



PRESS RELEASE

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ReBuilding Exchange Relocates to Larger, More Centrally Located Facility *New Location will Host More Inventory, Expanded Job Training, and New Workshop Series*

CHICAGO – The ReBuilding Exchange (RX), launched in February 2009, is moving to a new, larger, more centrally located facility in February 2011. The expansion is a result of the incredible growth that the organization has experienced over the last two years, thanks to the support of engaged community members as well as funding from The Boeing Company, Searle Funds at Chicago Community Trust, Polk Brothers Foundation, and City of Chicago.

Since 2009, the RX has diverted more than 3,000 tons of building materials from the landfill while providing job training to 22 formerly incarcerated adults and making more than \$1 million worth of building materials available at a fraction of that cost to improve homes and neighborhoods in a green and sustainable manner.

The RX is moving from a 15,000-square-foot facility in Brighton Park to a 30,000-square-foot facility in Wicker Park/Bucktown. “We will miss Brighton Park, but we know that the relationships we’ve developed over the past two years will continue to flourish in our new location,” says Elise Zelechowski, RX Executive Director. “By doubling the size of our facility, we’ll be better able to accept more donations of reclaimed building materials and, in turn, offer a reliable and affordable supply of materials to the community.

“The more central location will also allow us to better service a larger number of Chicago neighborhoods,” Zelechowski continues. “We want to spread the word that sustainable building deconstruction is better than demolition both environmentally as well as economically. We keep materials out of our landfills, create jobs, and make materials available for reuse. Donors get tax breaks, contractors expand their toolbox to include another green building strategy, and people can find quality materials that just aren’t made anymore.”

The Grand Opening for the new facility – located at 2160 N. Ashland Avenue at the corner of Webster Street – will occur on March 12 with our Annual Celebration and Fundraiser, but the RX will open for business at the new location on March 1. Event details and registration information will be posted to www.rebuildingexchange.org.

The last day of business at our 47th Street location will be Feb. 23. During January, much of the RX’s current inventory is for sale at reduced prices.

The RX is also partnering with the Delta Redevelopment Institute (Delta REDI) to lease out additional industrial production and flex space at the same building. Delta REDI is particularly interested in businesses with similar waste-reduction and recycling goals as the RX. Delta REDI Manager Christine Slattery says, “The RX is a strong ‘anchor tenant’ that we hope attracts other sustainable businesses to the area so they can share marketing initiatives and co-host educational events and workshops.” For details on the available spaces, contact Slattery at cslattery@delta-institute.org.

“At a time when so many businesses are struggling, we’re humbled by the successes we’ve achieved with the support of the community, and we’re excited to continue providing a practical, economical, and environmentally friendly service to Chicago,” Zelechowski says.

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About the Delta Institute. The ReBuilding Exchange is a social venture of the Delta Institute, a non-profit organization formed in 1998 to transform the green economy. For more than a decade, the Delta Institute has successfully demonstrated that a healthy economy and a healthy environment can go hand in hand. Delta fills funding gaps and implements innovative programs that promote a healthy environment, a strong economy and thriving, vibrant communities – blazing a trail for the green economy so others can successfully follow. For more information, visit www.delta-institute.org or call (312) 554-0900. **The ReBuilding Exchange** is a non-profit organization that keeps building materials out of landfills and makes them accessible to the public for reuse, thereby protecting community health, creating jobs and saving resources. This is done through the promotion of sustainable deconstruction practices, by making used building materials available for purchase at low cost, by providing educational resources and by creating programming that builds community and rebuilds Chicago’s neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.rebuildingexchange.org.