

Zero Waste Action Plan:

Draft Action Items for Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste

Background:

- Based on the Humboldt Waste Management Authority waste characterization study (Cascadia 2021), 73% of Construction and Demolition (C&D) material thrown in the landfill in Humboldt* are considered potentially recoverable. Top 3 materials are Asphalt Composition Shingles, Wood Waste, and Clean Pallets. *Note: self-haul C&D data specific to Eureka only is unavailable.
- The state mandates (through the CalGreen Building Code) that 65% of C&D waste must be recycled or reused through the jurisdiction's building permit process.
- The 2021 waste characterization study informs the City staff analysis of current (2022) efforts to reduce C&D waste, to identify which materials to target, and to determine the listed action items.

Information Gathering Process:

State and National Research

Staff have researched at the state and national level to understand trends in innovation and technology, state and national mandates, best practices, and more.

- CalRecycle
- Cal Green Building Code
- Cal Trans
- EPA
- National Asphalt Pavement Association
- The Green Book

Local Tours

Staff went on local tours of the most notable C & D recycling facilities that are serving our region. Understanding how disposal and recycling is currently working is paramount to understand where there is room for improvement. Many of the notable findings are a direct result of our one on one interviews and tours.

- Alves Inc. - 3/3/22 & 3/8/22
- Mercer Fraser - 3/17/22
- HWMA- 3/30/22
- Kernan- 4/27/22

Local Meetings:

Staff conducted meetings with all city staff and departments who oversee public works projects and public projects. Additionally, the Humboldt Builders Exchange (HBX) is considering this topic at their Board Meeting on 4/27 to discuss helping promote this project on their news bulletin, and whether they might be interested in hosting waste diversion classes. This was made possible by a meeting with Matt Grosjean, HBX Board Member.

- COE Public Works
 - COE Engineering
 - COE Building
 - COE Planning
 - CalRecycle
 - Humboldt Builders Exchange
 - Zero Waste Humboldt
 - County Environmental Health
- C&D Industry Survey

A survey targeted at the Construction Industry was released in early April to better understand current C&D diversion practices by the industry, reception of potential changes and sought feedback on the suggested action items below. The survey is currently still open and receiving input. Further survey feedback will be sharing during the presentation.

Promoted by:

- Social Media
- Flyers with all city building permits
- Handed out at HWMA
- Flyers at local construction related businesses
- Direct emails to 100+ local businesses
- Department wide e-news letter
- Radio PSA

Notable Findings:

- The State requires a certain percent of rubber in highway paving projects. While HWMA offers tire drop-off for recycling, the collected tires are sent out of area for recycling processing. Therefore, local projects import the shredded rubber for these projects. This could be an opportunity to fully recycle materials locally if there was local recycling processing of tires.
- Asphalt shingles are a common roofing material and can be recycled due to their asphalt content. Shingles can be diverted from the waste stream and transformed into asphalt base and pavement for streets and highways. Currently the state does not have specifications for this material and some major public improvement projects are unable to take advantage of this recycled product, and may be stifling future expansion of such recycled products.
- Current disposal options for C&D waste are spread throughout the county, there is no central place to drop it off. Which after speaking with local businesses, especially small self-owned and employed - this is very challenging and creates increased time, cost, and fuel to effectively dispose of materials.
- There is little recognition or promotion of the current C&D diversion activities going on. Materials like concrete, roofing materials, drywall, dirt, and wood all can be recycled locally, and some of which are even used in local projects creating a full circle recovery loop.
- Treated wood waste is difficult to recycle or reuse due to its toxicity

- More education about C&D materials disposal and recycling could be provided at City Building Permit counter and at HWMA

Suggested Action Items:

Short Term (1-2 Years)

- Develop a C&D waste management plan for all building and demolition permits to provide accountability to contractors to meet CalGreen Building Code and landfill diversion requirements.
- Develop educational materials about the requirements of the waste diversion elements of the Cal Green Building Code and provide a resource list of facilities that accept C & D materials to be reused or recycled.
- Create and promote a recognition program to highlight construction businesses who are successfully diverting waste as good examples in this industry sector.
- Identify opportunities for local recycling processing of tires in order to be used as feedstock for highway paving projects
- Advocate for state developed metrics of asphalt specifications for road base and paving

Mid Term (3-5 years)

- Identify and foster new markets and opportunities to expand options for recycling and reuse of C&D materials. Target the top 3 materials (Asphalt Composition Shingles, Wood Waste, and Clean Pallets) to start.
- Identify options for providing technical assistance during the permitting process specific to reducing C&D waste.
- Determine the viability of incorporating the requirements and expectations in the formal bid process for public works projects and award more value if the bid describes exceeding the minimums for C&D reuse and recycling
- Partner with local private, nonprofit, and public economic development agencies, workforce development, educational, and community organizations to jointly secure federal and state grants to support the infrastructure necessary for deconstruction and building materials reuse.

Long Term (5-10 years)

- Work with municipalities and stakeholders in the region to explore models and pilots for a local C & D material recycling or reuse center including encouraging small business opportunities that could use salvaged C&D material for resale or reuse.
- Review potential to provide franchised hauling services for C&D recycling
- Develop a C&D waste diversion certification training program that could be offered regularly

Next Steps:

This is a draft report sharing the most recent finding and conclusions on C&D waste in Eureka and suggested strategies to reduce waste. This is a work in progress and the final C&D section will be within the draft Zero Waste Action Plan which is tentatively scheduled for completion in Late Summer 2022.

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