

Actionable Science for Communities State of the Practice for Construction and Demolition Material Recycling Thabet Tolaymat¹, Kimberly Cochran², Kisenja Janjic, Rita Chow², and Nicole Villamizar²



Motivation

- Construction and demolition materials (C&D) are estimated to represent up to two times the total amount of MSW produced in the US.
- To promote sustainable materials management, it is vital to understand the factors that influence how C&D is managed and the current status of C&D recycling across the US.



Average C&D MRF Tipping Fees for C&D Materials

Objectives

- Review C&D recycling and management in the US with respect to the following:
 - Job site C&D management practices
 - The types of processing facilities are currently used to recover materials
 - End uses for recovered C&D
- Identify, classify and evaluate factors that influence C&D recycling
- Consider how green building materials and certification programs affect C&D management
- Discuss environmental and health concerns that impact C&D recyclability



Air Classifier for C&D Sorting



C&D Scrap Metal Stockpile

1. Office of Research and Development, National Risk Management Research Laboratory 2. Office of Land and Emergency Management, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

Examples of Observed Recovered C&D Material End Uses

- <u>Aggregate/construction fill</u> concrete, masonry products
- **Pavement production** old pavement, asphalt shingles Land application/soil amendment - land clearing debris mulch, ground drywall
- <u>Fuel</u> chipped wood products, C&D processing residuals



Lessons Learned

- Some portions of the C&D stream are prevalently recycled (e.g., concrete, asphalt pavement) but markets are still under development for others (e.g., drywall, C&D fines).
- There are a variety of interrelated factors that influence C&D recycling, including:
 - Economic e.g., haul costs, material market prices
 - Regulations e.g., C&D definition, mandated recycling
 - Material specific e.g., contamination, markets
- Local regulations can serve as a strong driver for enhancing C&D recycling rates.
- C&D cross contamination with harmful materials is a major concern for C&D recycling and can be minimized by segregating the materials at the jobsite.
- Green building materials and certification programs have the potential to serve as a market driver for increased C&D recycling.



Process Flow Diagram for Mixed C&D Processing Facility

Intended End Users

Office of Land and Emergency Management **EPA Regions and States.**



- processing facilities and end users
- C&D recovery at disposal sites
- a soil fill substitute.



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Next Steps

Potential web portal to connect C&D generators, Cost-benefit analysis of the material-specific Further evaluation of C&D fines for suitability as