

Toward Zero Waste
**CONTRACTOR
TOOLKIT**
Whatcom County

A step-by-step guide for your jobsite



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APPENDIX

Toward Zero Waste Pledge
Construction Waste Jobsite Reduction Plan
Subcontractor Recycling Agreement

Thank you to our partners:



SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIONS

1701 Ellis St. Suite 221, Bellingham, WA 98225

P: 360.647.7093 x 107

E: Rose@SustainableConnections.org

W: www.SustainableConnections.org



Overview

This toolkit provides a step-by-step guide to establishing a waste reduction program for your jobsites. Along with this guide are resources to help you succeed in reducing your waste, cost, and carbon footprint.

This document was created with the help of a technical advisory committee, which consisted of individuals from a variety of design, residential, and commercial contractors. A special thank you goes to the King and Whatcom County Solid Waste Divisions for their support.

Let your clients and community know that you share their values for waste reduction and are moving TOWARD ZERO WASTE!

Become one of Sustainable Connections TOWARD ZERO WASTE champions and sign up to take the pledge.

What's the big idea?

It is estimated that 95% of construction & demolition (C&D) waste could be diverted! With your leadership, we aim to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill, increase reuse and recycling of existing resources, and increase purchasing of recycled and environmentally preferable products. Recycling C&D materials does more than just preventing waste – it also lessens greenhouse gas emissions, cuts pollution, conserves natural resources and creates jobs.

How does it work?

By taking the Toward Zero Waste pledge, you commit to recycling at every jobsite, and in return we support you with free technical assistance and promotional materials to help you achieve your goals.

Take the pledge today!

