

Requiring Processing of Construction and Demolition Wastes Summary

This action will increase the recovery and use of construction and demolition scrap. Local governments will be required to develop plans and ordinances to direct construction and demolition wastes to recycling facilities for processing. Ecology will be required to develop and provide model ordinances for local governments to use. This will not require local governments to provide additional government services unless they choose to do so.

There are over one million tons of construction and demolition wastes generated and disposed in Washington State annually. Most of these wastes are highly energy and material intensive to manufacture and use. A significant reduction in greenhouse gases can be achieved through recycling these materials. For example, recycling the waste carpet can reduce up to 1 MMTCO₂E per year.

Highlights

Establish the requirement for local governments to develop plans and ordinances to direct construction and demolition wastes to legitimate recycling facilities for materials recovery.

Provide model ordinances to local governments that require construction contractors to develop recycling plans and pay a deposit. The deposit is reimbursed at the end of the project when the contractor demonstrates that at least 50% of the waste generated have been recycled.

Implementation Dates

This action can be incorporated into RCW 70.95 in 2009, with a targeted date for compliance by 2012 for urban counties and 2015 for the rest of the state.

Mechanism

Amendment to RCW 70.95.

Synergy with Other Proposals

This action could be combined with the collection proposal. There is potential nexus with the Product Stewardship Framework proposal as well.

What Needs To Be Done

Draft legislative language.

Vet with local governments.

Gather additional sample ordinances from around the country and information on their effectiveness.