

Technology Firm, Silicon Valley



Situation: Relocation to a new corporate headquarters. After redeployment of usable items, a substantial fraction of existing furnishings remained as surplus.

Material Composition: Steelcase systems furniture, private offices, conference and meeting rooms, etc.

Quantity: Phase 1 of the move included 6,235 pieces.

Setting: Suburban campus, one-, two-, and three story buildings.

Overview

Moving to a new corporate campus, this expanding technology firm determined that its most efficient and cost-effective option was to dispose of most of their old furnishings and purchase new, rather than disassemble, move, and reinstall the existing furniture. The firm requested assistance from Steelcase dealer OneWorkplace in disposing of the furniture.

OneWorkplace brought IRN’s Surplus Program to the attention of the firm’s management team. With a corporate commitment to Sustainability, and after evaluating the comparative cost of reuse vs disposal, management determined that, based on cost, environmental, and social considerations, reuse was by far the best way to handle the surplus from the old facility.

The surplus furniture has been removed in several phases as the campus was vacated. Phase 1 (summarized here) encompassed removal of approximately 600 office settings, for a total of some 6,200 pieces.

Setting

Multiple low-rise buildings on an open 28-acre campus. Buildings were vacated by company staff, and items designated for internal reuse by the company were removed, prior to IRN’s mobilizing on the site.

Composition

Bookcase	1,064	Bulletin or Tackboard	1,113
Desk, L-Shape	613	Desk, Straight	670
Overhead Cabinet	596	Storage Tray or Shelf	1,073
Office Supplies and Small Office Items (Boxed)	1,106	Total	6,235

IRN –Reuse and Recycling

Case Study in Reuse: Technology Firm, Silicon Valley

Implementation The project was scheduled over two weeks. Corovan Moving & Storage provided labor for the project. Corovan is a regular mover for this firm, and is also a regular IRN partner in California. Corovan’s crews were divided into those knocking down the furniture and putting it on dollies (small items were first placed in boxes), a crew feeding each outbound trailer, and two or three packers inside the trailer loading to optimize the “cube” – that is, the number of pieces loaded into the trailer. As always, IRN’s goal was to pack as much as possible into each trailer, (1) to minimize shipping costs, and (2) to minimize damage in transit by leaving little or no room for items to shift, collide, or fall.

The table summarizes the project schedule, loads, and final destinations.

Date	Piece Count	Destination
3/21, Monday	593	FTC, California
3/22, Tuesday	691	FTC, California
3/23, Wednesday	606	FTC, California
3/24, Thursday	756	FTC, California
3/28, Monday	685	FFTP, Jamaica
3/28, Monday	633	FFTP, Jamaica
3/29, Tuesday	549	FNH, El Salvador
3/29, Tuesday	489	FFTP, Jamaica
3/30, Wednesday	516	FNH, El Salvador
3/30, Wednesday	717	FNH, El Salvador
Total	6,235	
FTC = Feed the Children FFTP = Food For The Poor FNH = Fundacion Nuevos Horizontes		

Destination As is frequent on large projects, the surplus was provided to more than one recipient organization. In this case, four loads were claimed by Feed the Children, for distribution from their southern California depot to community development projects in the U.S. and overseas. Three loads were shipped to the Fundacion Nuevos Horizontes in El Salvador, and three were packed and shipped to Food for the Poor’s central Caribbean depot in Jamaica, which supplies FFTP relief and development initiatives throughout the Caribbean Basin.

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