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## Department of Environmental Protection

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# 2030 Construction and Demolition (C&D) Materials Management Action Plan

**Updated: January 2026**

## Solid Waste Master Plan and C&D Waste Reduction Goal

The 2030 SWMP established a goal of reducing the amount of C&D Waste disposed by 260,000 tons compared to the baseline year of CY2018 (985,000 tons). That equates to a goal of disposing of no more than 725,000 tons of C&D Waste by CY2030. In CY2024 (the latest year of available data at the time of the 2025 mid-course review), the C&D Handling Facilities disposed of 1,264,549 tons of C&D waste. The amount of C&D waste disposed in CY2024 exceeds the 2030 SWMP goal by approximately 540,000 tons.

The most recent [C&D waste characterization study](#) in 2022 determined that 45% of the C&D waste and 39% of Bulky waste is either waste ban material or other potentially recoverable material with viable reuse/recycling end markets. Applying these percent composition values to the total inbound C&D Waste and Bulky Waste accepted by C&D facilities in CY2024 (1,634K tons and 156K tons, respectively), the potential amount of recoverable recyclable material is estimated to be approximately 800K tons. Compared to the 270K tons actually recovered in CY2024, this suggests a loss of 530K tons of potentially recoverable recyclable material. This is almost exactly the amount needed to achieve the 2030 C&D SWMP waste reduction goal.

## Background

Beginning in the early 2000s, MassDEP launched the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Subcommittee to work with C&D material management industry stakeholders to develop waste bans for C&D materials to promote greater reuse and recycling of such materials. MassDEP promulgated its initial C&D material waste bans on ABC, wood and metal in 2006. That was followed by adding clean gypsum wallboard as a waste ban material in 2010.

In the first few years after implementation of the C&D waste bans, the C&D facility annual report data showed an improvement in the recovery rate of banned and other recyclable materials. Initially, the recovery rates as compared to the tonnage of inbound mixed C&D waste improved rapidly from 14% in 2008 to over 30% in 2010. The statewide average recovery rate plateaued between 2010 and 2013 to around 25% to 30%. Since then, the recovery rate steadily declined and C&D waste volume increased as a function of increased construction activity over the same time period.

From 2016-2019, MassDEP worked with the C&D Subcommittee to improve the operational efficiency of the 30 large C&D Handling Facilities to increase recovery rates, send more separated material to reuse and recycling end markets, and reduce the quantity of residuals sent for disposal. During CY2019, the process separation rate at C&D processors ranged from less than 1% to about 46%. Better performance correlated, for the most part, with facilities that had invested in mechanical processing equipment and that incurred the added operating expense of fully staffed picking lines.

To address the historic limitations and variability of the C&D handling facility performance, MassDEP launched the C&D Minimum Performance Standard (MPS) in 2020. The MPS established measurable performance criteria that all Large C&D Handling Facilities now need to meet. The intent of the MPS is to level the playing field and ensure that all C&D waste materials are sent to an MPS-compliant C&D facility for processing, thereby removing and recovering all banned materials to the greatest extent possible as required by the waste ban regulations.

In an effort to further improve materials separation at the C&D facilities, in July 2024 MassDEP announced incremental increases in the Process Separation Rate (PSR) minimum threshold from the initial 15% when the Minimum Performance Standard was introduced in 2020 to 25% by 2030. But even if the C&D industry were to successfully achieve the 25% PSR minimum threshold, the quantity of C&D waste disposed will still exceed the 2030 SWMP waste reduction goal. Without a significant reduction in the amount of C&D waste disposal through deconstruction practices, reuse and source

separation, the 2030 C&D waste reduction goal will be difficult to achieve. Certainly, the efforts of the C&D facilities alone will not be enough. For this reason, the 2025 mid-course assessment of the C&D action plan added more emphasis on other waste reduction strategies, such as deconstruction, jobsite source separation, market development and interagency cooperation, to reduce the amount of C&D waste disposed and increase the amount of C&D materials recovered for reuse and recycling.

## Programs and Policies Supporting this Plan

This Action Plan defines the programs and policies that MassDEP will pursue to progress towards the 2030 C&D waste reduction goal. The programs and policies that support this plan can be divided into four broad categories:

1. **Regulations:** In particular, the Solid Waste Disposal Ban regulations codified at 310 CMR 19.017 which includes certain C&D materials such as:
  - a. Asphalt pavement, Brick and Concrete (ABC)
  - b. Metal
  - c. Wood
  - d. Clean gypsum wallboard
2. **Compliance Reporting and Enforcement:** All permitted C&D Handling Facilities are required to submit an annual report on February 15 summarizing the operational performance for the prior calendar year. MassDEP analyzes the annual report data and conducts facility inspections to ensure compliance. MassDEP may exercise progressive enforcement if compliance is not achieved and maintained.
3. **Technical Assistance:** MassDEP provides free technical assistance through its technical consulting arm administered through RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts. Periodically, MassDEP also will engage the services of an independent consulting firm to conduct waste characterization and market studies.
4. **Financial assistance:** MassDEP provides loan and grant programs to encourage market development and improve separation of recoverable C&D materials for reuse and recycling.

