

LA FONDATION
HÉRITAGE
CANADA



HERITAGE
CANADA
FOUNDATION

Heritage Day 2009

Heritage and the Environment: Saving Places That are Built to Last

FACTS & STATS

Environmental Benefits from the Rehabilitation of Heritage Properties:

Reduce, reuse, recycle: The energy used in demolishing an older building and replacing it is not quickly recovered through the increased energy efficiency of the new building. Recent research shows that even if 40% of the materials are recycled, it takes approximately 65 years for a green, energy-efficient new office building to recover the energy lost in demolishing an existing building. Most new buildings, however, aren't designed to last anywhere near 65 years.

Reduce landfill: Canada sends 10 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste to the landfill every year. In Ontario alone, 23% of waste (2.2 million tonnes) comes from construction and demolition.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions: A 2004 study in Montréal found that the rehabilitation of a heritage building consumed less than half the energy and produced half the CO₂ than if it had been demolished and a new building erected. The Prince's Regeneration Trust in the U.K. found that rehabilitation generates 38 times less energy and carbon than new construction.

Support sustainable development: The reuse of heritage buildings supports urban intensification and avoids the new infrastructure (road, sewer, hydro grid) associated with new development.