

WasteSpec is a 114-page manual that provides architects and engineers with model specifications and background information aimed at waste reduction, reuse, and recycling during construction and demolition. The model specifications in the manual are tailored to all sixteen divisions of the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) format. Each provision includes a cost implication symbol. The manual also includes background information on alternatives for handling construction and demolition waste, information specifically designed for bidders on how to estimate recyclable waste, a sample waste management plan, a checklist of **135** materials and items typically contained in demolished buildings, and a list of resources for further information. *WasteSpec* comes in a three-ring binder accompanied by a diskette containing the model specifications in a generic format that can be electronically cut and pasted into a specifier's standard specifications. *WasteSpec* was first published in **1995** and is sold at cost (\$28.00, including shipping and handling).

Prior to the publication of *WasteSpec*, there were no model specifications aimed at construction and demolition waste reduction that were readily available to specifiers and others throughout the United States. Although more and more architects, engineers, and their clients were becoming interested in the environmental impact of their construction projects, most of them did not have a background in waste reduction techniques or materials recycling. The need for model specifications regarding these issues was therefore particularly acute.

The comprehensive nature of *WasteSpec* was particularly innovative. It provides in one loose-leaf binder all the basic design and planning information on construction waste reduction needed by architects and engineers, general contractors, and subcontractors. Some of the background information is designed to assist the specifier in deciding which provisions are appropriate for his or her project. The manual offers the specifier several different options for using specifications to reduce construction and demolition waste. For example, one option is to use bid alternates; another option is to require the successful bidder to propose a recycling plan for approval; another option is to require recycling of specific construction materials; yet another option is to require recycling to the extent practical. Symbols also help the specifier predict whether each provision is likely to raise, lower, or have no impact on cost. Other information in the manual is designed to be distributed to bidders to assist them in preparing bids regarding recycling options. Still other information is designed to be used by successful bidders in implementing successful waste management provisions once their bids have been accepted.

WasteSpec was initiated at the suggestion of the 33 members of the Construction and Demolition Waste Task Force of Triangle J Council of Governments in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Triangle J Council of Governments is a regional planning organization composed of the county and municipal governments within a six-county area. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided funding to support the development of *WasteSpec*. More than four dozen architects, engineers, and others throughout the United States assisted with the development of *WasteSpec* by reviewing drafts.

Hundreds of architects --located in 43 of the 50 states -- have ordered copies of *WasteSpec*, and it has had a nationwide impact on construction waste. Case studies from the states of California, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin have illustrated construction waste reduction and no project cost increase after using *WasteSpec*. As more and more architects, engineers, and project managers become interested in sustainable building techniques, the demand for *WasteSpec* will continue to increase.

