

The D-Waste organization that is co-sponsored by EEC has a lively discussion in Linked-In web on various facets of waste management. A recent query, from Canad, asked for information on handling of C&D waste. See Prof. Themelis's response:

"Hello Renee, the C&D picture is not so clear, even in "developed" countries such as the U.S. and Canada, because a lot of C&D wastes end up in MSW landfills, thus using up sanitary landfill space, instead of going to designated C&D wastes which are less costly to build and operate than SLF. What should be done with CD follows the hierarchy of waste management (see WTERT web for graph):

- Some objects can be re-used (e.g. wood beams, antique doors, etc.)
- Metals can be sorted out and recycled
- Plastics, paper fiber, non-usable wood and any other combustibles should be sorted out and go to WTE or, in absence of WTE plants, to SLF
- The rest, all inorganic materials, should go to a C&D monofill. If there are markets for crushed concrete, stone aggregate, they can be recovered before going to monofill

Of course all this requires money for equipment and operation. So, the general contractor bundles it up and sends it to a C&D landfill or, even worse, to an MSW landfill.

In the near future, EEC will study this subject in depth for the U.S. NJT