

Devens Green Team Roundtable Forum

September 18, 2025

Reduce and Redirect Waste Streams

Opportunities for B2B and Community Collaboration



AGENDA

- 8:00-8:10: Networking, Coffee/Snacks
- 8:10-8:25: Welcome and Introductions
- 8:25-8:45 Strategies for Waste Reduction
- 8:45-8:50: Devens Resources for RRR
- 8:50-8:55: Current Exchanges in Devens
- 8:55-9:25: Opportunities to Collaborate
- 9:25-9:30: Closing Remarks, Future Topics
- 9:30: Tour The Great Exchange



Benefits of Waste Diversion

- **Environmental:** Reduce GHG emissions, pollution, and the need to extract virgin resources
- **Economic:** Lower disposal costs, and create opportunities for new businesses and jobs in the recycling, reuse, and composting industries
- **Social:** Conserve energy, extend the life of existing landfills, and build more sustainable communities

Methods for Redirecting Waste Streams

- **Reduce:** Prevent waste from being generated
- **Reuse:** Repurpose, exchange, donate, repair
- **Recycle:** Process materials to create new products
- **Compost:** Divert organic materials for nutrient-rich soil



REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

Strategies for Businesses

- **Waste Audit:** ID waste generated, explore diversion opportunities
- **Source Reduction:** Examine processes to reduce waste at the source
- **Improve Sorting:** Standardize bins, improve signage to make it easy
- **Communicate, Educate:** Inform employees, vendors about waste diversion goals and best practices
- **Engage Vendors:** Partner to reduce packaging, use recyclables
- **Target Zero Waste:** Develop and implement comprehensive waste management plans

Zero-Waste Resources

- **GBCI's TRUE Zero Waste Certification**
(Total Resource Use Efficiency)

<https://www.gbci.org/about-true>



- **Designing for Reuse & Deconstruction**

<https://bit.ly/Devensecguide>

<https://bit.ly/DevensDC>



- **Net-Zero Carbon**

<https://living-future.org/zero-carbon/>

<https://www.usgbc.org/programs/leed-zero>



Local Resource



Consistent with Climate Action Plan:

- Devens Forward Climate Action Plan
 - <https://devensforward.com/call-to-action>
- Devens Forward Business Toolkit
- Sustainable Business Spotlight Blogs



Climate Action Toolkit

For Businesses

Local Resource: Devens DPW Recycling

99 Buena Vista Street, accessible 24 x 7

https://www.devenscommunity.com/assets/Recycling_Information_Fee_Schedule.pdf

- Compartment container for recyclables
 - Plastics – bottles, jugs, no black plastic or hazardous contents
 - Glass – bottles, jars, no broken or other types of glass
 - Cans – food and beverage only, emptied and rinsed
- Compact container for paper, cardboard only
 - Mixed paper, empty and flatten boxes
 - No Styrofoam, plastic or wood attached

99 Buena Vista Street, Scheduled

- Electronics, appliances, metals – by appointment
- HHW Disposal - VSQ Generators - www.devenshhw.com



Local Resource:



- Nonprofit established in 2009 to help institutions make better use of resources, operate more sustainably
- Engages commercial and industrial facilities, nonprofits, and schools to promote community building
- Educational forums, facility tours
- Recycling programs, repurposing



