

## Editor's NOTE: Recycling Practices

by Michelle Hucal LEED AP

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Though there's not necessarily a one-size-fits-all strategy, recycling is essential. It may not always be the easy thing to do, but recycling saves resources and may even save money, as demonstrated by Hobbs Brook Management and **Margulies Perruzzi Architects** in a 330,000-square-foot Class A office-space project in Waltham, Mass. (see page 58).



There's no excuse not to recycle and reuse building materials as much as possible. It's absurd to simply drop usable products into a landfill when other opportunities exist. It's also essential for the design and construction community to specify high-quality recycled materials whenever they are available, resulting in an increased demand and hopefully driving down prices. Green building rating systems address areas such as the collection of recyclables, building and resource reuse, construction waste management and recycled-content products, therefore recycling strategies have gained greater attention.

Yes, there are drawbacks to recycling. More greenhouse gases are emitted and energy is consumed with the recycling of some products. This simply means that each of us needs to be more responsible in our search for answers. "Life cycle" is all the rage right now and rightfully so. End-of-life product responsibility should be addressed from the start. With regard to being more responsible, educate yourself on concepts like life-cycle assessment and analysis (see page 56), and the concepts of "cradle to cradle" (essentially creating a waste-free system), "cradle to grave" (creation or original manufacturing through the disposal or end-of-life phase), and everything in between.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) was one such organization that realized the importance of end-of-life management. California's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Stewardship initiative is a "strategy to place a shared responsibility for end-of-life product management on the producers, and all entities involved in the product chain, instead of the general public; while encouraging product design changes that minimize a negative impact on human health and the environment at every stage of the product's life cycle. This allows the costs of treatment and disposal to be incorporated into the total cost of a product. It places primary responsibility on the producer, or brand owner, who makes design and marketing decisions."

In 2007, the (CIWMB) adopted a set of strategic directives. These directives include a policy that directs staff to seek statutory authority to foster "cradle-to-cradle" producer responsibility and develop producer-financed and producer-managed systems for product discards. Look for more to come from this initiative in 2009 and visit [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/EPR/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/EPR/).

Just about anything can be recycled: various C&D waste, ceiling tiles, carpet, roofing, drywall, and tons of materials inside and out. (And thankfully, more manufacturers are offering opportunities to make this easier on you through take-back programs.) Even water can be recycled or reused for irrigation and other innovative uses, as well as rechargeable batteries (learn more about the Call2Recycle program at [www.rbr.org](http://www.rbr.org)).

ED+C for example, reduces our footprint significantly each month by using Roland Enviro100 Print paper instead of virgin fibers paper to print this magazine. See our ecological footprint box in each issue of ED+C.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,  
Michelle

### Celebrate the earth!

Earth Day 2009, on April 22, will mark the beginning of the Green Generation Campaign. This two-year initiative will culminate with the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in 2010. For more information on how you can get involved, visit the Earth Day Network at [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net).