

Construction and Demolition Waste

2017 Master Planning Summary Fact Sheet

S A I N T P A U L – R A M S E Y C O U N T Y P U B L I C H E A L T H

Fact sheet sent to members of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) in preparation of May 30, 2017 meeting.

What is Construction and Demolition Waste?

Construction and demolition (C&D) waste is generated during the construction, renovation and demolition of buildings and other structures. This waste includes concrete, bricks, wood and lumber, roofing, drywall, landscape and other materials. In Minnesota, 1.6 million tons of construction and demolition waste is produced every year.

What happens to the waste?

Over 80 percent of C&D waste will end up in a landfill. However, there are active programs and facilities in the Twin Cities metro area that are actively working to recover the waste.

Material recovery is an alternative to disposal

There are four categories to recovery when disposing of construction waste:

- **Deconstruction** is the process of dismantling buildings in a way that allows for reuse of the materials.
- **Salvage and ReUse** happens when value items that can be reclaimed, giving a second life to materials. High value items can include cabinetry, appliances, lighting and plumbing fixtures, and hardwood flooring.
- **Moving Buildings** or relocating a building can eliminate the labor, waste and hazardous disposal costs associated with traditional demolition. It can be done by disassembling and reassembling or moving the whole structure.
- **Recycling C&D Waste** is possible as it consists of up to 70 percent of recyclable materials. Materials can include concrete, asphalt, shingles, gypsum wallboard, wood, porcelain, tile, metals, masonry, plastic, carpet and insulation.

POTENTIAL DIVERSION FROM STRUCTURES



Source: Delta Institute

Material recovery has environmental and economic benefits

- Reduced waste to landfills.
- Reduced consumption of virgin material.
- Jobs from removing structures or building new products with reclaimed materials.
- Resale of flooring, woodwork, lighting, plumbing and fixtures.

Construction and Demolition Waste

Ramsey County success story

There are significant efforts by the private and public sector to recover items and recycle materials from demolition projects.

Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) demolition and remediation was able to recycle or reuse 93 percent of the removed materials. These materials included:

- 13,000 tons of steel (recycled);
- 400,000 tons of concrete and asphalt (recycled);
- 8 miles of rail road track (reused);
- 250,000 board feet of old growth Douglas Fir (reused);
- 250 steel girders weighing 5,000 pounds each (reused).



Ramsey County completed soil remediation in November 2015 at the TCAAP site. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issued a Certificate of Completion in July 2016 through its Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup program to verify that soil had been restored to residential standards. The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to delist the site from its Superfund list in 2017.

Pre-demolition Inspection Program

Ramsey County is a fully developed county, so almost all new construction in the county is preceded by demolition. The County's Pre-Demolition Inspection Program identifies hazardous materials prior to building demolition and works with contractors to ensure that these materials are properly managed or reused. The program provides building owners and contractors with resources to encourage deconstruction and building material salvage and recycling.



Source: Ramsey County

Program requirements create consistent demolition practices, help reduce occupational exposure to hazards, reduce the toxicity of waste disposed, and reduce landfilling of C&D waste.

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