



Carey Company Inc. Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant Case Study

In 2025, custom home builder Carey Company Inc. received a [Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant](#) from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to support their first residential deconstruction project on Nantucket, MA.

Background

More than a quarter of what we dispose of in Massachusetts comes from construction and demolition (C&D), making it one of the state's largest sources of trash.¹

- In 2024, MA disposed of more than **1.2 million tons** of C&D waste.²
- Building materials are identified as a priority for reuse in MassDEP's [Reduce & Reuse Action Plan](#).

Nantucket has a [demolition delay bylaw](#) that requires a six-month waiting period during which the town and building owner are encouraged to explore alternatives to demolition.

Grant Project Overview

Carey Company received a \$3,500 Micro-Grant to help pay for consultation services from leading deconstruction expert David Bennick. He helped map out the pilot, identify opportunities for reuse, and explore how a deconstruction model could work on the island.

A 4,000-square-foot home slated for demolition was selected for the pilot. Deconstruction took two weeks. The company used existing employees with the necessary skills.



Salvaged wood flooring

Once materials were salvaged, they hired a demolition team to remove what couldn't be rescued, including the roof, plaster walls, and frame.

Successes

- **The pilot diverted about 30% of the house.** Salvaged items included granite countertops, flooring, cabinets, interior doors, hardware, lighting fixtures, and all appliances. Copper pipes and aluminum storms were recycled.

- Carey Company was able to bill their deconstruction services at the same rate as demolition, making it cost competitive.
- Salvaged materials were quickly distributed on-site and were advertised on the popular “Nantucket Reuse Exchange” Facebook forum.



Salvaged wood cabinets



Granite countertops



Interior doors

Challenges and Learnings

- Carey Company was unable to salvage the windows, wood shingle siding, and some exterior doors. They had planned to bundle the shingles for firewood, but it was too challenging because they were attached with staples instead of nails.
- Storage space for salvaged materials is an ongoing challenge. Dave Bennick offered many ideas, such as using metal containers on town-owned land. Together, they met with the Department of Public Works to discuss this and other opportunities to collaborate.
- Starting small and focusing on easily salvageable materials was key to the pilot’s success. As they continue to build experience, Carey Company anticipates recovering a larger portion of the buildings they deconstruct.

Looking Ahead

To scale this work, Carey Company is forming a nonprofit focused on deconstruction and working with local organizations – like the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and Town of Nantucket – to identify future projects, seek out operational space, and host educational workshops for architects and contractors.

Press

- [Salvage and Reuse on Nantucket: Saving History and Reducing Waste](#) by Blue Dot Living
- [Video showing the pilot in action](#) by Remain Nantucket

For More Information:

Contact MassDEP: Leah Kelleher, leah.kelleher@mass.gov

[Visit MassDEP's Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant webpage.](#)