

# 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 !