

The Eco-Efficiency Centre's
✓ **Top-Ten Checklist** ✓
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With most businesses paying to have their waste materials hauled to remote locations for bulk disposal, intuitively, many realize that there may be environmentally friendly opportunities to reuse this material locally. Encouraging entrepreneurship ventures for reusing waste material near the source not only has employment opportunities but potential cost savings for the waste generator. Below are a few tips to consider for converting waste resources into valuable products.

- ✓ **Examine business park listings** to determine potential waste products streams your business could reuse.
- ✓ **Contact local building contractors** who can be great sources of wood and construction waste before these materials are destined for C&D disposal.
- ✓ **Consider the increased benefits of selling metal scrap locally** rather than transporting it further distances. Products as commonplace as old bike parts have been turned into one of a kind furniture designs.
- ✓ **Network and brainstorm with business peers** to exchange not only materials but to share trucking and employee training opportunities.
- ✓ **Avoid focusing on manufacturing sector alone for used materials.** Although this may be your first inclination, consider waste sources such as packaging and display materials from retail markets.
- ✓ **Make low to no cost material exchange arrangements with neighboring businesses.** This is a win-win situation since you are helping save your exchange partner hauling and landfill expenditures.
- ✓ **Design your own value-added products from waste materials.** These new products represent revenue stream opportunities.
- ✓ **Recognize that consumer demand for recycled products is on the rise** as buyers become more aware of the full life cycle costs of their purchases.
- ✓ **Create partnerships with local artisans** who can design unique crafts from used materials and sell to tourists visiting your region.
- ✓ **Donate surplus materials to local school art programs.** Products including office supplies, fabrics, paints, and tile are excellent craft resources.

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