

Mandatory Recycling for Construction Sites

Background

Presently the most visually obvious waste occurring on residential construction sites is that of lumber. As 16 foot pieces of wood are cut up for various purposes in constructing the framework of new houses, piles of cut off lumber are left everywhere.

Currently residential construction sites have the option of recycling their lumber and only a few choose to do so. Ontario regulations currently call for mandatory recycling of untreated wood for construction projects that exceed 2000 square metres. Residential falls under that mark the majority of the time, and most commercial projects which exceed that level use steel framing instead.

The end result is that in many residential sites throughout the GTA, and most definantly many outside, lumber cut offs are thrown in with regular garbage and sent off.

WHEREAS residential construction sites produce an excessive amount of lumber that is often simply thrown away as garbage;

WHEREAS Ontario's 3Rs Regulations mandate mandatory recycling of untreated wood material only for construction projects over 2000 square metres¹, wherein less lumber is generally used,

WHEREAS, Ontario faces a significant problem for waste disposal in many municipalities including Toronto,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the APFLA urge the government to enforce mandatory recycling for all construction sites, including those below 2000 square metres.

¹ See Table 2, "Ontario's 60% Waste Diversion Goal", a discussion paper available at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/programs/4651e.htm>