



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CASE STUDY:

PASQUOTANK COUNTY - C&D RECOVERY SHED

Jurisdiction:

Pasquotank County

Best Management Practice:

Construction and Demolition Debris Recovery Shed

Purpose:

The main intent of the program was to provide a way for the public to reuse C&D materials that would otherwise be sent to the landfill.

Ordinance:

None

Contact:

Brad Gardner, recycling coordinator, (252) 335-4105, gardnerb@co.pasquotank.nc.us

PURPOSE

The main intent of Pasquotank County's C&D Recovery Shed and Trailer Program was to provide a way for the public to reuse C&D materials that would otherwise be sent to the landfill. C&D materials are a significant part of North Carolina's waste stream. Programs such as Pasquotank County's C&D recovery shed help deter the amount of potentially reusable materials that are sent to the landfill to save space and extend the life of the landfill and thus save tax dollars.

DESCRIPTION

Since summer 2000, the Pasquotank County Solid Waste Department has run a program where reusable construction and demolition (C&D) materials are collected and stored in a facility for reuse by the public. Various people participate in the C&D recovery program, such as county homebuilders and contractors, homeowners with renovations, and civic groups. To facilitate this program, Pasquotank County built a 30' x 40' C&D recovery shed that is open on both ends so that vehicles may drive through the building. Salvaged material is available at no cost to the public from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and until noon only on Saturdays.

A scale house on-site weighs the vehicles before and after pickup to determine how much material is being taken from the facility. Inmate labor is used to sort through the C&D debris that is dropped off. Their job is to identify and keep only items that are potentially reusable and to upgrade questionable material so that it can be reused.

To encourage maximum use of the C&D reuse facility, a trailer program was added in 2001. The program consists of four 6' x 10' trailers that licensed North Carolina contractors

can use to transport materials during the framing stage of construction only. Contractors may use the trailers only during framing operations to minimize contamination and to ensure that mostly clean reusable materials are delivered to the shed. Contractors can use the trailers free of charge and pay a reduced tipping fee for materials dumped at the C&D reuse facility.

IMPLEMENTATION

The construction of the C&D recovery shed began in July 2000 and was completed by the end of the summer. One year later, in July 2001, the trailer program began and was in full operation by November 2001. The total cost for the construction of the C&D facility was approximately \$15,000. In addition, the trailer program cost approximately \$10,000 dollars to implement.

To sort through the C&D materials delivered to the site and keep operating costs down, the county works with the Pasquotank County Correctional Facility to use daily inmate labor Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Materials dropped off are sorted by the inmates inside the facility or, in cases where the load is extremely large, are dumped outside and sorted. Reusable materials are separated out and stored in the shed. In return for their service to the community, in many cases the inmates can receive a reduction in their sentence. The county also uses some volunteer labor from individuals who must complete community service hours for parole or other court-ordered tasks. Two alternating part-time county employees work at the C&D shed and oversee the inmates and volunteers. Overall, the program costs approximately \$18,000 - 22,000 per year to operate, including salaries and utilities.



Although the C&D recovery program is open to the public, use of the trailers to haul C&D materials to the shed is available only to licensed North Carolina contractors. Contractors are charged \$25 per ton to use the trailer and drop off clean wood and other reusable items to the shed, compared to the \$45 dollar per ton fee tipping fee for C&D debris taken directly to the landfill. All participants must first obtain a salvaging permit from the county's Solid Waste Department.

In order to make the public aware of the new service, the county advertised for the C&D Recovery Shed and Trailer program through announcements displayed at the landfill site, fliers, PSAs on the public access TV channel, and announcements on the county Web site.

RESULTS

Since implementation in 2000, the county has recovered 600.81 tons of reusable C&D materials that would have otherwise been landfilled. Currently 439 people have salvaging permits. Overall, the program has been very well received by the public and has a high rate of exchange, keeping the recovery shed empty a good part of the time. In addition, as a result of the high demand there is often a waiting list for contractors to use the trailers, especially in the spring and summer, which tend to be the busiest times.



The N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance provides free, non-regulatory technical assistance and education on methods to eliminate, reduce, or recycle wastes before they become pollutants or require disposal. Call DPPEA at (919) 715.6500 or (800) 763-0136 or e-mail nowaste@p2pays.org, or visit DPPEA's Web site at www.p2pays.org for assistance with issues in this case study or any of your waste reduction concerns.