

# WASTE REDUCTION

## CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

Construction and demolition in the United States generates over 136 million tons of waste each year. This waste typically consists of concrete, wood, asphalt, gypsum, metals, bricks, salvaged building components (doors, windows, plumbing fixtures, etc), and landscaping. Recycling and reusing construction and demolition materials not only conserves landfill space, but can reduce project expenses through avoided disposal costs.



Santa Clara University requires contractors to recycle as much construction and demolition waste as possible. During demolition of the Orradre Library, contractors collected and sorted recyclable and reusable materials onsite. Roof tiles from Orradre were stored and reused on the new library. Excess packaging and waste products during construction were also recycled. As a result, over 90 percent of demolition waste from Orradre Library was recycled or reused.

## RECYCLED CONCRETE FOUNDATION

The Harrington Learning Commons, Sobrato Technology Center, and Orradre Library is roughly 194,000 square feet and sits on a three-foot thick concrete foundation, also known as a mat slab. The concrete slab is made of 70 percent recycled fly ash concrete. Fly ash, generated during the combustion of coal, is a residue which must be captured to reduce pollution.

## RECLAIMED FURNITURE

Modular furniture for Information Technology, Media Services, and University Library offices are reclaimed from an office building in the city of Santa Clara. The brand new furniture had never been used—many chairs still had the original plastic covers! Other furniture pieces in the building are made with recycled or recyclable materials.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

Harrington Learning Commons, Sobrato Technology Center, and Orradre Library  
Sustainability at SCU  
University Operations  
Construction & Demolition Materials, US EPA

[www.scu.edu/newlibrary](http://www.scu.edu/newlibrary)  
[www.scu.edu/sustainability](http://www.scu.edu/sustainability)  
<http://university-operations.scu.edu>  
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