



## Frequently Asked Questions About Materials Management

### **Q. What is Materials Management?**

A. Materials management is a creative and comprehensive solution to managing operations and support services for large institutions such as universities, hospitals, and laboratories. The service, often provided as part of a capital expansion or master planning project, consolidates and efficiently manages core services including:

- Truck deliveries and service vehicle routes, to reduce vehicle/pedestrian conflict
- Loading docks and delivery sites, to reduce redundancy and increase effectiveness
- Solid and hazardous waste removal storage and recycling, to reduce cost
- Utility infrastructure and service equipment relocation, to improve aesthetics

On many campuses, too much space is used for the movement, delivery, and storage of supplies and materials. Materials Management reduces that impact and frees up valuable real estate.

### **Q. What tangible benefits can I expect from a Materials Management implementation?**

- A.
- **Financial:** Most institutions experience significant, long-term cost savings. Consolidating, reconfiguring and better managing core services reduces annual operating costs.
  - **Land Use:** New opportunities to achieve highest and best use of campus real estate are a customary outcome of a sound materials management plan.
  - **Sustainability:** A holistic approach to managing vehicle use and emissions, solid waste, hazardous waste, recycling and utility services provides a greener, more sustainable campus.
  - **Aesthetics:** Removing unsafe and unsightly conditions, placing core services out of sight, and creating a more pedestrian-friendly campus combine to greatly improve the visual and physical sense of place for staff, visitors, and other users such as students, faculty, and researchers.

### **Q. Why is it called “The Invisible Campus”?**

A. S E A’s Materials Management team finds creative ways to take the unsightly and unintended impacts of core services – truck traffic, loading docks, storage facilities, materials distribution and waste removal – and put them out of sight. Often the solution involves better use of underground and other out-of-sight locations for services in the design of new or renovated facilities. The more invisible the service network is, the greener your campus can be.

### **Q. What institutions are doing this?**

A. S E A has provided materials management planning services at:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| • Brown University           | • Harvard University                   |
| • MIT                        | • Columbia University                  |
| • University of Pennsylvania | • Medical University of South Carolina |
| • Yale University            | • Rhode Island School of Design        |
| • Duke University            |  |



**Q. *What is the typical cost of a Materials Management study?***

Like any design or planning project, it depends on size and scope. A typical materials management study associated with a new building complex can range from \$100,000 to \$300,000. The ROI period is often brief due to increased operational efficiency and reduced service costs.

**Q. *What disciplines are engaged in Materials Management solutions?***

A. Materials Management planning is interdisciplinary and includes aspects of civil and environmental engineering, traffic analysis, solid waste management, sustainable practice, architecture, urban planning, space programming, and landscape architecture.

**Q. *Is Materials Management just another term for campus planning?***

A. No. Most campus plans and institutional master plans do not examine service systems from a comprehensive or overall efficiency perspective. It's a discipline that is often neglected in traditional planning and design. Materials management builds from and enhances the institutional master plan by filling in the gaps and producing an environmentally responsible and efficient outcome.

**Q. *Where do you start when you come up with a plan?***

A. S E A inventories existing conditions, collects data on core service functions and needs, and identifies the opportunities and constraints within the campus infrastructure. In short: we complete a clear definition of needs, and form a solid, custom-built plan based on these needs.

**Q. *Why choose S E A for these services?***

A. As scientists, engineers, planners, and architects, S E A staff members are committed to creating operational effectiveness as well as physical design solutions. Our clients benefit from the experience they gain from our interdisciplinary teams. We take a scientific, data-driven approach, and apply a combination of analysis and creativity to develop the materials management plan. S E A's materials management database provides useful benchmarks for our clients.

**Q. *How do I learn more about this, and how it might work for me?***

A. Contact us to discuss your unique needs:

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