

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 8/8/2022

TO: City Council

FROM: Aaron Bert, Public Works Director

**SUBJECT: Summary of Presentation Updating
Council on C&D Policy Development**

On July 26th, Micah Bonkowski, Solid Waste and Sustainability Program Administrator provided an update to the City Council Parks and Sustainability Committee members on the progress of the development of a construction and demolition debris program and policy for the City. Council requested a summary of the presentation as no slides or attachments were included in the Agenda Memo.

Summary:

The Construction and Demolition (C&D) Policy is one of the main paths for the City to reach its Environmental Sustainability Action Plan goal of 80% diversion of waste by 2030. C&D is the largest tonnage and volume material that is not currently being tracked by the City.

King County bans C&D from the Cedar Hills Landfill, and requires C&D generated in King County to go to certified recycling processors for sorting and recycling. The tonnage is reported to King County, but where the tonnage originated is not tracked. The goal of the Redmond ordinance and policy being drafted is to ensure C&D material is handled properly, encourage higher levels of recycling of C&D material, and requires reporting to the City so the material may be counted towards diversion goals. The City is also exploring incentivizing reuse and deconstruction as a part of this policy.

To date:

- Council approved the consultant contract at the end of 2021.
- Full Circle Environmental consulting worked with staff to refine the scope and conducted research into C&D policies in jurisdictions that have recently updated policies. This is a continuation of work done in 2019 evaluating policies in other jurisdictions.
- One on one interviews were conducted with 11 expert stakeholders representing C&D processors, waste haulers, environmental advocacy groups, developers, and industry groups such as the Construction and Demolition Recycling Association, the Minority Contractors Association and the Master Builders of King and Snohomish County including their Built Green program staff.

- Interviews allowed for the creation of a map detailing decision points and policy implications that will be evaluated as the ordinance language is written.

Some examples of these key decision points include:

- Evaluating automated reporting software, costs, administrative burden.
- Enforcement approach, what does the City currently have capacity for, what would require additional capacity.
- Carrot approach to compliance, use incentives to drive compliance; how effective have they been from other cities, and developers perspectives, how much burden would that put on City staff to administer.
- Stick approach to compliance, use a deposit or a fine system for non-compliance, how would this impact developers and City staff.
- How do we define recycling of the C&D material with the need to balance the environmental goals of the City where materials go to the highest and best use, and the state of current markets where some reuse may not be feasible.
- What is a realistic threshold for diversion % requirements by project, what is feasible for recycling facilities with current technology.

Next Steps:

A group of internal City stakeholders will convene a facilitated process of using a decision point map to draft the ordinance. The discussion will include assessing how the ordinance will be implemented by the impacted departments, and any necessary resources or software that are identified. The City will seek feedback by engaging with groups interviewed in Phase I, and the larger community as a whole. Once feedback is received and analyzed, staff will return to Council with a completed ordinance for discussion, adoption and implementation in the first quarter of 2023.