6 Steps to Success



1. COMMIT



**2. SET UP FOR
SUCCESS**



**3. CHOOSE HOW
RECYCLABLES WILL
BE COLLECTED**



**4. MAKE DECISIONS
ABOUT SITE
LOGISTICS**



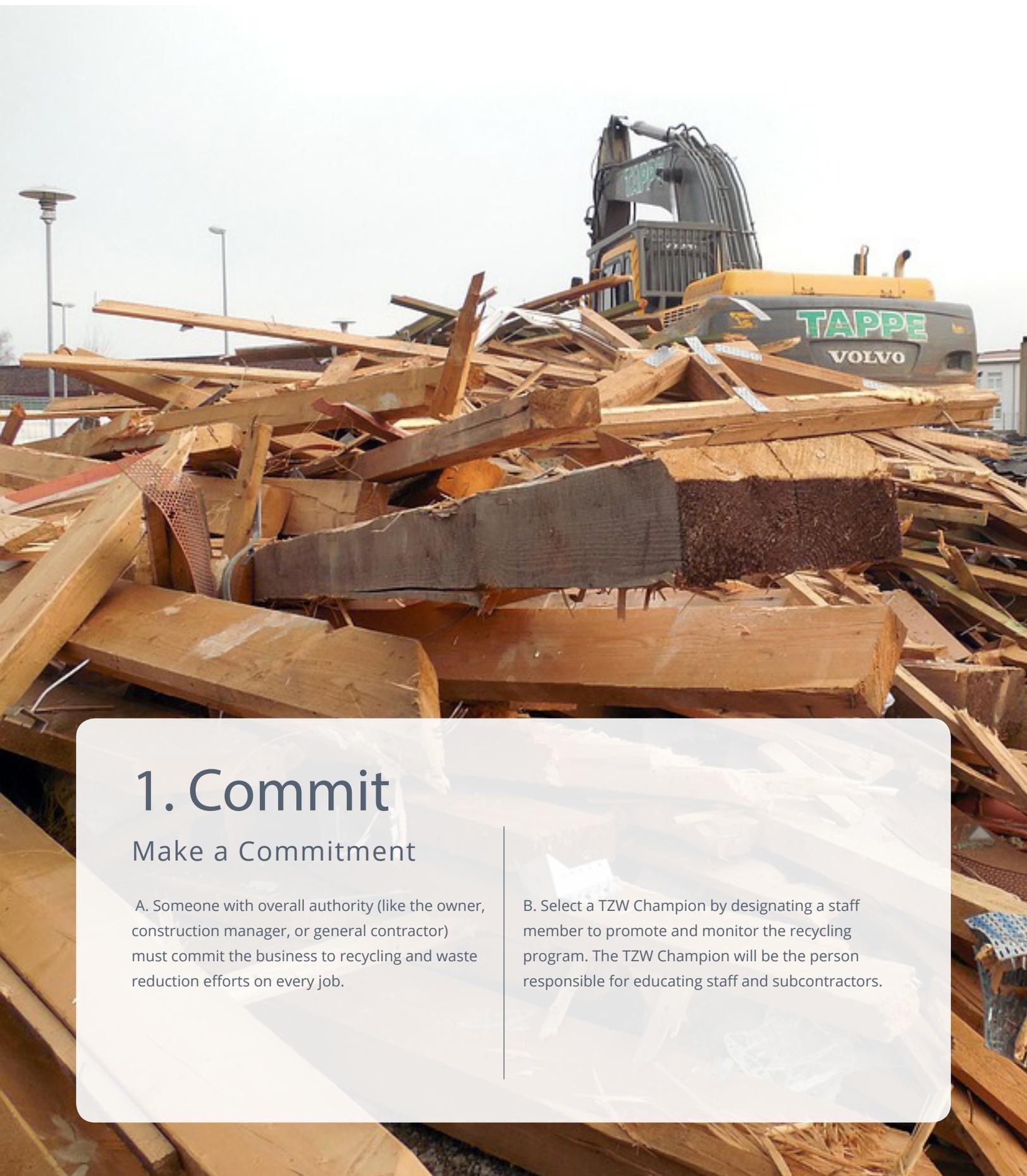
**5. EDUCATE AND
TRAIN**



**6. MONITOR AND
EVALUATE**

Construction and demolition recycling has powerful impacts. In Washington alone, 3.4 million tons of C&D debris has been diverted from landfills and...

- Saved 7.7 trillion BTUs, the energy equivalent to 62 million gallons of gasoline. This is enough energy to power about 70,000 homes for a year –every single home in Whatcom County.
- Prevented more than 69,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions – about 20 pounds per person in our state. This is similar to keeping around 48,000 cars off the road each year.



1. Commit

Make a Commitment

A. Someone with overall authority (like the owner, construction manager, or general contractor) must commit the business to recycling and waste reduction efforts on every job.

B. Select a TZW Champion by designating a staff member to promote and monitor the recycling program. The TZW Champion will be the person responsible for educating staff and subcontractors.

2. Set up for Success

Identify Materials

A. Become familiar with, and identify materials, on the job site that can be recovered from the waste stream during all phases of the job, including construction and demolition (C&D) and site preparation.

