A Template for Community ReUse Centers in New York State

Finger Lakes ReUse taps used materials–too often wasted- to strengthen our economy, build community, and protect the environment by re-directing these resources from the waste stream into productive new uses. Finger Lakes ReUse operates a community-oriented warehouse, shopping, and educational center where the maximum reuse of materials is a priority; where living wage jobs are created and supported; where mentoring opportunities are available; and where education in the skills of repair and reuse is offered.

Project Description:
Finger Lakes ReUse developed and published the Community ReUse Center Template, an interactive online tool to assist communities in replicating the non-profit Community ReUse Center model they established in 2008. In partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County (CCETC), the template was designed and marketed as a tool for communities to transform liabilities (waste) into assets (revenue generators), thereby reducing solid waste generation, creating quality "green" jobs, and developing a skilled workforce.

Project Highlights:
- The Community ReUse Center Template was completed and viewed 1500 times within a 6 month period.
- Five (5) in-person workshops and webinars were held to promote the template, and they reached over 150 individuals in 12 different New York State communities. A video recording of the webinar was completed as well, located here http://vimeo.com/99865328.
- Over 70 communities have expressed interest in further reuse education and collaboration
- The project was presented at the Reuse Conex 2014, an international and biennial conference for established and startup reuse organization.

Web links: fingerlakesreuse.org