



Université d'Ottawa | University of Ottawa

uOttawa Office of Campus Sustainability

July 26th, 2011

Furniture Recycling Program

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to affirm some details about our Furniture Recycling Program at the University of Ottawa.

Since 2008, the University of Ottawa has undertaken the job of creating a Furniture Recycling Program for the campus community. The program was originally designed to help handle an excess of furniture that arose when the University purchased an older college campus. The original challenge was to remove this furniture from the campus in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The program adopted a two pronged approach to dealing with the furniture. First, all furniture was to be sorted in order to determine what stock would be good enough to use again. The sorting process ensured that the furniture still met health and safety standards and met space standards for offices on campus. This furniture was then offered to the campus community and external groups, such as charities and NGOs.

Second, any furniture that was damaged, did not meet health and safety standards, or did not meet space standards, was dismantled so that the components could be recycled individually. This ensured that furniture with components made from multiple materials could be recycled properly and that furniture components being recycled would occupy less space in the garbage bins.

Since the program has been in place, the University of Ottawa has saved more than \$2.4 Million in the replacement value of the furniture and avoided waste disposal costs, including revenue generated from the recycling of quality materials. Additionally, over \$50,000 worth of furniture has been donated to the community. Details of the program are outlined in an annual report which is available on the Office of Campus Sustainability website (<http://www.sustainable.uottawa.ca/index.php?module=CMS&id=29&newlang=eng>).

Although there are many universities that may have established furniture recycling programs, the University of Ottawa's program is special because of its focus on reducing waste to landfill and maximizing community benefit. For more details, the 2011 report can be found at the following address -

http://www.sustainable.uottawa.ca/uploads/editor/images/FRP_report%202011_FINAL.pdf

Sincerely,

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