



Recycling Construction and Building Materials in Seattle

New measures are coming for Seattle customers to recycle more building materials. Look here for how you can recycle more and what requirements affect your jobs and properties.

What's changing?

Around 62% of construction and demolition (C&D) waste was recycled from Seattle projects in 2013 and another 6% was “beneficially used” as industrial boiler fuel. The Seattle City Council has adopted a **goal for recycling 70% of construction waste Citywide by 2020**. To reach this goal, Seattle Public Utilities will

- roll out landfill disposal bans on readily recyclable C&D materials,
- certify the recycling levels at recycling facilities which receive and process C&D materials from Seattle jobs, and
- require building permit holders for each new construction, remodeling and demolition to file a waste diversion report to show compliance with the disposal bans.

Who will be affected?

- Construction, Demolition and Remodeling Contractors
- Self-Haul Customers to Private and Public Transfer Stations
- Third Party Contracted Haulers
- Receiving and Processing Facilities
- Property Owners and Managers
- Building Permit applicants in Seattle

How will I be affected?

There are many companies in the business of recycling building materials, from mixed materials to “source-separated” materials sorted at the job. You can decide how much sorting makes sense on your jobs, so long as the “garbage” is kept separate from the recyclables!

Certain materials must be recycled and you will not be able to landfill them from jobs in Seattle.

Phased Landfill Disposal Bans 2012- 2016

Seattle Ordinance 124076 adopted in 2012 prohibits the disposal and requires recycling of the following materials from jobs that hold a Seattle Building Permit:

- Asphalt Paving, Bricks and Concrete (as of January, 2012)
- Metal (as of January, 2014)
- Cardboard (as of January, 2014)
- New Construction Gypsum Scrap (as of January, 2014)
- Clean Wood (as of January, 2015)
- Carpet (as of January, 2015)

- Clean Plastic Film Wrap (as of January, 2015)
- Tear-Off Asphalt Shingles (as of January, 2015)

Are there exceptions to the landfill bans?

Yes, there are some exceptions. The disposal bans do not include materials that are

- painted,
- have hazardous constituents,
- are difficult to separate from others (such as wood or styrofoam adhering to concrete), or
- are present in very small quantities in a disposal container or the disposal area of transfer stations

Will I get a ticket for disposing of banned building materials?

Not during the first year these bans are effective. After that, SPU has authority to issue fines.

What does “Facility Certification” mean?

SPU has a program to certify the recycling activities at facilities where you can bring construction, remodeling, and demolition materials for recycling. Contractors and haulers who deliver C&D materials to these “qualified” facilities will be considered to be in compliance with the City recycling requirements and disposal bans. Lists of recycling facilities accepting mixed and source separated construction materials for reuse and recycling are updated quarterly and is located at:

www.seattle.gov/util/ForBusinesses/Construction/CDWasteManagement/RecyclingRequirements/CertifiedFacilities

Do I have to use the SPU-Certified Facilities?

No, you may use facilities of your choice. However, for jobs with a Seattle building permit you will be required to show us how you have complied with the recycling requirements and landfill bans. You can show compliance either by

1. Using SPU-Certified facilities, or
2. Providing weight slips and other documentation indicating where you have recycled and not landfilled targeted building materials.

What do I have to report?

A Waste Diversion Report is required to be submitted to SPU by building permit applicants for building projects where the permit was issued after January 1, 2014. It applies to all demolition projects and new construction or remodeling projects valued at \$30,000 or greater. The report is due to SPU within 60 days of Final Inspection. This Report documents the types and quantities of materials delivered for reuse (on or off site), recycling, beneficial use and disposal. The electronic Waste Diversion Report and a manual version which can be scanned or mailed is found at:

www.seattle.gov/util/ForBusinesses/Construction/CDWasteManagement/RecyclingRequirements/WasteDiversionReport

SPU will conduct periodic audits of Waste Diversion reports to assure they have been submitted and for accuracy. Civil penalties may apply in **2015** if reports are not submitted or if materials required to be recycled get disposed in a landfill.

Other New Requirements for Building Permit Applicants

A Waste Diversion Plan is now required for all construction permits with a work area greater than 750 square feet prior to receiving a building permit. For demolition projects a Salvage Assessment is to be completed that indicates which of the materials identified in the plan are potentially salvageable. These forms are found at the DPD website: <http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/permits/forms>

For more general information please go to www.seattle.gov/util/CDWasteManagement, or contact SPU staff Gabriella Uhlar-Heffner at 386-9772, Shirli Axelrod at 684-7804.