After Payback Period****
\$7,402.32	\$110.56	.9 months	\$7,291.76

* Savings from no longer purchasing disposal service ware items that have been replaced with reusables. In some cases, savings also included reduced waste hauling costs.

** A 20% loss/replacement rate was automatically included to calculate annual costs for reusables. In some cases, cost also include increased labor for ware washing.

*** The time it takes to recoup the initial investment through the cost savings of disposables reduction.

**** Represent the annual next savings achieved after the payback period.

Case Study: Los Molinos Auraria

- Fast Casual
- More than 350 Daily Customers
- Triple Compartment Sink
- Initial Investment = \$595.52
- Replaced paper plates and foam bowls with stoneware
- Reduction of 27,006 units of disposable items annually



Impacts: Los Molinos Auraria

Annual Cost Savings from Disposables Reduction*	Annual Costs for Reusables**	Payback Period***	Annual Net Cost Savings After Payback Period****
\$4,726.55	\$3,411.30	1.51 months	\$1,315.25

* Savings from no longer purchasing disposal service ware items that have been replaced with reusables. In some cases, savings also included reduced waste hauling costs.

** A 20% loss/replacement rate was automatically included to calculate annual costs for reusables. In some cases, cost also include increased labor for ware washing.

*** The time it takes to recoup the initial investment through the cost savings of disposables reduction.

**** Represent the annual next savings achieved after the payback period.



Compost Incentives

Add Composting to Back-of-House Operations

Compost Incentive Goals

- Help food service providers begin composting food scraps from back-of-house operations.
- Offer technical assistance and up to \$3,600 worth of compost collection service for up to one year.
- Collect data on waste diversion and evaluate reusable service ware impact on composting efforts.
- Encourage businesses to apply that offer dine-in service and meet one of the following criteria:
 - Participated in Reuse Denver 2024
 - Applying for Reuse Denver 2026 Incentive
 - Participated in the Denver Restaurant Challenge (2025 or 2026)





DENVER
CLIMATE ACTION,
SUSTAINABILITY &
RESILIENCY


Learn More & Apply Today





Denver Food Matters Restaurant Challenge

Recycle Colorado Summit 6.2.26



1 in 6 Denverites
experience hunger

Denver
restaurants
generate **25%** of
the city's food
waste ¹

The Denver Restaurant Challenge aims
to **make restaurants part of the
solution** through:

- ✓ Food waste education
- ✓ Friendly competition
- ✓ Expert technical guidance
- ✓ Behavior change support

¹ <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/food-waste-city-level-report.pdf>

The Restaurant Challenge

- 12 week challenge
- 15 participants over 2 cohorts
- Support from experts in food waste reduction
- Points-based competition; points for progress
- Focus on **food waste prevention & reduction**, as well as diversion
- Clear and manageable steps to progress



with

Diversion Designers
Participant Support

CET
Technical Assistance

Drexel Food Labs
Food Upcycling

We Don't Waste
Food Donation Partner



Restaurant Olivia

Total 33.6 tons of lifetime carbon savings

- Modified their pasta recipes to use whole eggs rather than egg whites
- Created a new bread formula to easily match prep to demand
- Combined savings of \$16,000+ per year





Blue Sparrow Coffee

Total 3.6 tons of lifetime carbon savings

- Created a double-steeped chai recipe to maximize yield from the spices
- Saved 70 pounds of sugar annually
- Savings of \$2,500 per year





Pit Fiend BBQ

Total 17.7 tons of lifetime carbon savings

- Created a new lentil dish out of upcycled lamb scraps and quit coring cucumbers
- Re-established a donation partnership with a local non-profit
- Combined savings of \$2,500+ per year plus revenue from new menu item





Chook Chicken

Total 18.9 tons of lifetime carbon savings

- Began using broccoli and cauliflower stalks in soup
- Created a new agua fresca from upcycled cucumber ends
- \$3,300 in added profit from new menu item





Thank you!

Marissa Major

Waste Reduction Consultant, CET

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Denver Department of Public Health & Environment

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denverfoodmatterschallenge.org

This work is supported by the Composting and Food Waste Reduction Program, project award no. 2024-70510-41970, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy.

