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Interview with Jason DeSanto, Our United Villages, 2006 (audio)

Jason DeSanto

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Arbow, Joe, "Interview with Jason DeSanto, 2006 (audio)" (2006). Sustainability History Project.
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Portland State University Oral History Project
Interview Index

INTERVIEWEE: Jason Desanto

Interviewer: Joe Arbow

Date: November, 16 2006

Location of Interview: Interviewees home

Research Assistant: Amy Evangelista

Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN
EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

| Time | Notes |
|-------|---|
| 00:53 | Born in Yonkers, NY in 1972 |
| 1:29 | Education a combination of public schools |
| 1:50 | Humboldt State. Environmental activist |
| 2:07 | Business management degree |
| 2:52 | Rebuilding Center with Shane |
| 3:45 | Our United Villages |
| 4:41 | Albina neighborhood for Rebuilding Center. Vaughn St in NW Portland |
| 5:38 | Asbestos, lead products and other materials that can't be sold |
| 7:08 | Non-profit status instead of a business |
| 9:37 | 5 years ago – entered real estate |
| 10:52 | Used to do all aspects of business, still does but uses some help |
| 12:17 | Uses Rebuilding Center and craig's list for materials |
| 12:32 | Embodied Energy concept |
| 14:25 | Economics vs. throughput |
| 15:00 | Tax incentives |
| 16:30 | Rebuilding Center size and workload |
| 18:20 | Market for recycled building materials |
| 20:18 | Green building tactics in his business |

| Time | Notes |
|-------|---|
| 23:22 | Rebuilding Center – store manager duties |
| 25:20 | Advertising – word of mouth and trash route advertisements |
| 26:30 | Bargaining power, creating a community |
| 31:03 | Solutions to the state of the ecosystem |
| 32:00 | Timber harvesting vs. utilizing old building lumber |
| 35:57 | Used building materials association of America |
| 36:30 | Non-profits using a business model |
| 38:00 | Our United Villages – using profits from the Rebuilding Center, employee benefits and deconstruction services |
| 39:12 | Giving advice to similar recycling centers in Iceland, Africa, U.S. |
| 40:45 | Rejuvenators |
| 41:31 | Greenscaping – retaining walls and zero-scaping |
| 42:26 | Landscaping, using native Oregon species |
| 42:50 | Water use issues |
| 45:45 | Building codes, energy efficiency and the use of recycled materials |
| 48:45 | Newer vs. older materials, pros and cons |
| 50:05 | Consumer preferences |
| 53:12 | Childhood influences: antique interest |
| 54:20 | Economic influence: counter cyclical business |