

SOAP Action Update

Recycling Road Construction Materials



Snohomish County Public Works has been reducing the need for new construction materials by recycling and reusing existing materials at construction sites. By collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away and turning them into new products, we are benefiting our community and the environment.

As an example, the North Road project included:

- Use of chipped vegetation from the clearing and grubbing of construction sites for erosion control and planting areas.
 - From June- September 2014, 500 cubic yards of wood chip mulch from trees and vegetation were used for permanent and temporary ground cover on sites.
- Re-use of native topsoil for planting areas.
- Re-use of county-approved native soils as fill for roadway embankment.
- Use of onsite glacial till soils for pond lining rather than export.
 - From May-October 2014, 250 cubic yards of native soils used for building ponds walls and berms.
- Use of trees and root wads removed from construction sites as habitat logs.
- Recycling of metal and plastic pipes removed from sites.
- Re-use of asphalt removed from construction sites.
 - In August 2014, 750 cubic yards of asphalt grindings were sent to Snohomish County Road Maintenance to be used as reclaimed asphalt products.
 - In September 2014, 500 cubic yards of asphalt grindings were used to build subgrade for new roads.

environmental goals

Snohomish County is working to achieve the energy and resource conservation goals established in our internal Sustainable Operations Action Plan (SOAP) for government operations. By reducing our need for new or raw materials and increasing how much material we recycle or reuse during construction, we are taking action to achieve our SOAP Goals and Objectives, namely:

- **Goal 4:** Reduce, Recycle and Repurpose Waste
- **Objective 40:** Reduce waste from county facilities by 30% by the end of 2013 (or until goal is met) against a 2011-2012 average baseline.
- **Strategy 4(ii):** Track waste and recycling leaving county facilities to evaluate progress toward Objective 40.

environmental benefits

Recycling . . .

- Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills.
- Conserves natural resources.
- Prevents pollution.
- Saves energy.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- Helps sustain the environment for future generations.

economic case

By reducing the need for new or raw materials and reusing construction materials, Snohomish County realizes an economic benefit as well. For example . . .

- Re-use of 250 cubic yards of native soils saved the North Road Project \$8,325 in the cost of gravel borrow not needed.
- Re-use of 500 cubic yards of asphalt grindings saved road projects \$22,275 in the cost of crushed surfacing base course materials not needed.
- Use of 500 cubic yards of wood chip mulch from trees and vegetation on a construction site saved \$16,000 in the cost of new wood chips not needed.