Examples of these programs and policies include the following:

Massachusetts Waste Bans – MassDEP has waste disposal bans that ban the disposal of certain materials from landfill and/or waste-to-energy combustion facilities. The first C&D waste bans that regulated ABC, metal and wood were promulgated in 2006. Clean gypsum wallboard was added in 2010.

RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts – This is a free business assistance program funded by MassDEP and run under contract to MassDEP by the Center for EcoTechnology.

RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) provides free assistance via email, phone, and in person, guidance and assistance via online resources, and educational workshops and networking forums to help businesses and institutions to reduce waste. Many of the program resources and tools are focused on technical assistance for C&D projects with emphasis on waste management plans and jobsite source separation.

Recycling and Reuse Business Development Grants (RBDG) – MassDEP provides grants to businesses that accept and process recyclable or compostable materials through this program. Applications are typically posted on an annual basis. While these grants are limited to specified target materials, C&D waste has often been a target material in the RBDG program.

Waste Reduction Innovation Grants – MassDEP established the new Waste Reduction Innovation Grant program in 2025. This program provides two categories of grants to drive development of innovative technology and investment to support increased waste reduction progress. This includes smaller grants to support start up and pilot projects and larger grants to support significant waste reduction infrastructure expansion.

Recycling Loan Fund – This program is funded by MassDEP and administered under contract to MassDEP by BDC Capital. The Loan Fund provides loans for recycling, composting, and anaerobic digestion operations. Unlike the RBDG, businesses may apply at any time.

C&D Subcommittee – MassDEP has established a C&D Subcommittee that meets three to four times per year. The C&D Subcommittee is open to the public and generally includes a broad range of stakeholders from across the entire spectrum of the C&D materials management industry.

## Action Plan Structure

As previously stated, the action plan establishes strategies and objectives to achieve the C&D waste reduction goals. It is divided into four main sections:

1. Improve Jobsite Waste Management
2. Enhance Collection & Processing
3. Develop End Markets
4. Promote State Inter-agency Cooperation to Advance “Leading by Example”

Action No.	Proposal/Description	Comments
1.0	<u>Jobsite Waste Management</u> Promote waste re-use, reduction and separation at the job site	
1.1	Continue technical assistance programs through RecyclingWorks (RW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and facilitate public and private demonstrations of successful material management practices and strategies (e.g., RW BMPs/Case Studies, etc.)</li> </ul>
1.2	Promote source separated diversion programs such as ceiling tiles, gypsum wallboard, etc.; pilot use of split boxes; support material re-use stores, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize the Waste Management Plan;</li> <li>• Promote waste management hierarchy: reduce→ reuse→ recycle→ recover energy→ dispose.</li> <li>• Work with DCAMM to implement pilot projects</li> <li>• Encourage separation at the jobsite of certain materials that are either hard for C&amp;D processors to separate, or contaminate C&amp;D process by-products (e.g. treated wood, gypsum, etc.).</li> <li>• Collaborate with MassDEP Reduce &amp; Reuse Deconstruction Work Group and Bulky Items Work Group.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the NEWMOA/NERC C&amp;D Work Group to promote regional market solutions.</li> <li>• Consider adopting certain best practices of the California Treated Wood Waste Alternative Management Standards (CHSC 25230-25230.18) applicable to C&amp;D jobsites (e.g., segregation, storage, disposal)</li> </ul>
1.3	Encourage conformance to USGBC/LEED Green Building Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support higher standards for C&amp;D projects and improvements to materials-related elements of green building certification systems.</li> <li>• Collaborate with architects, engineers, and construction professionals through the CLF-Boston/NE Reuse Work Group to</li> </ul>

