

U-Haul 750 S. Buckley Rd.

Addition of Sustainable Modular Storage

U-Haul was founded in 1945 during a resource-challenged post-WWII environment. Concepts of frugality, the importance of reuse, water conservation, and thrift of resources were imbedded into the new do-it-yourself truck and trailer business. For nearly eight decades, U-Haul has implemented products and services that eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials at their highest value, and regenerate nature, achieving positive environmental, societal, and economic results. A common-theme environmental benefit of U-Haul adaptive reuse programs is the impressive decrease in solid waste materials. U-Haul demonstrates its commitment to products designed, accessed, and used in ways that eliminate waste/pollution. Adaptive reuse inherit within several U-Haul programs (e.g., Adaptive Reuse of Abandoned Buildings, Sustainable Modular Storage, Take-A-Box Leave-A-Box, Storage Reuse Centers, Office Reuse Supply Center) repurpose existing materials, thus lessening our community waste and landfill usage, avoiding the GHG emissions associated with transporting waste to landfills, and enhancing environmental quality throughout Arizona while helping to foster social equity through more-affordable moving and storage needs.

The strategy involved in the planning, development and implementation of U-Haul Sustainable Modular Storage (SMS) is to reuse pre-existing structures to decrease the amount of waste sent to landfills. Urban development makes it increasingly difficult to designate new landfills for city municipal waste. SMS enables U-Haul products (existing truck van bodies) to be re-designed and used in ways that eliminate waste/pollution. Demonstrating investments in innovation and infrastructure, SMS is a creative solution, exclusive to U-Haul, which reuses van bodies detached from retired U-Haul trucks to create sustainably-engineered self-storage units. U-Haul created the SMS program through reverse engineering, i.e., by asking: "What environmental benefits will be realized if we design our truck bodies for eventual adaptive reuse as storage units?" SMS establishes a more sustainable life cycle for U-Haul truck van bodies instead of detached truck van bodies ending up in landfills. Quantitative environmental impacts of SMS include every 1,000 square feet of SMS avoids 17.3 tons of carbon emissions during assembly due to not needing a concrete pour.

This project in particular would involve the placement of nine Sustainable modular Storage units on the northeast corner of the property as outlined in the attached site plan. The units will be grouped together and finished to match the existing aesthetic of the U-Haul building. Each unit measures approximately 28'-2"L x 8'-1"W x 8'-3"H. There would be no additional improvements such as electric and no dirt or vegetation would be disturbed. The SMS will sit directly on the existing concrete parking lot and anchored down to the surface.