

## Landfill Waste

Approximately 31.5 million tons (24%) of total municipal solid waste per year is attributed to construction or demolition waste in this country. NAHB, "Building a Balance: Solid Waste Disposal Environmental Education Fact Sheet," 2004

## Residential Construction Waste

A 2000 sq ft home creates 8000 lbs, or four tons of waste on average. NAH, "Residential Construction Waste, From Disposal to Management, Oct 1996

## Colorado's Low Recycling Rate

Colorado and the rest of the Rocky Mountain States have the lowest recycling rate in the United States at 14%. Biocycle, The State of Garbage in America, April, 2006

## Phoenix Construction Recycling

Phoenix recycles at least two tons of waste from a 2000 sq ft home. If all new homes expected to be built in La Plata County this year were to recycle with Phoenix, two million pounds of waste would stay out of the landfill and be put to better use. Construction recycling keeps wood, cardboard, metals concrete, brick and cinderblock out of the landfills and puts those materials to better use.

## Cardboard

Cardboard waste from typical residential construction is equivalent to 20 cubic yards or 8% of the total construction waste. Recycling cardboard saves seven full grown pine trees. If every builder in La Plata County recycled cardboard, a forest of 3,815 trees could be saved in a single year. Recycled Papers the Essential Guide Cambridge MA, MIT Press 1992. Smithsonian National Zoological Park online.

## Wood

Approximately 38% of residential construction waste consists of wood products. Phoenix makes wood into mulch that is used in landscaping.

## Metals

Recycling metals reduces pollution, saves energy, and preserves recreational areas for hiking, fishing and hunting rather than clearing for mining purposes.

## Brick and Concrete

The excess brick, concrete and cinderblock from new home construction is crushed up and used as aggregate to build new roads.

## Doing Our Part

*Phoenix Recycling helps residents and builders participate in environmental solutions:*

- The first six months of 2006 were the warmest in the United States since record-keeping began in 1895, according to the National Climactic Data Center. The 10 hottest years on record have all occurred since 1990, a trend that a majority of scientists say is in large part attributable to human production of greenhouse gases, which trap heat in the atmosphere. *Seattle Times July 27, 2006*

- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is a greenhouse gas that remains in the atmosphere for approximately 9-15 years. Methane is over 20 times more effective in trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) over a 100-year period and is emitted from a variety of natural and human-influenced sources including landfills. [www.epa.gov/methane/](http://www.epa.gov/methane/)



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