		promote deconstruction and jobsite source separation for material reuse and recycling.
<b>1.4</b>	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reach out to Municipal Building Officials, General Contractors and Developers, Trade Associations, Unions, Vocational Schools.</li> </ul>
<b>1.5</b>	Support Deconstruction initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and implement recommendations in the final report from the October-2025 Deconstruction Work Shop (e.g., waste management plans, deconstruction design specifications, town ordinance template).</li> </ul>
<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Proposal/Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<u>Enhance Collection &amp; Processing</u> Improve C&D Facility Performance	
<b>2.1</b>	Establish Minimum Performance Standards (MPS) for C&D Processors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all Mixed C&amp;D Waste loads to be processed at processors that meet MPS standard.</li> <li>Incrementally increase MPS Process Separation Rate minimum threshold from initial 15% in 2020 to 25% by 2030.</li> </ul>
<b>2.2</b>	Provide financial investment to improve process efficiency and effectiveness (e.g. RLF, RBDG, WRIG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage market development and equipment/technology improvements to recover highest and best use of C&amp;D materials.</li> </ul>
<b>2.3</b>	Improve implementation of C&D waste bans (WB): Clarify definitions and standards; improve enforcement of existing WB's; evaluate adding new WB materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure a level "playing field".</li> <li>Increase facility inspection frequency.</li> <li>Enforce site-specific operating permit/WBCP requirements.</li> <li>Develop objective compliance standard for C&amp;D residuals.</li> <li>Publish Status of facility compliance with MPS annually.</li> <li>Periodically update MPS FAQ guidance document.</li> <li>Conduct waste characterization studies as needed and publish online.</li> </ul>
<b>2.4</b>	Improve Accuracy and Precision of C&D Facility Operation Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convert Annual Report form to EXCEL format with better instructions,</li> </ul>

		<p>validated fields, mass balance calculations, and MPS compliance status analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase frequency of operation reporting for C&amp;D Processors from annually to quarterly.</li> </ul>
<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Proposal/Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<u>Develop End Markets</u>	
<b>3.1</b>	Expand existing wood markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve ability to recover wood that meets or exceeds specifications for current markets.</li> <li>• When issuing waste ban waivers, ensure applicants comply with requirement to actively search for alternative market outlets.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the newly formed MassDEP Deconstruction Work Group and Bulky Items Work Group to promote jobsite source separation for improved material reuse and recycling.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the MassDEP Recycling Market Development Work Group to develop new markets for wood and other C&amp;D material products. (e.g., Grants, Education/Outreach, R&amp;D)</li> <li>• Continue exploring international markets for use of C&amp;D wood chip as biomass fuel</li> </ul>
<b>3.3</b>	Develop common C&D materials product specifications (improve reliability for end-markets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support efforts to encourage the use of products made from recovered materials</li> </ul>
<b>3.4</b>	Identify outlets for C&D Fines	
<b>3.4.1</b>	Identify other BUD material uses; Explore technologies to sort into constituent parts, recover useful fractions, minimize waste fractions; Explore cement stabilization technologies (e.g. Re-crete™); Evaluate reuse in fly-ash monofill landfills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research what other uses have been approved in other states;</li> <li>• Follow growth of a Canadian start-up, to explore viability of C&amp;D fines separation process in Massachusetts</li> </ul>
<b>3.4.2</b>	Identify shaping & grading material needs at future landfill closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop master schedule of landfill closures throughout state and region</li> </ul>

Action No.	Proposal/Description	Comments
<b>4.0</b>	<u>Optimize Regulatory/Policy Incentives</u>	
<b>4.1</b>	Encourage management standards for extended producer responsibility (take-back) programs (e.g. gypsum wallboard, carpet, mattresses, etc.); promote optimal end-of-life re-use and product stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Publicize manufacturer take-back programs, for example:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ US Gypsum take-back programs for ceiling tiles and gypsum wallboard (<a href="#">link to USG take-back programs</a>);</li> <li>○ Armstrong ceiling tile take-back program (<a href="#">link to Armstrong Ceiling Tile take-back program</a>);</li> <li>○ Owens-Corning asphalt roofing shingle take-back program (<a href="#">link to Owens-Corning Asphalt Shingles Take-Back Program</a>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>4.2</b>	Promote interagency cooperation “leading by example”:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explore mutually beneficial initiatives with Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Coordinating Council (ECICC);</li> <li>● Reach out to ECICC for opportunities to reduce embodied carbon impacts of C&amp;D projects;</li> <li>● Support C&amp;D market development by encouraging the use of products derived from processed C&amp;D materials in large construction projects (e.g., <a href="#">Cape Cod Bridge Replacement Project</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>4.2.1</b>	Pursue opportunities with MassDOT and DCR paving projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explore opportunities to recycle: Asphalt Shingles, ABC, Processed Glass Aggregate, plastic.</li> </ul>
<b>4.2.2</b>	Re-engage with DCAMM to ensure adherence to design and construction project specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Work with DCAMM to assess and build upon existing sustainable procurement policies and materials management programs.</li> <li>● Ensure construction/renovation design specs include reuse/recycle C&amp;D waste; and purchase of environmentally preferential products.</li> <li>● Assist DCAMM with development of a Deconstruction design spec; Participate in DCAMM pilot Deconstruction projects.</li> </ul>

**4.2.3** Approach Department of Public Licensure (DPL) about amending building code to recognize waste disposal bans

- Promote source separation at the jobsite; direct contractors to transport mixed C&D waste loads to permitted C&D handling facilities.
- In the near-term, collaborate with DPL in joint training for Municipal Building Officials regarding construction and demolition requirements and best management practices.