



THE CAST PROJECT: AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE GREEN ECONOMY IS PART OF ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

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PCRS

- Pacific Community Resources Society is a multi service non-profit agency. It has been in existence since 1984 and operates family, children, youth and adult services.



PCRS Programs

- 2 key programs include youth employment and training programs and integrated youth resource centres
 - Vancouver: Broadway Youth Resource Centre (1999)
 - Surrey: Guildford and Newton Youth Resource Centres (2004)



History of CAST (Create a Sustainable Tomorrow)

- In late 2009, PCRS submitted a youth training proposal to Service Canada for a program to train 20 at risk youth in the newly emerging “green” field of deconstruction
- Simultaneously, PCRS initiated discussions with the City of Vancouver regarding its plan to be the world’s greenest city



Goals for City of Vancouver

- World's Greenest City by 2020
- End Homelessness by 2015



Goals for PCRS/BYRC

- End Youth Homelessness
- Provide skills for attachment to labour force



**Challenging
Youth Homelessness**

A Partnership

- City of Vancouver agreed to a pilot project that would deconstruct two houses and analyze how much waste was diverted from the landfill for reuse and repurposing.



CAST and City of Vancouver

Mutually Beneficial

- City gets a demonstration project
- PCRS youth are trained for entry level positions in construction/deconstruction
- PCRS becomes innovative leader in “green” non-profit sector with the development of its CAST program and newly developed partnerships

Deconstruction

- ⦿ Process of dismantling a building in a precise, systematic way that allows for maximal recovery of salvageable materials and structures
- ⦿ Can take anywhere from 2-6 weeks, and may require 5-10 labour workers depending on the complexity of the structure
- ⦿ Triple Bottom Line: Contributes to environmental, social and economic sustainability

Deconstruction in Vancouver



- Over 800 houses/year demolished in Vancouver
- Each house contributes 40 metric tonnes of waste to landfill
- Opportunity for change: must initiate policy and attitude shifts

CAST: The Process

- ⦿ Application Review
- ⦿ Interviews
- ⦿ Classroom:
 - Lifeskills
 - Environmental Ed
 - Certifications
 - Field Trips



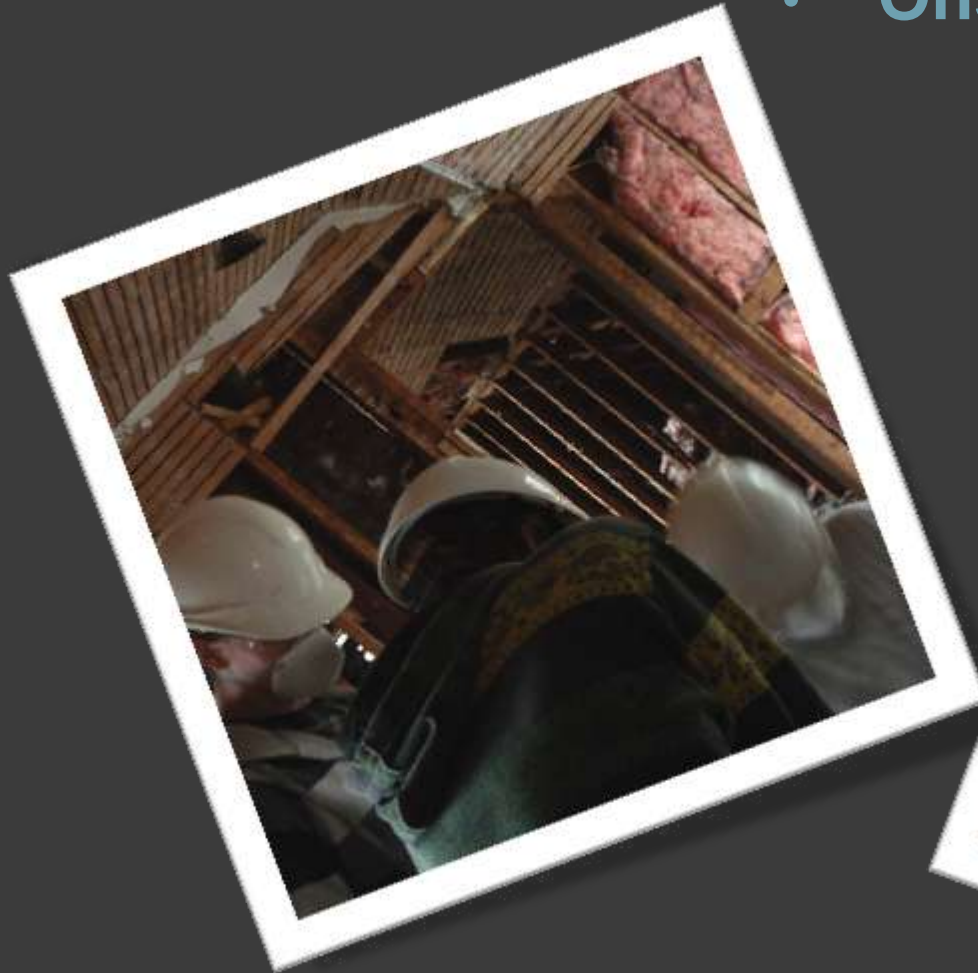
Environmental Education



- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Construction Context
- “The Story of Stuff” : E-waste and imports/exports
- Statistics around construction waste in Metro Vancouver
- Vists to Recycling Facility, Street Sweeps

CAST: The Process Cont

- Onsite Deconstruction



Hands-On Training



Salvage and Sorting



Recycle and Resale

RESALE:

Independent vs.
Commercial service

For Profit vs Non-profit



Graduation and Next Steps



“Green Collar” Jobs

- Graduates from the program have necessary skills and certifications to enter green construction/deconstruction industry and related entry-level industries
- Can contribute to the take down and/or construction of youth housing

Broadway Youth Resource Centre



**Old BYRC building ;
deconstruction and demo**



**New BYRC with supported
housing ; LEED certified**

Media, Recognition & Industry Links

- City of Vancouver: Partnership for environmental and social initiatives

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager



Civic Recognition



**Surrey-Green Timbers
MLA Sue Hammil**



**Vancouver East MP Libby
Davies & Vancouver-Mt.
Pleasant MLA Jenny Kwan**

Goals Revisted

COV

- ◉ Worlds' Greenest City by 2020
- ◉ End Homelessness by 2015



PCRS

- ◉ End Youth Homelessness
- ◉ Provide skills for attachment to labour force



A Viable Solution

“The two primary factors in predicting homelessness and an ongoing cycle of poverty and homelessness are lack of affordable housing and a lack of education and training. CAST addresses these issues by training and supporting marginalized homeless youth and young adults to attach to the labour market”

Positive Outcomes

- 93% material diverted from pilots
- 19/20 youth completed the program
- 95% of youth attached to labour market or returned to school/training program
- Life skills/personal development
- Knowledge and appreciation of environment
- Model for non-profit partnership
- Model for green construction/deconstruction projects, info used in COV and Metro policy
- Homeless youth now housed, many employed/back in school

Transition to a Social Enterprise

- Salvage and Reuse Store
- Green Social Enterprise Hub
- Training Programs

*Possibilities are
Endless!!*



Participant Testimonial



Deconstruction in Action



THANK YOU!!

