



**SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS**

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Retail Business Solid Waste Management Planning

Overview

Other than at home, we are likely to encounter recycling and trash collection while at a retail establishment or brick-and-mortar business. In fact, the way a store manages its waste can be considered a window into the level of environmental concern of a company. But waste management for businesses does not end with its trash or recycling containers, it begins there. As a professional solid waste management consulting company, GBB helps many types of businesses enhance their waste collection, prevention, reuse, and recycling programs. We are attuned to the unique needs of retail corporations and how their waste programs vary widely based on their location and facility type. In addition to improving a collection program, we can help our clients save money, train staff, reduce or design out waste in the first place, & increase efficiency and diversion from landfills.

Types of Clients

- Retail Companies
- Hotels / Hospitality
- Restaurants
- Airports / Concessions
- Healthcare Facilities
- Distribution Centers
- Waste management companies and facilities

What We Do

- Front-of-house and back-of-house collection review
- Waste Management Coordination and Design Review for Construction, Renovation & Demolition Projects
- Sustainability and Circular Economy Organizational Strategy
- Zero Waste and Waste Minimization Planning
- Design for Recyclability and Circularity Analysis
- Supply Chain/Material Lifecycle Analysis and Synergies Review
- Procurement of Collection and Processing Contractor Services
- Waste Stream Composition and Quantity Analysis
- Local Ordinance Compliance Analysis and Futureproofing
- Stakeholder Education and Training.

Past Performance – Major Retail Client

For a long-term project, GBB worked with a major retail client that adopted a broad environmental mission to minimize global resource use, and responsible waste management and prevention is fundamental to realizing their mission. Initially, the GBB team was charged with helping achieve zero construction and demolition (C&D) waste from their national store renovation projects. During initial exploration, it became evident that achieving this goal would require more than end-of-life management of building materials. Based on the knowledge we gained, GBB developed a robust Zero C&D Waste Program to help realize zero waste for all types of retail store projects, whether renovation or new construction. This program included:

- Identifying opportunities for material reuse;
- Screening the suitability of building reuse organizations;
- Pre-qualifying recycling facilities;
- Deploying a C&D Materials Management Tool Kit for general contractor use;
- Developing C&D Materials Recovery Specifications and a C&D Materials Recovery Plan and separation Strategy to guide contractor best practices to achieve zero waste;
- Managing the application to and reporting requirements for the UL 2799 Zero Waste to Landfill validation certification; and,
- Working collaboratively with contractors to find outlets for difficult-to-divert materials.

Through several store renovation projects, GBB provided C&D waste management coordination and helped achieve very high diversion rates. As time progressed, we refined our methodology, built valuable relationships, and delivered detailed specifications to construction contractors early in each project – the success of which is reflected in the client’s steadily increasing diversion rates.

Opportunities to Advance Sustainability Goals

Expand Zero C&D Waste Program: GBB created the Zero C&D Waste Program with store renovation projects in mind. However, the Program could easily be adapted and implemented in additional project scenarios: Expand Program to Additional Project Types, Expand Program to Additional Facility Types, Expand Program to Other Countries, and Pursue UL Certification for All Projects

Conduct Contractor Training and Education Programs: The Zero C&D Waste Program represents a substantial step forward for the expectations of the construction industry. It asks for the contractors to go above and beyond the norm, even according to the highest standards of sustainable building design and construction. Contractors will need training to achieve these ambitious goals, and GBB can conduct the training sessions needed.

Develop Sustainable Design Guidelines Tailored to Preservation: As part of our research, we have reviewed our client’s corporate construction guidelines. GBB recommends similar guidelines be developed for renovation projects. While many of the principles will remain the same, the credits and details will differ for renovations, as such projects present different challenges and opportunities for sustainability.

Perform Drawing Review for New Construction Projects: Achieving zero C&D waste requires much more than just end-of-life management of building materials which will have limited success if buildings and interior spaces are not designed to facilitate reuse, repair, remanufacturing, and recycling. GBB can conduct drawing reviews of designs and provide feedback on how materials and construction details can be modified to prevent waste and make it easier to recover valuable materials.

Conduct Lifecycle Analyses for Building Materials: GBB can help make informed decisions about building material selection by conducting lifecycle analyses on its building materials. We can determine the best materials to use in facilities based on the environmental impact of the prospective materials from their raw material extraction and processing, manufacturing, transportation, and use, and finally to its end-of-life processing method.

Enhance Operational Zero Waste Program: Our client currently has a recycling program in place for the operation of its facilities. During the work GBB conducted, we observed that program implementation at the stores could benefit from enhancement. Universal programs such as these can be difficult to implement due to the wide variety of regulations and programs in individual jurisdictions. Programs must be regularly evaluated and updated to keep pace with changing consumer behaviors and diversion opportunities.

Procure Zero Waste Collection Services for company facilities, including retail stores: Evaluating collection service contracts is necessary for many of our client’s retail stores. GBB routinely assists its clients with drafting Requests for Proposals/Qualifications for a variety of services and products, including material collection services. We also assist clients with vendor response review and interviews, negotiations, contract review, and implementation. All selected collection service providers must share the same diversion goals to be successful into the future.

Pursue Organization-Wide Certification Programs: GBB stays informed on developments of various waste-related certification programs and can manage the application process for the certification.

TRUE Zero Waste Certification: Total Resource Use and Efficiency (TRUE) is a certification program that focuses on the entire material lifecycle responsibility of businesses, operations, and facilities. The program, a complement to the LEED rating system, strives to ensure materials and products are reused/diverted. TRUE seeks to create a holistic zero waste culture among a company’s leaders, employees, and total supply chain.

Circulytics: The tool is used by organizations to measure progress toward circularity and uses a wide set of indicators to reveal the extent to which an organization has achieved circularity across its entire operations.