

Donations of second-hand materials

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Purpose

To guide decision-making on the acceptance of second hand and recyclable materials.

To help the circle of sustainability, Northey Street City Farm accepts used goods and waste materials from the public in an attempt to divert them from landfill. These materials are recycled into The Farm's infrastructure and include items such as reclaimed timber tables through to disused bathtub garden beds. However, the policy of openly accepting all goods has begun to pose a problem. Firstly, The Farm is running out of space to store the collected materials and this space is then unavailable for other storage needs and secondly, the stacked materials have becoming a breeding zone for rats and insects, which is unhygienic. Therefore, The Farm has updated its policy on accepting second hand goods.

Policy

1. Second-hand and waste materials will only be accepted if they fulfill the following criteria:
 - a. The materials must be earmarked for a specific project, e.g., timber for a new seat requested by the Chai Café.
 - b. The materials must be used within a few weeks of collection/drop off, or an obvious immediate benefit must be realised (e.g., second-hand trellis).
 - c. If not used immediately, there must be space available to store the materials.
 - d. The goods must be consistent with The Farm's organic certification i.e., no treated timbers.
2. Materials that do not meet the collection criteria will not be accepted and The Farm will not take on the responsibility for disposing of any unwanted goods.

Procedures

1. The decision to accept materials should be based on usability and infrastructure needs. These needs can be identified in The Farm Vision Session Plans or determined at the discretion of the Green Team Coordinator.
2. As The Farm now has strong networks to advertise its building needs (i.e., through eNews, newsletters, notice-boards and word of mouth), the best procedure is to first identify what needs to be built and only then, collect the second-hand materials.
3. To keep materials out of landfill the following options can be given to interested parties:
 - a. Lifeline Australia 1800 800 768
 - b. Reverse Garbage
 - c. Google 'Second Hand Goods Brisbane' for a full list of local organisations.
4. Materials dumped at The Farm without permission should be reported and stored safely, for disposal as soon as possible by the above means or at dump runs.