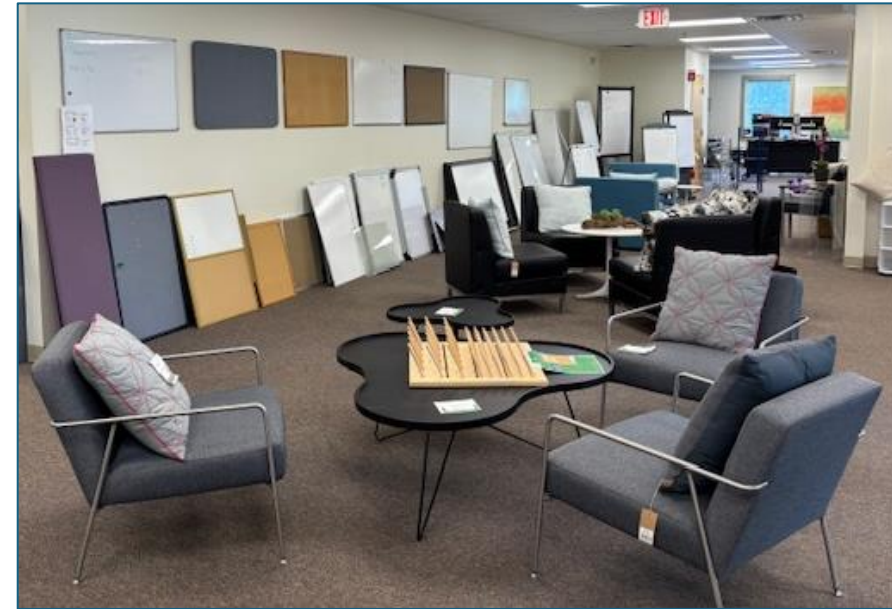
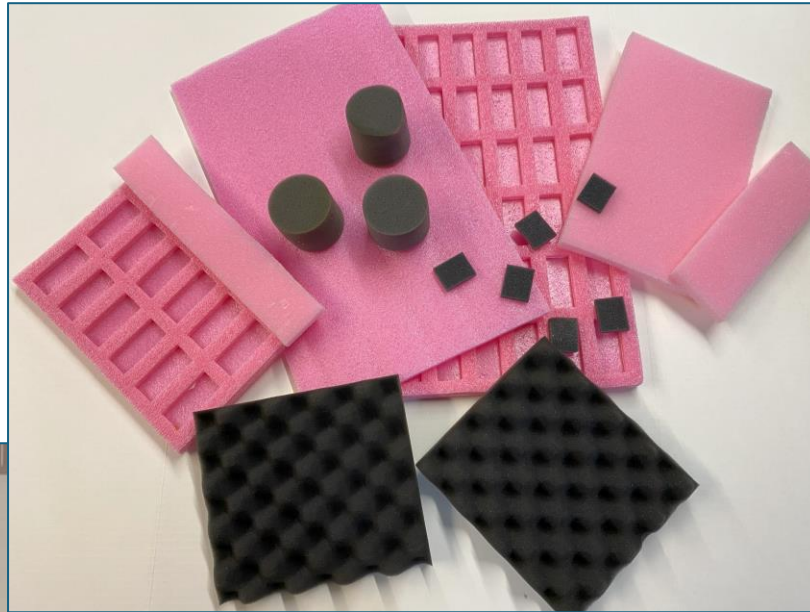
Local Resource:



- Preserves resources, prevents disposal costs
- Repurposes 25-30 tons of items annually
- 600+ types of resources in new/like new condition
- Schools, libraries, nonprofits, municipalities, businesses save 30%-70%
- Over 7,000 sf retail space, open 5 days/week, 9:00-4:30, first Saturday Oct-May 10:00-1:00



Current Exchanges



Are There Treasures in Your Trash?



B2B Collaboration

- What are your waste reduction goals?
- What waste streams could be better managed/repurposed?
- What materials have reuse/repurpose potential?
 - For original or new use (STEM, creative, trade school)
- What services could you provide or recommend?



Next Steps

- Opportunities for additional collaboration
- Devens Forward: October Blog
- Future Roundtable topics?
- Other suggestions?



Let's Connect!



Neil Angus, FAICP CEP, LFA, LEED AP
Director/Land Use Administrator

Beth Suedmeyer,
Environmental Planner Plan

Office: 978.772.8831
<https://www.devensec.com>

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Dona Neely, Executive Director
donaneely@tgedevens.com

Cell: 508.878.1728
www.tgedevens.com

<https://www.facebook.com/TheGreatExchangeDevens>

Let's take a
tour!

