



## CASE STUDY



# Peabody Office Furniture- 234 Congress Street

## *Green Renovation: Waste, Materials, and Lighting*

Peabody Office Furniture is a 4th generation, family-owned office furniture dealership located in the Financial District of Boston, with company roots stretching back over 116 years. The company is currently headed by the Peabody brothers: President, Chris Peabody and Chief Operations Officer, Stephen Peabody. Peabody Office Furniture has historically demonstrated a strong commitment to the environment and local community, and in 2010 the organization decided to further ingrain sustainability into the company philosophy by joining A Better City's Challenge for Sustainability.

**“I’ve always been passionate about the environment, so it is easy to have good practices...”**

*President, Chris Peabody*

Since their initial engagement with the Challenge, Peabody Office Furniture has reduced their annual kWh by 16%, largely contributing to their reduction of annual metric tons of CO2 by 7% from 2011 to 2014.

“I’ve always been passionate about the environment, so it is easy to have good practices in how we impact our environment,” said President, Chris Peabody. “Our industry as a whole can be influential in LEED certification so in order to help our clients, we need to be aware of those potential impacts.”

In 2012, Peabody Office Furniture embarked on a renovation of its 8,000 square foot showroom. The majority of the renovation process involved deconstructing showroom furnishings, which inevitably created a large amount of salvageable waste. In line with the company's commitment to sustainability, the leadership decided to divert the salvageable furnishings from entering the landfill.

### FACILITY OVERVIEW

#### **Principal Use**

Furniture Dealership

#### **Facility Size**

30,000 square feet

#### **Location**

Financial District, Boston, MA

#### **Project Description**

Renovation, construction  
waste

#### **Project Completion**

2012

#### **Total Project Cost**

\$750,000

## CASE STUDY



To divert their construction waste, Peabody Office Furniture partnered with Boston Building Resources and The Furniture Trust to recycle and donate the items for reuse in the local community. Boston Building Resources picked up appliances, cabinets, ceiling fans, curtains, doors, various lighting fixtures, faucets, sinks, and millwork to be resold at a discounted price at their Reuse Center. Through their partnership with The Furniture Trust, a local non-profit, Peabody Office Furniture donated excess office furniture to organizations in the local community. Peabody employees also donated and delivered chairs from the renovation project to the Boston Fire Department.

Recycling and donating salvageable furnishings to the local community allowed Peabody Office Furniture to save \$25,000 by avoiding costs associated with waste disposal. The company projected that approximately 25% of the waste generated from the deconstruction process was diverted from entering the landfill.

Once the deconstruction phase of the renovation was finished, the remaining portion of the project focused on carpet and paint. Peabody Office Furniture continued its environmental excellence by installing recycled carpet from Interface Inc. in addition to cork and sustainably sourced wood flooring. The company received a \$20,000 incentive from NSTAR to install LED lighting throughout the showroom.

“The Challenge for Sustainability team helped us learn about methods to create our own internal ‘challenge.’ They were an incredible resource for everything we needed for the project,” said Chris

### PROJECT PERFORMANCE

*Percent Waste Diversion*  
25%

*Waste Diversion Savings*  
\$25,000

*Incentives*  
\$20,000 for LED lighting

### ABOUT THE ABC CHALLENGE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Challenge for Sustainability helps business or buildings save money by increasing energy efficiency, reducing resource consumption, decreasing solid waste, and reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions through hands-on technical assistance and access to local, state, and private incentives.

ABC is an independent, membership-based organization that works to improve the economic competitiveness and quality of life of the Greater Boston region by advancing significant transportation, land development and environmental policies, projects and initiatives. ABC mobilizes the business community to collaborate with both civic and government sectors to take action on challenges facing the region today and into the future.

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#### FUNDERS



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#### PARTNERS



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