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# Construction and Demolition Recycling

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# What is C&D Recycling?

- Construction and demolition (C&D) materials are generated when new building and civil-engineering structures are built and when existing buildings and civil-engineering structures are renovated or demolished.
- Demolition makes up 90% of generated materials.
- It's estimated between 70-95% of all C&D material can be recycled.
- 1996: 136m tons generated; 2015: 548m tons



# Current State of Denver C&D Recycling

- Currently, there is no requirement to recycle construction and demolition debris
- According to 2017 data, licensed waste haulers reported that C&D disposal accounted for 26% of their business.
- Of total C&D waste, only 16% was recycled in 2017
- All C&D recycling is done by private contractors and prices vary.
- An estimated 35% of all waste produced in Colorado is C&D

# Types of C&D Materials Eligible for Recycling

Wood

Metal

Cardboard

Concrete, Masonry, and many more



# Other Cities

## Fort Collins

- Requires all new res. and comm. C&D recycle
- Also applies to remodels over 2500 sq. ft.
- Requires the use of private haulers or for project managers to self-haul
- Current rate is 29.6%. Code was recently updated to cover more projects and increase rate.

## Seattle

- Mandatory recycling for all C&D projects
- Eight-year phase-in process for types of materials to be recycled
- Uses private companies to process waste. Allows for self-haul to stations.
- 65.6% recycling rate and 75.9% diversion rate (reuse, beneficial use, and recycling)

## Portland

- Began regulating C&D recycling in 1995
- Mandatory 75% recycling rate for all C&D projects, 85% for city-owned facilities
- Requires clearly labeled recycling containers and a clearly labeled trash can for food waste, in order to prevent cross-contamination
- Current rate is unknown

# Recommended Process

In an effort to increase C&D recycling, many cities have created recommendations to increase compliance. Examples include:

- Encouraging project managers with limited space to prioritize certain containers based on project phase
- Hiring compliance inspectors
- Providing lists of known C&D Recycling Companies in the area
- Recycling requires more man power, which can mean greater job creation in the area
- Making data available to show that costs of recycling vs. landfill are often similar. It can even be cheaper to recycle.



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# Questions?