

CALL TO ACTION

Sustainability starts on site

Why Construction?

Construction plays a critical role in achieving sustainable building outcomes by translating design intent into reality through material selection, construction practices, quality control, and waste management. Contractors and construction teams help ensure that buildings perform as intended while minimizing environmental impacts throughout the construction process.

Actions

- Utilize off-site, prefabricated building assemblies such as exterior wall panel systems; structural bay framed assemblies and façade systems to minimize excess construction waste.
- Solicit carbon intensity metrics and documentation from steel, concrete, and light gauge metal vendors to determine construction material impact.
- Develop an On-Site Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan:
 - Before construction begins, outline strategies for on-site collection, reduction, separation, reuse, recycling, and disposal with CDL processing resources.
 - Avoid over purchase of materials. Limit cardboard and plastic materials on job site.
 - Empower workers to spot waste and make suggestions for better efficiency.
 - Return surplus materials instead of discarding them.
 - Monitor/track waste diversion activities
- Use low-emitting materials on the construction site (paints, sealants, etc.)
- Maintain a clean, healthy work environment during construction. Do not allow smoking or food within building areas

Stand Out Strategies

- Reuse concrete washout materials:
 - Collect wash water and filter it to reuse to wash down equipment at the construction site or as an ingredient for additional concrete.
 - Collect aggregate materials to be reused at the construction site or returned to the mix plant.
 - Crush hardened concrete into usable aggregate to be reused onsite.
 - Include these requirements in contracts with concrete delivery companies.
- Implement and monitor sustainable tracking metrics when projects are under construction.