



## Municipal C&D Recycling Case Study

Overview of trends and common ideas developed through case study research (for planning purposes only).

### Municipalities Researched and Interviewed:

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|--|---|
| a) Plano, Texas                              | <i>One of the few non-west coast cities with a C&amp;D Recycling Program</i>  |
| b) Portland, Oregon                          | <i>One of the first C&amp;D Recycling Programs establish in 1997</i>          |
| c) San Diego, California                     | <i>Southern California with similar departmental set up to Austin</i>         |
| d) San Francisco, California                 | <i>A large municipality with a well-defined C&amp;D culture</i>               |
| e) San Jose, California                      | <i>C&amp;D model for many west coast municipalities ordinance development</i> |
| f) <del>Boulder, Colorado</del> <sup>1</sup> |   |
| g) <del>Chicago, Illinois</del> <sup>2</sup> |   |

### Process Summary:

Research was conducted to identify key themes, synthesize, and organize important elements of ordinance implementation. Online research was undertaken and semi-structured interviews were conducted with key members of municipalities.

### Diversion Requirements:

Projects are typically categorized into square footage thresholds for compliance. 50% mixed debris recycling rate is the common introductory rate. This rate typically increases to 65% once economic development has matured. Deposit refunds are calculated on a sliding scale. If less than the set recycling rate is met, only a percentage of the deposit is returned. Source separated recycling seems to be encouraged to maximize the return on recycling rate, but can be labor intensive for large scale projects.

### Enforcement:

Haulers C&D facilities are typically certified and a database is maintained by the department managing the program. A *Recycling Plan Form* is many times filled out at the time of permit application to indicate the intended recycling end destination of material. Applicants are incentivized to comply with the ordinance through return of deposit or withholding of certificate of occupancy.

Municipalities prioritize a focus on C&D outreach and education. However, C&D ordinances do provide authority to take action (through fines or jail time) against a lack of compliance.

### Departmental Relationships:

The most common method of initiating a C&D Recycling project occurs within the Permitting Department at the point of permit application. Permitting staff are responsible for collecting deposits or withholding certificate of occupancy. Program management and refund administration is handled by the department managing the C&D recycling program. Inspection is handled either by code enforcement or trained personnel within the department managing the program.

### Estimated Staffing Capacity:

The number of employees varied depending on the size of the community, the level of enforcement required by the ordinance and municipal departmental relations. A typical

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<sup>1</sup> Boulder manages a C&D Recycling Program as part of their codified Residential Construction "Green Points" program. Commercial construction is not currently part of the program.

<sup>2</sup> Research on Chicago was undertaken, but no interviews were conducted. Chicago's C&D Recycling program was created in the Department of Environment that was eliminated by Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Environmental issues are now handled by the Mayor's Office and a Chief Sustainability Officer. The C&D Recycling Program is administered in entirety by the Department of Building.



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staffing scenario consisted of three (3) full time employees (FTEs): one full time C&D Recycling Manager, one C&D Administrative Support, and one site inspector (with specialized training for C&D Recycling).

### **Funding:**

Departmental funding is the primary budget source for C&D Recycling Programs. The program is supplemented by any deposit money collected, which is returned to the department fund.