**PROJECT TITLE:** Recycling construction and building materials via Habitat ReStores

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

Habitat for Humanity ReStores sell donated building materials to help fund the construction of energy efficient homes for low-income families. An LCCMR grant would be used to purchase two box trucks to pick-up more donations, thus keeping hundreds of tons of usable items like kitchen cabinets, furniture, appliances, lighting, and much more out of landfills each year. Increasing donation capacity will be key to opening a third ReStore location in the Twin Cities metro area, thus increasing the overall positive impact of ReStore for our natural resources by 50%.

ReStores specialize in Construction and Demolition (C & D) debris, which is notorious for being discarded when it still has usable value. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reported 80 percent of the 1.6 million tons of C & D waste was landfilled in 2013. Groundwater surveys show the majority of Minnesota landfills without liners that accept C & D have groundwater contamination above state and federal safety standards.

The current two metro ReStores in New Brighton and Minneapolis divert 2.87 million pounds of items from landfills each year. In addition, items that can’t be sold are processed for recycling. Volunteers disassemble lighting and plumbing fixtures to extract metals that can be recycled.

All donations to ReStores are tax deductible. However, because of the larger size of many items, hauling in donations isn’t always feasible for people. Demand for ReStore donation pickups has grown dramatically in recent years (2,835 in 2018 versus 2,195 in 2017). The trend is for 16% growth in 2019.

Currently, ReStores use two commercial trucks (one nearing the end of its lifecycle) to collect donated items from homes, businesses, and construction sites. Demand for donation pickups is outpacing capacity and more trucks are needed.

Graduate students from the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Business analyzed ReStores’ donation and sales data and made projections that show adding donation pickup capacity will be critical to the larger goal of opening a third ReStore in the Twin Cities in the coming years.

ReStore sales contribute to Twin Cities Habitat’s broader goal of environmentally-friendly affordable housing. Conservation is built into every Habitat home in the form of extra insulation, a high-efficiency furnace, and stud walls assembled in a panel plant to minimize waste. Every new Habitat home is built to meet LEED standards and be ENERGY STAR certified. Twin Cities Habitat has built more ENERGY STAR certified homes than all other builders in the state combined.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

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| **Activity 1 Title:** Purchase two box trucks to pick-up donated items for Habitat for Humanity ReStores**Description:**The trucks would be similar to a 2018 Isuzu NPR-HD Gas Cab Chassis 150 with a MORGAN FASTRACK van body and Waltco Liftgate. The trucks would be used five days a week, driving an average of 80 miles per day to make 9 pickups. All drivers are properly licensed. The increased donation capacity is part of a larger strategy to open a third ReStore location in the Twin Cities so more energy-efficient homes can be built. Each donation truck in service keeps an estimated 700 tons of usable items out of local landfills annually.The trucks have an expected lifecycle of 10 years.**ENRTF BUDGET: $98,000** |  |

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| **Outcome** | **Completion Date** |
| *1. Purchase two new commercial box trucks for ReStore donation pickups.* | *August 1, 2020* |
| *2. Divert 1,400 tons of usable building materials from Minnesota landfills each year.* | *2030 (end of the lifecycle for the trucks)* |
| *3. Disassemble unusable items in order to recycle metals.* | *ongoing* |
| *4. Fund construction of energy-efficient homes with proceeds from ReStore sales (approximately 3 homes per year per ReStore)* | *ongoing* |

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:**

Twin Cities Habitat leverages the support of 15,000 people who volunteer each year, 5,000 of them help out at ReStores to sort donation and disassemble unusable items for recycling of carboard and metal. Atomic Recycling, Metro Metals, and Westrock are key partners in these efforts to protect and preserve the environment by reducing the amount of construction materials put into a landfill and keep groundwater clean.

Twin Cities Habitat staff involved with this project are: Pete O’Keefe, ReStore Director, who oversees all operations; Robin Henrichsen, Donations Manager, who coordinates donation activity and relationships; Larry Lane, Donation Coordinator, who oversees the donation pickups; Isaiah Filla and Al Delmege who are truck drivers.

 **IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

Increasing capacity for donation pickups is critical to the goal of opening a third ReStore in the metro in the coming years. Purchasing trucks out of the operating revenue from ReStores would significantly delay the opening of a new location. The sooner a third ReStore can be opened, the more waste can be kept from landfills, more metal can be recycled, and more energy-efficient homes can be built.

**V. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:**

**A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet**

**B. Visual Component or Map**

**C. Parcel List Spreadsheet**

**D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**

**E. Research Addendum (Not required at proposal submission stage. Required later in process, if proposal is recommended. Staff will provide further information at that time)**

**F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

**G. Letter or Resolution**

**H. Financial Capacity**