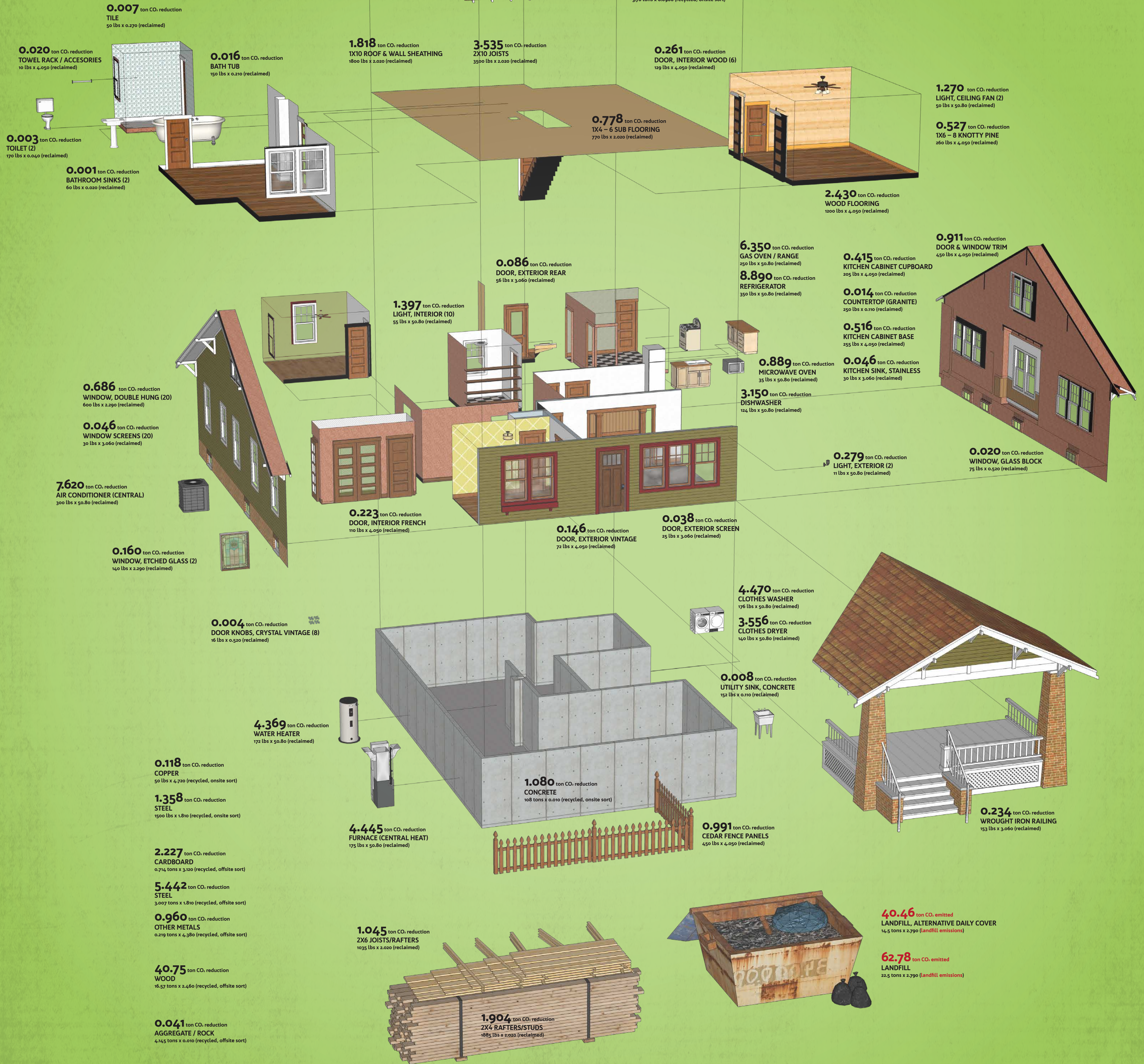


# WHY THROW AWAY A HOUSE?

It's a better idea to reuse and recycle when a building must be torn down

When a house reaches the end of its useful life – due to storm damage or neglect – and can no longer be renovated or maintained, it must be demolished to make room for a new home. But there are better options than the landfill which can make a huge difference for the environment. Here is a look at a typical deconstruction project.

