

It's quite a feat for a business to make it to its ten year anniversary, particularly a non-profit. But here we are, a decade later and ReSource has quietly cemented its place within the community. The recipe for our success? A lot of hard work and sweat from our staff, a devoted community who believe that landfill diversion is the right thing to do and a dedicated and supportive parent organization that made sure we survived.

**R**ewind to the spring of 1996. The Boulder Energy Conservation Center (BECC), now the Center for ReSource Conservation, created a program that would accept and resell various kinds of reusable building materials. Open one day a week beginning on Earth Day, ReSource 2000 made its debut in the burgeoning sustainability industry.

ReSource 2000 was originally staffed by highly motivated board members of the BECC, including Jon Giltner. With a lease of one dollar a month from Western Disposal, the 1.2 acre sales yard soon took on energy of its own.



SunBonnet, built in 1998 by a team of CU students

The consequences of an entirely outdoor sales yard quickly challenged the survival skills of salvaged goods. The first long-term manager, Mic Falario, remembers the excitement of the moment as well as the mess. Mic reminisces, "The original Grand Opening in 1997 was canceled because of

a heavy wet snow the night before. We couldn't even open that day."

Sun, wind, rain and snow; the harsh Colorado elements took their toll on the merchandise at ReSource over the next ten years. During this time there was generous support from individuals and the community. Tim Seeber began volunteering at the sales yard within the first year and continues to this day.

Julee Herdt, Professor of Architecture and Green Building at CU, held a design contest for her students. The winning design, called the Sunbonnet, became the ReSource office in 1998 and was built by Julee and her students out of 99% reused materials. A grant was awarded to ReSource to build small sheds that would serve as shelter for the best material.

There has been one consistency over the past decade that has held the yard together like duct tape; renowned employee Mark Bowen. Embarking on his ninth year with ReSource, Mark has witnessed first-hand the transformations of the program and the reuse industry as a whole. "We would take anything just to get this place looking full. Our prices were really



Mark and Clemente at the Yard

low to encourage customers to come back again" he explained. When the time came that the employees could no longer park their cars in the sales yard, Mark realized that the idea was catching on. "Now, we unfortunately find ourselves having to turn people away with really old and damaged material because we just don't have the room to store items that don't sell."

**Fast forward to the spring of 2006.** The property is still leased from Western for a dollar a month and customers can still request Mark upon arrival, but the similarities end there.

The year 2000 came and went and ReSource found itself still in existence, subsequently dropping the 2k. It is now in vogue to call salvaged materials "reclaimed" instead of "used".

## ReSource then: 1996



A generous 2004 grant from the Boulder County Resource Conservation Division resulted in the erection of two steel buildings providing equal opportunity for all doors, windows and cabinets to make it through the winter. Half of one building provides a processing area where lumber is de-nailed while the other half houses a woodshop where talented woodworkers create furniture and one of a kind pieces from reclaimed materials. The sales yard runs about 40 school tours and sees close to 30,000 visitors each year. Fort Collins can now proudly boast of a ReSource

all their own. What was once a glorified yard sale has blossomed into a true community resource.

Awarded locally and nationally for waste reduction efforts, ReSource diverts over two tons of material from landfills annually. A successful ReSource Deconstruction program carefully removes materials that can be reused before a remodel or demolition. The ReSource Construction and Demolition Waste program helps ease the burden on landfills by insuring that contractors have easy recycling access through compartmentalized

trailers that are placed at jobsites.

Well known for great deals on reclaimed building materials and tax deductions for donations, ReSource has also become a place for local activism, recycling answers and community and educational outreach. If you haven't participated in the ReSource experience lately, you owe it to yourself, and to the earth, to pay the yard a visit.

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## ReSource now: 2006

