



Greening Downtown Pierre, South Dakota

Until recently, the Pierre Federal Building and Post Office had seen little change since it opened in 1965. Now, pieces of its old wall are protecting residential homes in the area.

Workers building a retaining wall along the Missouri River, using granite panels recycled from the Pierre Federal Building and Post Office refurbishing project in downtown Pierre, South Dakota.

The Rocky Mountain Region had the opportunity to take one of its older buildings and transform it into a high performing green building. With a \$7.9 million dollar budget, the region replaced all of the building's exterior walls, added a basement water drainage system, and connected the new building walls with the existing soffit.

As with most projects, GSA encourages the general contractor to recycle project materials. More than 400 granite panels totaling 430 tons needed to be dismantled and removed from the building.

"One recycling option was to grind them into rubble; however, the panels were too beautiful for that," said Michael Harrison, president and owner of a local subcontractor Land & Marine. "They're such a durable thing."

Instead, the contractor reached out and worked with riverfront homeowners, who last summer had to use sandbags to protect their homes from flooding. The contractor came up with a [creative way to use the panels](#) as a sea wall, or a retaining wall, which will protect the area from future flooding.

"This project is a testament of GSA project teams finding creative ways to recycle and reuse materials, keeping building projects sustainable," said Rocky Mountain Regional Administrator Susan Damour. "This is a great way to preserve the use of the granite and at the same time support the community by minimizing flooding on their property."