

PE5 Action: Construction & Demolition Waste Policy

2 Points

4 Points

6 Points

A. Why is this action important?

Construction and demolition (C&D) debris consists of waste that is generated during new construction, renovation, and demolition of buildings, roads, and bridges. C&D debris often contains bulky, heavy materials, including the following:

- Concrete, wood, and asphalt (from roads and roofing shingles)
- Gypsum (the main component of drywall)
- Metals, bricks, glass, and plastics
- Salvaged building components, such as doors, windows, and plumbing fixtures

Historically, much of the C&D waste generated in the Northeast was sent to landfills. However, landfill space is becoming increasingly limited. According to the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association, this diminishing landfill capacity and the increasing cost of landfill disposal have led to greater emphasis on the processing of C&D material to reduce volume and to prepare it for use in new applications. Climate Smart Communities (CSC) in New York can use a variety of programs and policies to promote deconstruction of unwanted C&D materials, including regulatory requirements and incentives for voluntary compliance.

B. How to implement this action

Local governments have several policy and programmatic approaches for managing C&D waste. Local governments may first elect to adopt a policy or legislation around the management of C&D waste and then, depending on the volume and type of waste, implement a program for managing the waste.

From the policy perspective, local governments can take the following types of steps:

- Adopt an ordinance that requires separation of C&D materials at construction sites
- Adopt an ordinance that prohibits disposal of C&D materials in local landfills and at transfer stations
- Require that reusable and recyclable materials from construction and demolition sites be made available for salvage prior to disposal
- Require building projects to submit plans and reports indicating how they will reuse and recycle construction and demolition materials

Local governments that want to go a step further and implement a program to support the reuse of C&D materials can do the following:

- Work with a local [Habitat for Humanity ReStore](#) or similar organization to implement a program for construction and deconstruction projects
- Provide incentives for private sector deconstruction and C&D recovery efforts

C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

For policy-based approaches, the time frame for adopting the policy depends on the political support for such an action. For programmatic based approaches, local governments are encouraged to develop creative solutions, collaborating with other organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity ReStore. This minimizes the need for government resources to support the program and can accelerate program implementation.

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

Any local government that manages solid waste collection and transport can adopt this type of policy. Departments of public works or sanitation are the most likely departments to implement this action.

E. How to obtain points for this action

There are two tiers for obtaining points under this action:

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Adopt C&D legislation or policies	2
Implement a C&D program to support the reuse of C&D materials	4

F. What to submit

If the action is regulatory, submit a copy of, or link to, the ordinance, resolution or policy that requires specific action related to C&D materials. The policy may have been adopted at any time prior to the application date to receive points.

If the action is a non-regulatory program, submit documentation that outlines the details of the program and the local government's role in actively implementing and managing the program. The program must be currently active to be eligible for points.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- [Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association, Construction and Demolition Waste Management in the Northeast in 2013](#)
- [US EPA Building Savings, Strategies for Waste Reduction of Construction and Demolition Debris for Buildings](#)
- [New York City Green Codes Task Force, New York City's Building Code -Recycle Construction Waste Proposal](#)
- [US EPA Municipal Solid Waste](#)

H. Recertification requirements

The requirements for recertification are the same as the requirements for the initial certification.