

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

Waste Minimization Policy		
Occupational Safety and Health Management System No. 65.8.2 This policy was developed by Environment Health	January 1, 2008	Reviewed By: Risk Management – Safety Unit

Mission Statement

The mission of Greenprint Denver is to provide leadership and solutions to ensure a prosperous community where people and nature thrive.

Guiding Principles

Communicate sustainability as a public value and expand the concept of the city as a steward of public resources.

Support sustainability as a core business value to improve efficiencies in resource use, reduce environmental impact, and invoke broad cultural changes.

Incorporate "triple bottom line" analysis, seeking to balance economic, social and environmental considerations into all city policy and program decisions.

Set clear metrics of success and report on our progress moving forward through annual report cards.

Pursue activities that support environmental equity and health for all citizens.

Partner with community organizations, cultural institutions and businesses to achieve broad impact.

Lead by example in city practice wherever possible.

Solid waste & recycling

Introduction

Denver Recycles is one of the city's most successful environmental programs. City workers collect more than 18,000 tons of recyclable materials each year, which generates an average of \$800,000 in annual revenue. Reducing landfill waste by increasing participation in the free, easy-to-use program is a key goal of Greenprint Denver. Credit: Denver Recycles.

Responsible Materials and Waste Management

Intelligent management of materials and waste is an important way to realize cost efficiencies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

City operations produce a large amount of waste. Thousands of employees work in facilities that service hundreds of thousands of customers, and this requires tons of consumer goods such as paper and office materials, electronics and computers, machinery and other items to function.

Greenprint Denver positions the city in a leadership role to reduce the amount of waste it generates.

One step toward this goal is to prevent waste at the source through thoughtful purchasing of cost-competitive products made from recycled materials. This action will help decrease the need for raw materials and energy expended for manufacturing, transportation and disposal of consumer goods.

Greenprint Denver also aims to increase the amount of material that is recycled citywide.

Recycling and waste reduction means fewer materials enter the city's landfill, thereby reducing emissions of methane, a harmful landfill and greenhouse gas. Waste reduction also helps the city save money on waste disposal costs such as those incurred for landfill fees, groundwater monitoring, fleet maintenance, and other expenses. Over the long term, reducing waste will result in more efficient trash collection services in Denver, extended landfill life and cost savings, and greater recycling rates and revenues.

The city has already made significant progress toward better waste management, such as the expansion of the city's single-stream recycling program, which has seen an 18% increase in tonnage in the first year. Residents have responded very positively to the easy-to-use, single-cart system.

The city will also start producing power from the landfill's existing renewable methane supply next year. Using the gas byproduct that is released from rotting organic materials such as food scraps, lawn clippings and leaves cuts back on waste and provides a renewable fuel source.

Additionally, Denver requires electronics vendors to provide information on their corporate environmental responsibility practices, provide Energy Star®-compliant products, offer take-back and end-of-life management options, and use recyclable packaging.

Greenprint Denver builds on these accomplishments and outlines a set of achievable objectives to guide the city's next steps.

Greenprint goals

2007 Goals

Waste Minimization

Increase material recycled in Denver's recycling program by 50 percent by 2007, from 18,000 tons in 2005 to 27,000 tons. Each ton of material recycled reduces carbon emissions by nearly three metric tons, equivalent to two-thirds the emissions of a typical automobile, or the carbon absorbed by planting 76 seedlings grown for 10 years.

Establish recycling in one highly-visible city facility such as Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

At Denver International Airport, decrease the amount of solid waste sent to the landfill by 5 percent annually from the 2005 baseline number of 0.51 pounds per passenger. Target for 2007 is 0.46 pounds per passenger.

Develop a plan to reduce paper consumption citywide by 20 percent over the next four years.

Eco-Efficient Procurement

Increase the proportion of eco-efficient annual commodity and service bids by 10 percent per year from 2004 baseline.

Use flyash concrete in city infrastructure projects wherever possible. Flyash is a waste product from coal-burning power plants that produces highly durable and less expensive concrete.

2011 Goals

Waste Minimization

Reduce landfilled waste by 30 percent per current customer household through composting, recycling, and modification of collection methods from 2004 baseline.

Decrease the amount of airport solid waste disposed in the landfill by 5 percent annually from the 2005 baseline number of 0.51 pounds per passenger, to 0.26 lbs. per passenger.

Reduce citywide paper use by 20 percent or more.

Eco-Efficient Procurement

Increase the proportion of eco-efficient annual commodity and service bids to 60 percent from the 2004 baseline.