

B DECONSTRUCTION IN BOSTON

A ZERO WASTE BOSTON INITIATIVE

The Zero Waste Boston Deconstruction Initiative seeks to encourage adaptive reuse and deconstruction efforts in the City of Boston. **Development projects will be connected with free technical assistance to help determine the best deconstruction pathway, create a plan that outlines needed assistance and resources, and implement a deconstruction project.**



Deconstruction helps achieve Boston's goal of carbon neutrality and zero waste by 2050. This initiative will also prompt learnings for the City and stakeholders to inform future deconstruction programs and policies.

The goals of the initiative are to:

- Consider continued use or adaptive reuse of buildings;
- Maximize the salvage of building materials for reuse;
- Recycle building materials which can not be reused;
- Reduce carbon emissions associated with demolition;
- Retain building character within neighborhoods; and,
- Build awareness of quality secondary building materials.

Partnership



To achieve this purpose, the City has partnered with RecyclingWorks MA, a reuse and recycling technical assistance program for businesses and institutions funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. RecyclingWorks MA is providing developers free technical assistance for deconstruction including: **waste management planning, identifying deconstruction crews, cost/benefit analysis, and outlets for salvaged materials.**

CASE STUDIES

Below are a few case studies of deconstruction projects in Massachusetts.

[Williams College](#) | [Northampton State Hospital](#) | [Two Single-Family Home](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND NEXT STEPS, check out the other side!

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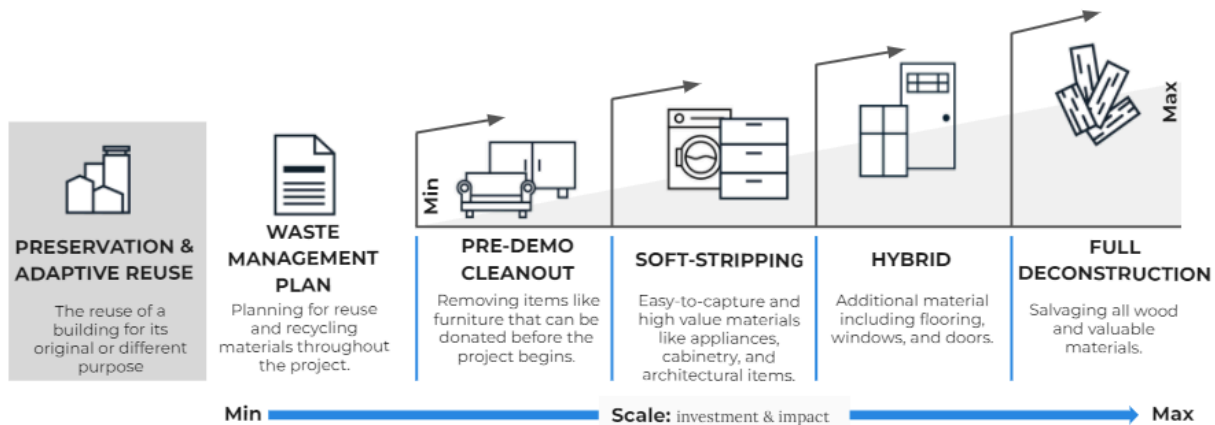
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WHAT IS DECONSTRUCTION?

The systematic dismantling of a structure to generate a closed-loop material management system by maximizing materials salvaged for reuse and recycling what is not reusable to minimize the amount of materials going to landfill or incineration.

PATHWAYS

Deconstruction is a customizable practice with multiple pathways. Considerations to building material composition and age, market demand, project scope, and storage capacity all help shape the individualized deconstruction plan.



POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDER BENEFITS

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|--------------------|--|
| ENVIRONMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserving Natural Resources - reducing consumption of virgin materials Embodied Carbon Savings - in emissions from used materials in construction GHG Emissions Reduction - bypass manufacture/transport of new materials & prevent methane release |
| DEVELOPERS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost Savings - decreased disposal cost, reuse of select items Tax incentives for donated materials Positive Environmental Impact - avoided use of raw materials, tons of materials diverted |
| COMMUNITY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserving Boston History - retaining building character within neighborhoods Job Creation/Training - entrypoint and economic opportunities in the building trades Durable Goods Recovery - support economically disadvantaged residents |
| CITY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development - market supply, market growth, business creation, job creation/training Historic Preservation Equity - durable goods recovery - support economically disadvantaged residents |
| COLLECTIVE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead By Example - marketability and recognition Regulatory/policy preparedness New/improved data collection and metrics to support engagement and decision making |

NEXT STEPS

Work with the City of Boston's Zero Waste Team to connect with free technical assistance and determine the best deconstruction pathway for your project.

- Zero Waste Boston Team, Environment Department
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