



ReNews

Finger Lakes ReUse

Enhancing Community, Economy, and Environment through ReUse

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In This Issue:

Some updates, goals, and helping with your New Year's resolutions...

- [FLR Volunteering](#)
- [Carbon Footprint](#)
- [Get crafty with ReUse](#)

Now that 2011 is in full swing, here are a couple of current updates and highlights from the past year. We'd also like to share our goals for the coming year and provide inspiration to fulfill some of your own New Year's resolutions...

In 2010, 38,000 people supported Finger Lakes ReUse by shopping for or donating quality used furniture, housewares, building materials, computers, and electronics - thank you everyone for being part of this community effort!

Finger Lakes ReUse hired five new staff members (four of whom were previously unemployed) and we are a committed living wage employer. In 2010 we diverted 167 tons of materials (334,00 pounds!), and in October we sold our 100,000th item since we opened the ReUse Center in 2008! We opened our eCenter in April in partnership with the Computer All Stars and were immediately overwhelmed by the expressed gratitude and enthusiasm and simultaneous surge of donated electronics streaming into the store. Since then we have been working hard at getting more items tested and priced, and thanks to our fantastic volunteers and staff we are returning increasing affordable quantities of tested and refurbished electronics to the community each month.

This week we are beginning a deconstruction project on Meadow Street (near Joe's Restaurant) to make way for the future site of Magnolia House - Tompkins Community Action's new shelter for women in recovery. We're very proud to be a part of this project!

In 2011 we will continue to grow and expand materials diversion, increase our efforts to reach marginalized and underserved members of our community, build new partnerships with our tremendous human services network, and support an even greater percentage of our programs (and the community) through sales and services.

We are truly grateful for your support, and we'd like to encourage you good citizens to remember (what we imagine may have been) your 2011 resolutions...

New Year's Resolution #1

Get involved with the community



At Finger Lakes ReUse, volunteers assist with everything from computer refurbishing and repair to materials processing to the deconstruction of houses. Dozens of your friends and neighbors contributed over 5,000 volunteer hours in 2010. We wouldn't be where we are

today without your help!

On January 29th, energetic Ithaca College students (pictured with Operations Supervisor Ivan Yalanzhi) helped out in the community in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and at Finger Lakes ReUse they installed new racking and rearranged building materials to help us manage the volume of lumber and flooring in our rear warehouse area. We couldn't have completed this project this without their help, along with Bill Apgar, Jim Bond, and the Tompkins County SWAP (Service Work Alternative Program) participants. Thanks everyone!

Our volunteers choose Finger Lakes ReUse for many different reasons. Here's what a few of them have to say:

"ReUse has expanded the basics of recycling by acting on the principle that products have a second or third life. ReUse is succeeding in new and creative ways as a non-profit entrepreneur, growing to fill its original space in just over two years and expanding into the high-tech eCenter. Kudos!"

Jan Hesbon, Finger Lakes ReUse Volunteer

"Our economy creates an enormous amount of electronics waste because of planned obsolescence and pricing that does not reflect the whole cost to society or the planet. Volunteering at FLR is my way to oppose this: to prevent the manufacture of new equipment by putting discarded equipment back into service."

Steve Pacenka, Finger Lakes ReUse eCenter Volunteer

Looking to get involved? Check our [website](#) for volunteer orientation dates.

New Year's Resolution #2

Reduce your carbon footprint



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released information indicating that roughly 42% of GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions may be associated with consumption of material goods - from raw material extraction and harvesting, to the production, transportation, and disposal of goods[1]. Additionally, extending the life of computers by 50% would equal the reduction of 25 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year.[2] By choosing to donate your reusable items to Finger Lakes ReUse, you can extend their

lifespan for years and save the environmental costs of disposal and of the production of replacement items.

[1] Sustainable Materials Management: The Road Ahead, U.S. EPA,

[3]<http://www.epa.gov/osw/inforesources/pubs/vision2.pdf>, June 2009.

[2] U.S. Department of State – 5th Climate Action Report to the United

Nations [4]<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/rpts/car5/index.htm>

New Year's Resolution #3

Get crafty & spruce up your living space



While our current facility doesn't have the proper shop space to perform “value-added” activities such as educational programs in appliance testing & repair and creative reuse workshops, we were lucky to work with local artisan Paul Colucci this past spring on a coffee table using some very unassuming salvaged barn wood from a deconstruction project. Paul worked with Deconstruction team member Erik Roneker, and in three hours, they had constructed a beautiful rustic coffee table. This piece was sold through a silent auction process as a fundraiser for the Deconstruction Services program, and we hope to work with Paul again to inspire others to transform mundane-looking materials into beautiful, long-lasting objects. Try it out at home, or come to the ReUse Center to see what treasure you might find to spruce up for yourself!

"I found out about the ReUse Center when I bought something off Craigslist. The guy I bought from told me about the new eCenter when he found out I was working on furnishings for a new office. I am sold on the ReUse Center and the eCenter. I enjoy the great bargains I find. The best deal in town is spending only \$1 to \$3 for USB cable instead of \$20.00 for a new one. This agency provides a great service to our community, keeping so many useful items out of the waste stream. I love telling people about the center. They usually check it out within a few days. Some have gone directly over after they find out about it. Let's not make this the best secret in town. Spread the good news."

Marlene Sack, Finger Lakes ReUse Volunteer

Finger Lakes ReUse, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

And yes, please help us spread the word - please forward this email to someone who may not be aware of Finger Lake ReUse, our stores, and our programs today!

[Forward-to-a-Friend](#)

www.fingerlakesreuse.org