

**Using Recycled Building Products**

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**Educational Goals:** Students will learn the uses of recycled materials and reasons for using renewable and recycled building materials. The students will be introduced to actual renewable/recycled building supplies. The students will also learn where and when these supplies might be used in the building of the structure.

**Description:** Students will be introduced to key concepts of Earth’s limited resources, exponential population growth, and the need for using renewable/recycled resources especially in building. The students will be able to see a display made up of recycled glass tile, recycled denim insulation, recycled milk jugs made into plastic beams, recycled concrete, reclaimed wood, etc. The students will draw their own “green” house plans, complete with trees to make the structure more energy efficient. (These drawings will be saved to add to later with the “What is Xeriscaping?” module).

**Time:** 90 minutes, 1 meeting.

**Materials Needed**

* Displays of acquired green building materials (recycled glass tile, denim insulation, etc.)
* Portable laptop and projector for presentation
* Power Point Presentation: Why Build Green?
* “Green” house drawings (they draw in the materials now, and add their landscaping on later)
* Template (for the students to draw on)
* Markers/pens

**Topics to Discuss**

**(All discussed in the slideshow)**

* Earth’s limited resources
* Earth’s renewable resources
* Green building materials
* Materials and their uses

**Schedule:** This lesson is intended to be offered after the “Why Build Green” module, and before the “What is Xeriscaping Anyway?” module.

In this presentation, the mentor should:

* Introduce the principles of green building, recycling products to be used for green building materials, green building materials, with the brief slide show provided. **(30 minutes)**. This assumes that the mentor is set up prior to student arrival.
* The mentor should pass around the display board so the students can discover what green materials we are discussing. (This can be passed around during the slideshow, depending on the interest of the students). (**5-10 minutes**, no rush, let them feel and see the materials and ask questions).
* Building Material Guessing Game (the products on the board are labeled, but covered up. It is meant to be a “What am I?” game; A: I’m an old windshield cleverly disguised as a glass tile!)
* After that, a discussion should be led by the mentor to encourage the students to talk about the kinds of traditional construction materials that they are familiar with. This will give the mentor and students alike, a context or platform to work with. **(10 minutes)**

**Mentor Notes**