



# Contractor's Guide to Construction & Demolition Waste Management

October 2011



## Reasons to Recycle on C&D Sites:

The C&D waste stream provides many opportunities to divert large quantities of often valuable, recyclable materials out of landfills. Some reasons to recycle include the following:

### **Environmental stewardship:**

- Reducing, reusing, & recycling saves valuable natural resources & energy needed to make new products from virgin material
- Reducing waste conserves natural resources & *saves money*

### **Economical:**

- Sites set up to be recycling-friendly sites are more efficient
- Less waste means lower costs
- Some material (e.g. metal) are

worth money

- If a contractor hauls their own waste with their own truck they can *save money*

### **Clean & Safe Site:**

- A site that has on-site recycling will tend to be cleaner
- By clearly marking locations for various streams of waste, whether or not material is stored in containers or stockpiles, your site will be more organized, space on site will be better used, and workers are less likely to become injured as a result of clutter

### **Positive Publicity:**

- By publically displaying recycling diversion rates on the

site, contractors display a 'greener' public image

### **Proactive :**

- With the rising interest in LEED certification and other green building standards for new construction, contractors who are currently recycling on-site will be well-positioned to bid for those jobs

### **Ease:**

- If the site is well organized, on-site recycling is easy & does not require a lot of extra time

## Interesting Facts:

- In 2008-2009 11,000 tonnes of C&D debris was disposed of in the Valley Region—this is about 1/3 of the total waste generated.
- The average new construction project yields 3.9 pounds of waste per square foot of building area. Meaning a 50,000-square-foot building would produce 97.5 tons of waste.
- The average building demolition yields 155 pounds of waste per square foot. Meaning a 50,000-square-foot building would produce 3,875 tons of waste.



# Construction & Demolition

## Waste Management Best Management Practices



Best Management Practices (BMPs) are approaches that, if followed, should allow contractors to achieve their desired recycling goals. BMPs can help contractors be better environmental stewards.

### Generate Waste Management Plan & Put All Goals in Writing

A Waste Management Plan (WMP) is a written plan that is meant to help contractors establish goals, list the materials that will be generated on the job, and plan an outcome for each material (i.e. reused, recycled, etc.). The WMP will identify who is responsible for various duties such as tracking waste, monitoring dumpsters or stockpiles, etc.

“Make your site recycling-friendly by clearly mark all containers”

### Reduce & Reuse First

Projects can be designed to minimize waste. Look at past projects that are similar in style, figure out what typically goes to waste and find alternatives. Base design on dimensions that favour use of standard material sizes. Incorporating reused and salvaged materials also reduces waste. By accurately estimating supplies needed and requesting on-demand delivery, a contractor can avoid overstocking materials that could potentially go to waste if damaged prior to use. Contractors should also consider ‘purchasing green’ when they are buying materials; choosing materials with no packaging or working with suppliers that are willing to reduce packaging will help reduce the overall waste generated.

### Designate a Recycling Coordinator

Select one employee to oversee all aspects of the waste management plan. The site supervisor is often a good choice. This individual will be in charge of making sure all employees are aware and educated about the waste management plan. They will also be required to track all waste leaving the site and ensure it reaches the intended destination. The recycling coordinator should monitor the sorted streams on-site and when problems are found, find solutions.



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## Sorting Stations for Banned Materials

A list of materials banned from landfills in N.S. can be found on page 4. The bans require that those materials be sorted separately from general dumpster waste. Offering your employees a sorting station for lunchroom waste and ensuring they correctly sort their own waste on-site is one more step toward greening a construction site.

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## Clear Signage

Make your site recycling-friendly by clearly marking all containers & sorting areas. Signs will not only help employees sort properly but they will also act as a constant reminder to sort waste. VWRM has magnetic dumpster sorting signs, available to contractors at a small fee.

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## No Unmarked Containers & No Black Bags

If an unmarked garbage can exists on the project site, it offers employees an easy way out of having to sort waste, so make sure you label all waste container and remove all unlabeled containers. If you bring your waste to VWRM's facilities, it is important to remember the 'No Black Bag' policy and ensure all bagged waste is in clear bags.

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## Monitor Waste Often

Containers and stockpiles should be monitored regularly by the Recycling Coordinator for contamination. If a container is found to have incorrect sorting, the problem should be addressed immediately. Monitoring may be done daily, weekly, or as often as needed.

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## Discuss Waste Management Plan at Every Meeting

Bring up the waste management plan as often as possible. Progress, challenges, & changes should be discussed at every meeting. Employees should be made aware of who they should speak to about issues or questions regarding waste management.

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Your Partner in Waste Reduction



**Materials Banned from Landfills in Nova Scotia:**

Designated Material	Implemented
Beverage containers	April 1, 1996
Corrugated cardboard	April 1, 1996
Newsprint	April 1, 1996
Used tires	April 1, 1996
Lead-acid (automotive) batteries	April 1, 1996
Leaf and yard waste	June 1, 1996
Post-consumer paint products, formerly known as waste paint	April 1, 1997
Ethylene glycol (automotive antifreeze)	April 1, 1997
Compostable organic material	June 1, 1997
Steel/tin food containers	April 1, 1998
Glass food containers	April 1, 1998
Low-density polyethylene bags and packaging	April 1, 1998
High-density polyethylene bags and packaging	April 1, 1998
Televisions, desktop, laptop and notebook computers, including CPU's, keyboards, mice, cables and other components in the computer, computer monitors, computer printers, including printers that have scanning or fax capabilities or both	February 1, 2008
Computer scanners, Audio and video playback and recording systems, telephones and fax machines, cell phones and other wireless devices	February 1, 2009

**10 Steps to Successful C&D Recycling:**

1. Commit to Reducing Waste
2. Develop Waste Management Plan
3. Identify Target Materials
4. Select Markets & Haulers
5. Set up Signage & Site Logistics
6. Monitor Often
7. Educate & Train
8. Track Waste
9. Adjust to Fix Problems
10. Celebrate Success!