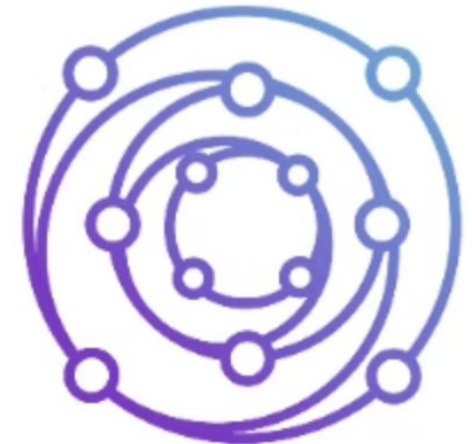


Designing Circular Operations That Support People and Scale Impact

Kimberley Duarte, Circular Supply Chain Network

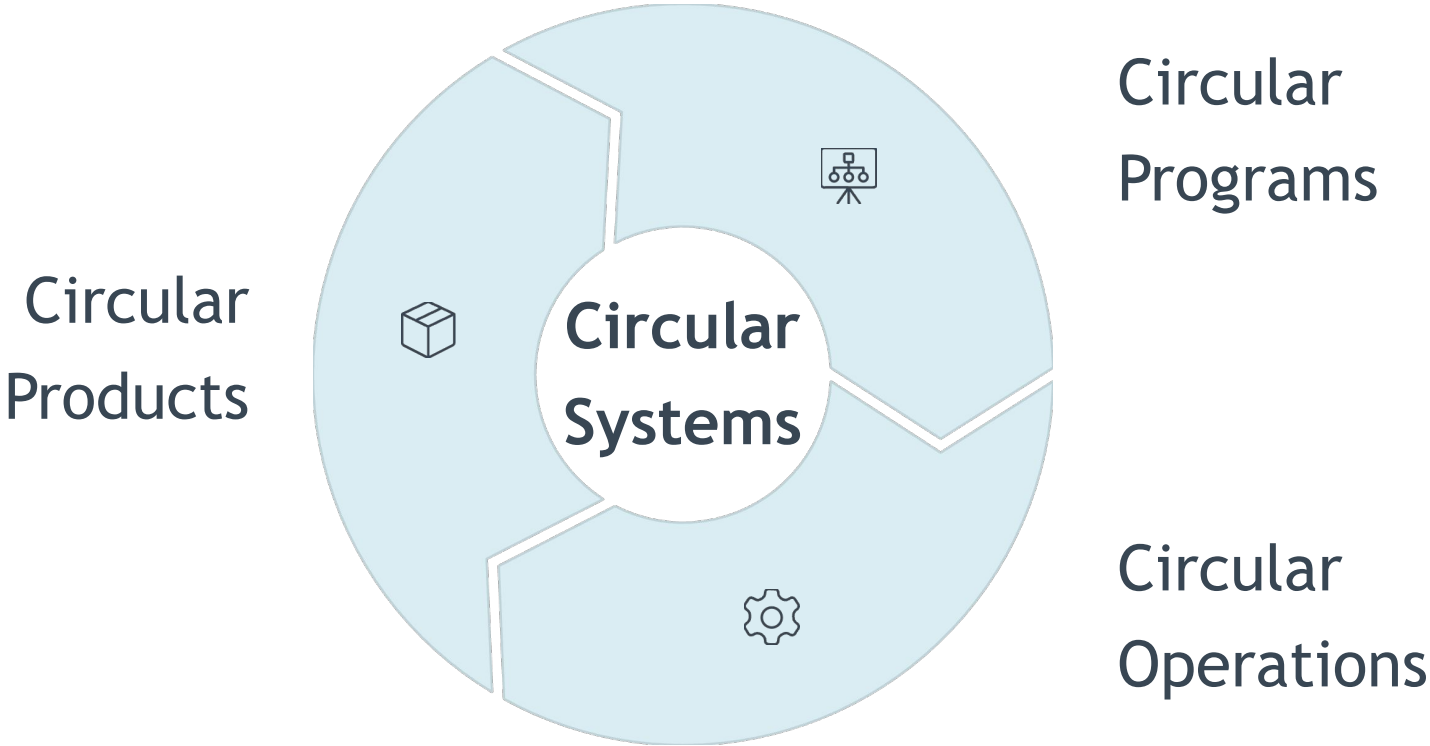
What is a Circular Supply Chain?

Circular Supply Chains reduce and maximize resource use by using secondary and renewable inputs to generate value through **interconnected systems**.



**CIRCULAR
SUPPLY CHAIN
NETWORK**
BEND THE FLOW

Interconnected Systems decide outcomes



What we'll do together

Reflection

Name the complexity

Patterns already at scale

Take something meaningful with you

What did this day mean for you?



You imagined a future Colorado.. What did it look like?

What does it take for reuse to be resilient?

Reuse is uniquely complex

While every circular loop needs collection, logistics, and partners...

Complexity in reuse is in the lack of transformation

- The consumer never “lets go,” the relationship never ends
- Must come back intact, on time, in condition, every turn
- No industrial process to absorb variability

Industries at Scale

Uniform and Workwear



Borrow this:

Volume-justified routes, single-swap back-of-house, corporate campus anchors

Returnable Packaging



Borrow this:

