



The University of Georgia

College of Environment and Design

April 23, 2014

STARS Innovation Credit 1: Material Reuse Program

Dear AASHE STARS Committee:

I, Chris McDowell, verify the following description of the Material Reuse Program at UGA is accurate to the best of my knowledge:

The Material Reuse Program is a hands-on building lab within the UGA College of Environment and Design that salvages building materials and reuses them for student-built community projects. Funded initially through a Campus Sustainability Grant, the program's goals are to divert construction materials from the waste stream and engage students in hands-on community building projects that use reclaimed materials as a source of inspiration. Students gain practical knowledge and are exposed to broader societal issues relevant to their educational coursework by working on real-life projects that positively impact local communities. Reuse projects have partnered with Athens Area Community Council on Aging, Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste Department, Athens-Clarke County Schools, Athens Land Trust, Athens Latino Center for Education and Services, University of Georgia and other organizations.

The Material Reuse Program has engaged the UGA community in over 6,022 student work hours, 1,956 volunteer work hours, and 240 intern work hours through 48 projects including academic courses, design charrettes, public workshops, and service projects. Since 2011, the Program has diverted nearly 200 tons of construction and demolition waste from landfills. This material has, in turn, provided inspiration and necessary materials for dozens of student-built community projects. Salvaged material, primarily from campus renovation projects, has been utilized in the construction of community landscapes from neighborhood parks to school vegetable gardens and a non-profit run urban farm. The salvage and reuse of materials has resulted in cost savings and avoidance of thousands of dollars, diversion of materials from the landfill, and increased awareness regarding the value and feasibility of using salvaged materials.

Complete descriptions of reuse and salvage projects can be seen at the Material Reuse Program's website: <http://www.thematerialreuseprogram.com>

Please feel free to contact me at mcdowecp@gmail.com for any further information.

Sincerely,

Chris McDowell
Material Reuse Program Coordinator
University of Georgia College of Environment + Design