



EMC News - Do you have unwanted building materials cluttering up your house? Are you looking for a way to get rid of them without adding to municipal landfill?

You can give them a second life by donating them to the Habitat for Humanity at its new public drop-off centre at 2383 Carp Rd., next to the Ottawa landfill site.

In partnership with Waste Management of Ottawa, the drop-off centre will collect "gently used" and new building materials for refurbishment and resale through the Habitat for Humanity stores in Ottawa.

The new location had its grand opening Wednesday, Sept. 17. Representatives from Habitat for Humanity and Waste Management were on hand to officially launch the facility.

"The key to respecting the environment is forming a habit of not throwing out gently used renovation and building materials," said Cathy Smithe, Waste Management Community Relations Manager for Eastern Canada.

"The re-use drop-off centre will be a storage depot for the two Ottawa RESTORE centers that Habitat operates. These donated building materials from the public will be sold to support construction of new homes in the Ottawa community."

Recyclable materials accepted at the new public drop-off facility include: interior and exterior doors, thermal glass and newer windows, kitchen and bathroom fixtures and cabinets, new building materials, trim and shelving, working light fixtures, residential hardware, plumbing and electrical supplies, tiles and flooring, framed mirrors, seasonal products, and tools.

Corporate donations, including scratch-and-dent & discounted inventory, paint mis-tints and customer returns are also welcomed at the centre.

Items not acceptable include: materials that are not renovation supplies (such as dishes, toys, clothing, books and exercise equipment), building supplies that are dirty, damaged, or have mold, rot or rust, building materials with nails or screws not removed, carpet, paint (from the public), appliances and furniture, coloured sinks and toilets as well as unframed mirrors/glass.

Waste Management also plans to develop a free recycling center at the landfill that will allow electronic waste, cardboard, tires & plastics to be dropped on site, sorted and shipped to other facilities to be processed and ultimately diverted from the landfill. Completion of the recycling facility is expected by October this year.

"With both of these facilities available for the public, we will be able to help our community by diverting waste from the landfill as well as re-using materials that Habitat will use for new home builds. We're certainly happy to have partnered with Habitat for Humanity" said Smithe.

Though just open, people were already beginning to bring materials to the facility. Habitat for Humanity will have staff on site to collect material and also to prepare it for resale. The facility will be open Thursdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

On site operator Allan Avis was enthusiastic about the location.

"It's great to have a west end location like this," he said. "And being close to the landfill site is convenient for people who are trying to get rid of unwanted items. We also have space to store materials here and to work on them too."

Waste Management, Inc. is the region's leading provider of comprehensive waste and environmental services. The Ottawa facility and other regional operations are part of an international network of operations, including 413 collection operations, 370 transfer stations, 283 active disposal sites, 17 waste-to-energy plants, 131 recycling plants, 95 beneficial-use landfill gas projects and six independent power production plants. Locally, Waste Management serves more than 133,000 residential and commercial customers.

"Drawing on our resources and experience, we actively pursue projects and initiatives that benefit the waste industry, the communities we serve and the environment. Waste Management works to make a positive difference for the environment in every aspect of its business," said Smithe. "At the Ottawa facility, we run free eCycle events to encourage residents to keep their obsolete electronics out of the garbage and instead drop them off with us. We can strip them and recycle all of the parts."

Smithe added that Waste Management is proud to be affiliated with Habitat for Humanity in Ottawa.

The volunteer, non-profit organization has been operating in the National Capital Region since 1993. Operations depend on a volunteer base of over 1,000 people.

Habitat for Humanity - NCR builds simple, decent, affordable homes and sells them with no interest mortgages to low income working families seeking an affordable home in which to raise their children.

David Johnston is a freelance writer currently on assignment with the EMC.