



Wisconsin Division of State Facilities

UW Parkside – New Residence Hall

(DSF Project Number 06K 1G)

Construction and Demolition Waste Management Monthly Report

Final Report

The UW Parkside project began in July 2008, but due to state budget issues WasteCap did not begin work on this project until September. The delay in getting on this project meant that WasteCap staff were not at the pre-construction meeting and that a waste management plan had not been filed before project debris began leaving the site.

Our first priority on the project was to advise Lead Contractor J.P. Cullen of their responsibilities towards the recycling program, which included the preparation and filing of a construction waste management plan. We also provided J.P. Cullen with educational materials for training project workers how to recycle and provided signs for the dumpsters.

Despite the late start, we were hopeful of success, because J.P. Cullen project management had recycled on other projects and were familiar with the program. The construction waste management and recycling plan was completed on October 14, 2008 and filed with DSF. The plan included a recycling goal of 75 percent. WasteCap advised J.P. Cullen that a 50 percent recycling goal was all that was required, but J.P. Cullen staff were confident they could achieve the 75 percent goal.

The final project recycling rate turned out to be 59.71 percent. Though it wasn't achieved, we congratulate JP Cullen for reaching for the higher recycling goal and for their and all crews' efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle on this project. There were several factors that reduced the project's recycling rate:

- 1) The site was largely a green field, so there was little demolition or site preparation debris, which can often help achieve higher recycling rates.
- 2) Despite seeking many potential local markets by WasteCap, the hauler, and representatives from the University, a market for drywall scrap was unable to be created. Drywall scrap is often critical to achieving a 75 percent recycling rate or higher.
- 3) Some recycling loads were contaminated and had to be landfilled. Concrete, wood and cardboard loads were rejected for recycling. High recycling rates cannot be achieved when recycling loads become trash due to contamination. We saw workers removing contaminants from dumpsters, which is an excellent strategy. A couple of key factors can be used on future projects: asking the site superintendent to monitor dumpsters as he/she walks the site daily; when contamination occurs, remove it or ask crews that may have been responsible to remove contamination as soon as it is noticed. A contaminated dumpster can quickly become a trash dumpster. Recognize good recycling practices and follow up on contamination issues at foremen meetings – let crews know that the

recycling efforts are important and what contaminants to be sure to keep out of dumpsters.

- 4) Responsibility for the day-to-day oversight of the recycling program was not clearly defined, which led to confusion about who should be monitoring the dumpsters and who should be enforcing project recycling rules. WasteCap recommends that the Project Manager for the Lead Contractor be ultimately responsible for the success, with the site superintendent or someone he/she assigns responsible for daily monitoring and enforcement.
- 5) Discussion of the recycling program was not a regular part of the project progress meetings.

THINGS LEARNED FROM THE UW-PARKSIDE PROJECT

1. It is important that the recycling program be discussed at the pre-construction meeting and that all contractors be made aware of their responsibilities in the recycling program.
2. It is important that the project waste management plan be filed before any waste is allowed to leave the project site.
3. The lead contractor should identify and name at least one individual who is responsible for day to day monitoring and enforcement of recycling program rules.
4. The recycling program needs to be an agenda item for all progress meetings. The lead contractor should report on the current project recycling statistics at the meeting when they are generated each month.

However, this project still exceeded the 50% recycling rate established by the State of Wisconsin and reclaimed 59.71 percent, saving energy, reducing waste in landfills, saving disposal fees to the project. Overall, crews did a good job and should be proud of this project which helped establish recycling on state of Wisconsin projects around the state.

July 2008 – August 2009 Recycling Results

Material	Total Project Volume	Total Project Weight (tons)
Asphalt	0	0
Cans and Bottles	0	0
Cardboard	243.2	12.16
Concrete	307.56	215.08
Metal	81.16	40.58
Wood	442.09	66.38
Total Recycled	1,074.01	334.20
Trash	1,287.49	225.48
% Recycled	45.48%	59.71%