

Deconstruction: (A) Developing Industry and Community in Connecticut



What is Deconstruction ?

EPA defines “deconstruction” as *the disassembly of buildings to safely and efficiently maximize the reuse and recycling of their materials*. The process of dismantling structures is an ancient activity that has been revived by the growing field of sustainable, green building.

Deconstruction is commonly separated into two categories; "non-structural" and "structural".

- Non-structural deconstruction, also known as “soft-stripping”, “hand demo” or “cherry picking”, consists of reclaiming non-structural components including appliances, doors, windows, and finish or trim materials.
- Structural deconstruction involves dismantling the structural components of a building; removing the entire building down to or including the foundation.

Easy and Wasteful Approach to Removing a Building



What's Wrong with this picture?



1929, 14M Teardown



Jobs

- ▣ If building deconstruction were fully integrated into the demolition industry, at least 100,000 jobs could be created in this sector.

- ▣ (Deconstruction-Overview-Baldwin.pdf)



A huge amount of materials

- ▣ In 2013, CT generated about 1,041,643 Tons of C&D debris [Deconstruction-Overview-Baldwin.pdf](#)



Opportunities & Limitations



Deconstruction

Source Reduction

#Create Jobs

#Local Quality Materials

#Community Partnerships

#Training & Education

#Eliminate Waste

Deconstruction Training

**Job Training, Barn
Deconstruction with
Greater Bridgeport
Community Enterprises**



Deconstruction Training



Kroop said, "It's a great opportunity to do something good for the environment and keep people employed." Without deconstruction, the building materials from the homes would end up in the landfill.

<http://www.newhallinfo.org/html-cleanup/deconstruction.html>

**Hamden HEDC, CTDEP, Department of Labor, Gateway
Community College, Urbanminers, Llc**

Assignment: Salvage 10 multi-family houses in 10 days. We need a better system.





Soft Strip
Subsidized by
Owner

65 doors & 3,000
sq ft of flooring



Deconstruction enables other salvage



Moving Ahead

- ▣ Deconstruction as an alternative to demolition
- ▣ Combine with training and community involvement
- ▣ Sustainable business practices for all aspects
 - ▣ Keep it local
- ▣ Economic, Environmental & Social success !