



IRN  
THE RECYCLING NETWORK

**Contact:**

Mark Lennon  
The Institution Recycling Network  
mlennon@ir-network.com  
(603) 229-1962

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**98% Recycling at UNH DeMerritt Hall**

Concord, NH (November 2, 2008) – The University of New Hampshire, Harvey Construction of Bedford, and the Institution Recycling Network (IRN) have achieved a 98% recycling rate during the demolition and reconstruction of DeMerritt Hall on the UNH campus.

Constructed in 1914, DeMerritt Hall was longtime home to the UNH physics department and a campus landmark. But it had long since become inadequate for the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century science program: a wood structure prone to vibration; ceiling heights too low for equipment and mechanical systems; uses limited by the layout of structural walls. In June 2007 UNH and General Contractor Harvey Construction (Bedford, NH) began to demolish the old DeMerritt Hall to make way for a 52,000-square foot steel structure to carry the UNH Physics program through another half-century or more of teaching and research.

DeMerritt Hall also became UNH's first test of aggressive jobsite recycling. UNH has successful recycling programs for materials like paper, cardboard, and beverage containers, but this was its first attempt to recycle on a demolition and construction project. With a precedent being set every time a material was recycled or thrown away, a lot of eyes were following the results. Harvey accepted the challenge, and asked IRN for assistance.

Phase One of the project included the selective salvage of building components to hold for reuse in the new building. These items included wood flooring, slate blackboards and a variety of fixtures and furnishings. These were stored on campus during construction for reinstallation in the new structure. Items that couldn't be placed in the new DeMerritt were managed through IRN's surplus program, which places items for reuse through U.S. and international disaster relief organizations.

After salvage was complete, demolition procedures were implemented that optimized recycling opportunities. Perhaps to Harvey's surprise, if not to IRN's, recycling didn't interfere with project efficiency, schedule, or budget. The demolition recycling rate was 98.2%, including 1,614 tons of concrete, brick, and other aggregates, 176 tons of wood, 147 tons of metal, and 387 tons of other materials. Only 43 tons were unable to be recycled.

Typical for a new construction project, the waste stream from erecting the new DeMerritt Hall was more complex, including materials like gypsum wallboard scrap, cardboard, and reused items in addition to aggregates, wood, and metals. When the project wrapped, recycling from new construction came out to 316 tons, with only 14 tons thrown away, a 96% recycling rate. Combined with demolition recycling, the overall DeMerritt recycling rate was just under 98%.

Based on its DeMerritt Hall experience, Harvey Construction is incorporating a recycling plan into nearly all of its new projects, and UNH is headed in the same direction. "Recycling just makes sense," says Harvey Project Manager Andrew Martino. "It makes financial sense. It makes environmental sense. It makes sense to our customers. It makes sense to our employees. When it came down to it, after DeMerritt Hall we didn't even have to make a decision. Recycling is just good business."

Comprehensive Recycling Solutions

7 South State Street, Suite 2 • Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
Telephone: 603-229-1962 • Fax: 603-229-1960 • web site: [www.ir-network.com](http://www.ir-network.com)



# IRN

## THE RECYCLING NETWORK

### **About IRN**

The Institution Recycling Network is a cooperative recycling organization that works with over 200 colleges and universities, hospitals, K-12 schools, and private companies to improve the performance and economics of recycling. IRN negotiates transportation, processing, and marketing of recycled commodities using the collective strength of its member institutions, and provides a single point of contact to recycle dozens of different materials. IRN handles over 75 commodities – everything from cardboard and fluorescent lamps to concrete and Astroturf. IRN is known particularly for its effective recycling of unusual or complex commodities such as electronic equipment, construction and demolition wastes, and surplus property.

Comprehensive Recycling Solutions

7 South State Street, Suite 2 • Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
Telephone: **603-229-1962** • Fax: **603-229-1960** • web site: **[www.ir-network.com](http://www.ir-network.com)**