Standardization creates certainty, certainty enables coordination at scale

Institutional Food Services

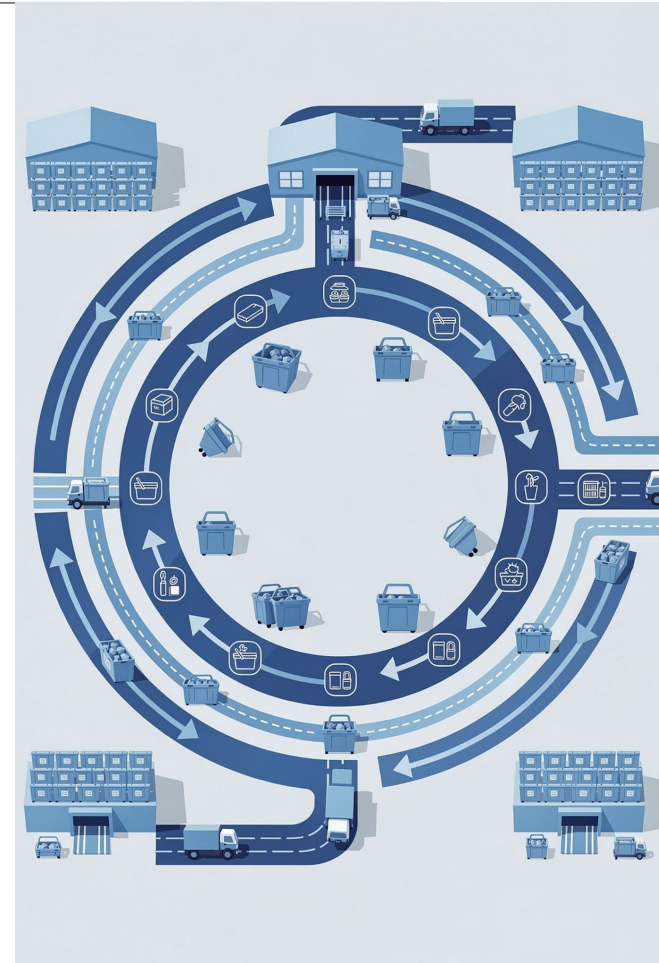


Borrow this:

Anchor institution design, stable volume, and success metrics for circulation

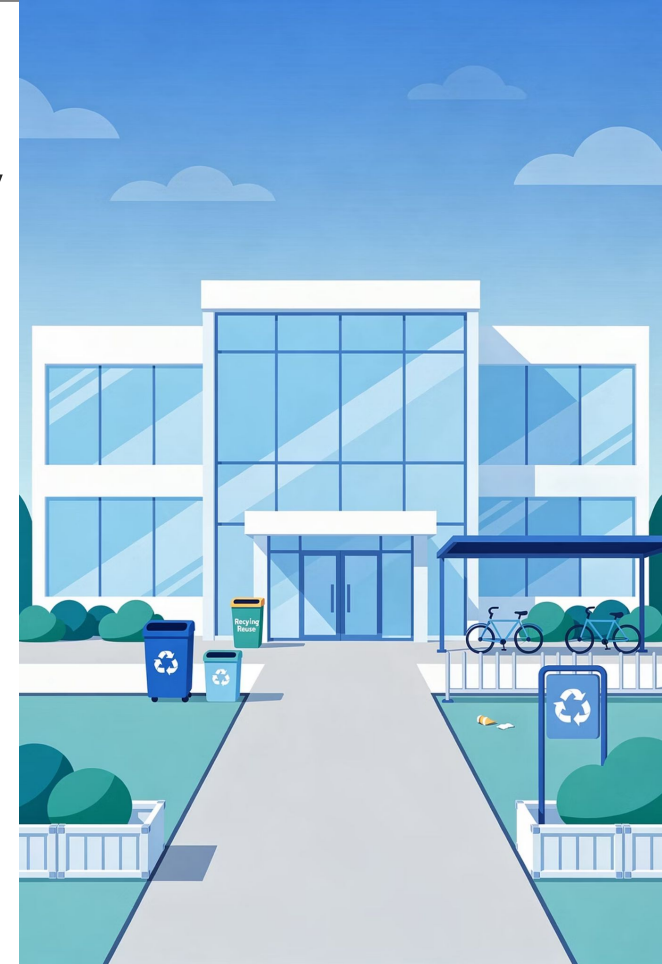
Design for Volume first

- ★ Adoption follows infrastructure
 - Focus on volume > behavior change
 - Low volume breaks trust for partners
- ★ Logistics has to be designed to volume that's worthwhile
- ★ What does **the system** need to meet **the change**?



Find your Anchors

- ★ Reuse need partners who hold the relationship reliably
- ★ Anchor institutions: K-12 schools, corporate campuses, universities, sporting venues
- ★ Returns require habit



Back-of-House commitment

- ★ **Go all in**
 - Decision fatigue is a real operational cost
- ★ Design doubt out of the system entirely
- ★ People enablement - what does the floor see?
- ★ **Simplicity is a design principle**



What's Possible?

You came in today with something you're building
You leave with stories of designs with intention

**What would your program look like with circular
operations that are resilient and scalable?**

Stay connected

Website: <https://www.circularsupplychain.network>

Contact: kimberley@circularsc.net

The conversation doesn't end here.
Thank you for being in this room today. What you're building matters.