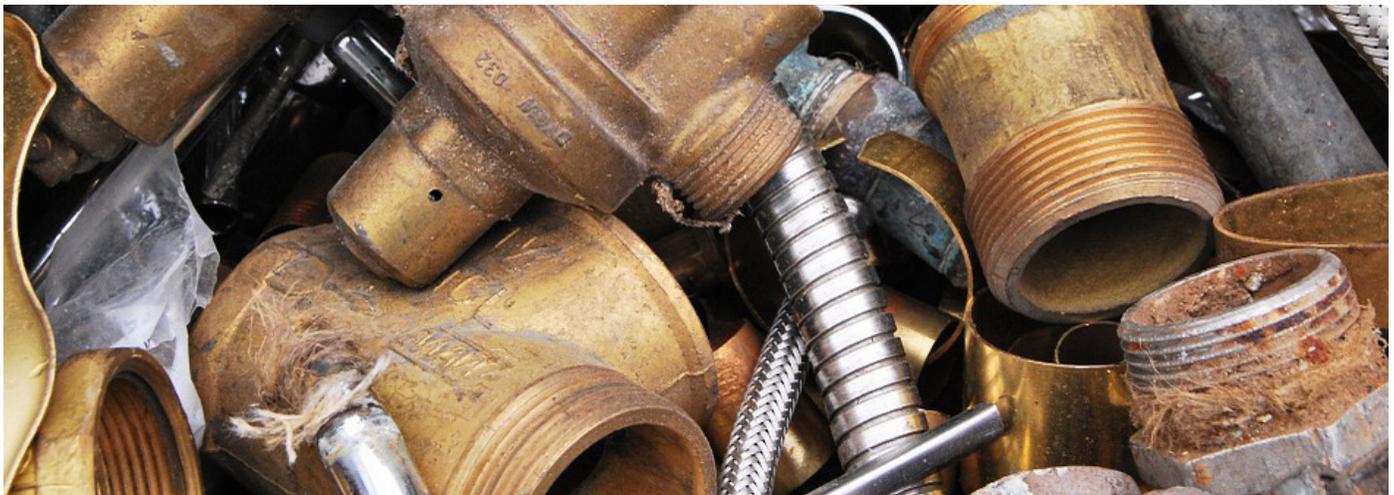
Start with a Plan

B. Plan for waste reduction, reuse and recycling from the start:

- Order materials just in time, send back extra inventory, utilize reused building materials, and consider ways you can reduce and reuse waste during construction.
- Ask suppliers to reduce packaging, send you recyclable packaging or take packaging back.
- Encourage reduction, reuse and recycling at pre-construction meetings, and let everyone know you will be monitoring recycling tonnages and movement towards your diversion goals.

Require Contracts

C. Contractually require subcontractors to participate in the recycling efforts. See the subcontractor agreement provided.



3. Choose How to Collect



THE RE STORE

salvage services
(360) 647-5921



SANITARY SERVICE CO.

recycling & waste collection
(360) 734-3490



LAUTENBACH INDUSTRIES

demolition & recycling services
(360) 757-4000

Options For Collecting and Reusing

A. Contact the Re Store for a free evaluation if demolition is involved on your project.

B. Contract with a recycling hauler that accepts commingled construction and demolition materials. This method allows you to put multiple recyclables such as wood, cardboard and metals in one container. The hauler takes the materials to a sorting facility where the materials are then separated for recycling. Some questions to consider when choosing a hauler:

- What materials are accepted and how must they be prepared? For example, can wood have fasteners?
- What happens to the materials after they are collected (ask for specifics on location of markets and what your recyclables will get made into)?

- Can they provide monthly reports of your recycling and trash quantities/weights as a part of their service?
- Do they provide education for the crews and signage for the dumpsters on the job site as part of the service?

C. Separate recyclables yourself on the job site (source-separated). This method involves collecting recyclables in separate containers as they are generated. The hauler takes the sorted materials to a recycling facility. This approach can, in some cases, save you money.

D. Self-haul your materials. Source-separate materials in piles or containers on site and haul them to a local salvage company, recycling facility or C&D transfer site yourself. You also may be able to drop off commingled loads at certain C&D processing facilities.

“Reuse is one of the best ways to lower your carbon footprint and is wise stewardship of our planet’s resources.”

(The RE Store)



4. Make Decisions About Logistics

A. Choose where to place dumpsters on site, how many and what type are needed, and when they will be delivered and picked up. If you have a hauler, they can usually help you determine how many and what type of containers are needed.

B. Pair trash containers with recycling containers. No stand alone containers, or the recycling container may become a trash container. If it is a very crowded site, you may only be able to fit dumpsters for those materials being generated in the largest quantity. Throughout the project, consider what scrap materials will be generated and order dumpsters accordingly.

C. Determine how to move recyclables and trash around the site. How will the trash and recyclables get into the correct containers? Who is responsible? Make sure to clearly communicate how and where materials go and who is responsible for moving them.

5. Educate and Train



Educate

A. Make sure that every new person that comes onto the site is educated about the recycling program. Include waste into your training program.



Subcontractors

B. Set aside time to explain the program to all of the subcontractors at the site, and instill in them that it is their responsibility to ensure that their laborers participate.



Reminders

C. Bring up waste management at every job site meeting. Reminders are important, provide feedback to workers.



Signs

D. Post clear signs. It is essential to the success of the recycling program that each dumpster is clearly marked. *templates available

6. Monitor and Evaluate



It's beneficial to document all of the trash and recyclables that your construction project generated, so be sure to track materials taken off site.

A. Periodically check the containers to ensure that the proper materials are going into them. If problems exist, find the person (or people) responsible and instruct them on how to properly participate.

- Prevent contamination (landfill waste) from being put in recycling containers. This is essential for realizing recycling cost savings.

B. Adopt strategies to prevent contamination:

- Clearly label the recycling bins and waste containers on site.
- Post lists of recyclable and non-recyclable materials.
- Conduct regular site visits to verify that bins are not contaminated.
- Provide feedback to the crew and subcontractors on the results of their efforts.

C. Evaluate the program and make it even better next time!



Celebrate Success!

PROMOTE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM TO MANAGERS, SUBCONTRACTORS, CLIENTS AND THE PUBLIC. SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIONS CAN HELP CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS WITH CASE STUDIES AND PUBLIC PROMOTION INCLUDING BRANDED SITE SIGNS AND BANNERS.