

Furniture Reuse – Sustainability and Cost Effectiveness

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The Queensland University of Technology Facilities Management team has introduced a centrally managed program to benefit the University and the Environment. The program was devised around the premise that big corporations like QUT could and should be utilizing their resources in a much more productive and cost effective manner. The program seeks to manage the reuse and recycling of furniture and equipment within the QUT community.

In the past organizational units were often responsible for disposal of furniture during reorganizations and refresh and FM project managers have the same task for projects. All the organizational units and FM are faced with the question, are they to be auctioned, dumped or how can they be recycled? With limited local storage, lack of communication as to what is available and the constraints of time and logistics the answer was often not supportive of good sustainable practice or gave the best outcome for the university.

QUT Facilities Management Capital Works department has developed a program to centrally manage this, a simple SharePoint Webpage online has seen the QUT community embrace the recycling/reuse program and has subsequently benefited from its implementation.

To achieve the goals of sustainability and efficiency it is important to ensure effective communication and re-education across the university community.

The support gained to date from the QUT community, has been paramount in achieving program goals for the organization and the environment.

This presentation will explain the beneficial outcomes and University wide impact that a program like this offers.

- a comparison of the furniture reuse cost to sending to landfill or auction,
- how the program is managed,
- sustaining the program,
- how a centralized approach can benefit everyone in the program,
- the benefits of working in the Facilities Management context to enable positive outcomes.