

The Greater Vancouver Regional District 3Rs Code of Practice for the Building Industry February 1997

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) has a goal of reducing the amount of waste disposed in the region by 50% per capita by the year 2000. To assist the building industry in achieving this goal, the GVRD is introducing a voluntary 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Code of Practice.

The 3Rs Code of Practice identifies waste management priorities for builders in the Lower Mainland. It contains several simple actions the industry can take to reduce the amount of waste generated at construction, renovation and demolition projects.

The benefits of complying with the Code of Practice on project sites include:

- lower *project* costs
- safer, cleaner job sites
- positive public image, and
- a healthier environment.

The building industry is encouraged to adopt the 3Rs Code of Practice.

In order to comply with this Code, builders must implement the following 3Rs actions at all project sites:

1) Plan your program

- look at your disposal needs and the types of waste you produce at each project site
- develop a waste reduction plan prior to commencing work on site

2) Recycle

- at construction sites, separate clean wood, scrap metal and cardboard for recycling
- at demolition/renovation projects, separate concrete, asphalt, clean wood, and scrap metal for recycling
- recycle or compost yard and landclearing waste generated during site preparation work

3) Reuse

- re-use materials on construction and renovation sites, wherever possible
- salvage re-usable materials from buildings during demolition and renovation
- where feasible, relocate entire buildings which would otherwise be demolished,

4) Reduce

- minimize damage of construction materials through proper on-site storage and handling
- purchase construction materials in quantities required for the job

5) Buy Recycled

- ask your suppliers to minimize product packaging and/or take back packaging for re-use or recycling
- identify and purchase recycled-content construction materials