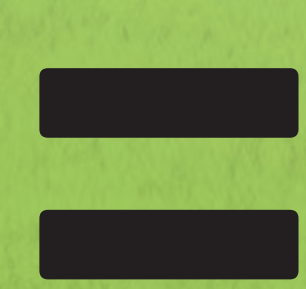
Every year, 1.6 million tons of construction and demolition waste ends up in Minnesota landfills. In the metro area, over 80% of this could be reused or recycled, saving the air, land and water for future generations. And reclaiming materials for direct reuse is many times better for the environment than recycling.



a typical house

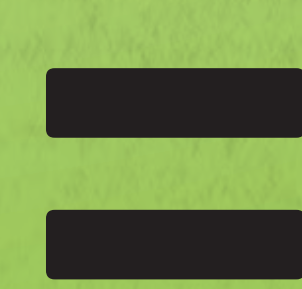


DECONSTRUCTED



**116**

tons of  
carbon offset



landfilled 37 t = 103 t CO<sub>2</sub> emitted

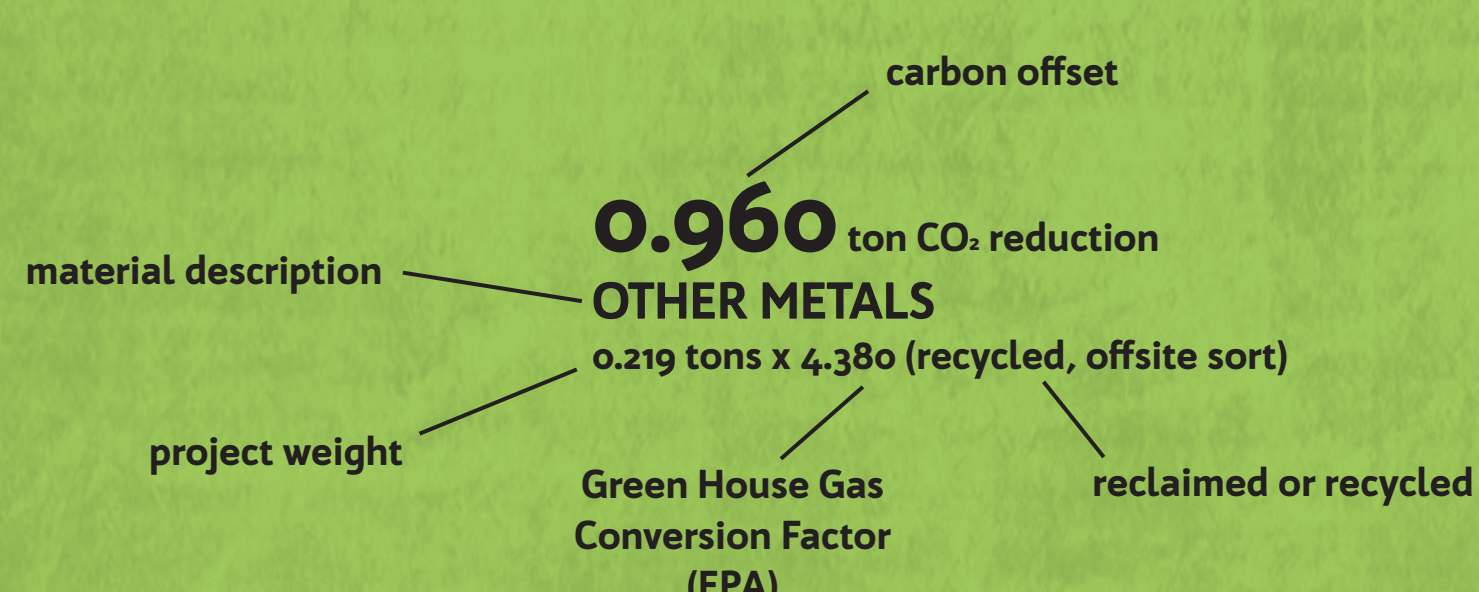
reclaimed 8 t = 64 t CO<sub>2</sub> saved

recycled 137 t = 52 t CO<sub>2</sub> saved

net emissions: -13 t CO<sub>2</sub>

NET ZERO EMISSIONS

## Guide to the Data



## GHG Conversion Factor?

The Green House Gas Conversion Factor from the EPA is based on the environmental cost to remanufacture, minus the cost to reclaim. That is why *reusing* something like framing lumber is 200 times better, ton for ton than, say, *recycling* concrete.

Visit [www.epa.gov/warm](http://www.epa.gov/warm) for more info.

## Data Source

Based on Better Futures Minnesota deconstruction project data, south Minneapolis projects in 2014, and 2015. Data compiled by Ecotone Partners. Reclamation results depend on the age and condition of the structure. Visit [www.BetterFuturesEnterprises.com](http://www.BetterFuturesEnterprises.com) to get an estimate for your deconstruction project. And visit [www.ecotone-partners.com](http://www.ecotone-partners.com) for more on how you can leverage the benefits of social and environment accounting in your business.

