

Using recovered materials in highways

Waste materials generated by industry and consumers can be useful in building highways, filling embankments, and back-filling trenches. Using recovered materials this way helps dispose of them constructively and avoids filling up expensive landfill space. Often they can replace expensive, and sometimes scarce, virgin materials.



Waste glass is one reclaimed material that has many uses, such as trench backfill and base course material.

with the state Department of Natural Resources. As a result, they can normally be used with no additional permits or certification from DNR.

Glass of mixed colors can't be recycled into new glass and is a prime candidate for construction use. It is locally available from recycling centers around the state. Crushed to a maximum size of about 1/4 inch, it can be used by itself as a backfill material

Recycled glass, bottom ash, foundry sand, and steel slag have all been used successfully in state and local projects. All are easily crushed and blended using conventional aggregate processing equipment.

A new fact sheet, **Using Recovered Materials in Highway Construction, No. 20**, and a videotape on using recovered materials, are now available, produced by the T.I.C. in cooperation with the Wisconsin Recycling Market Development Board. They discuss how to use the four most common recovered materials and identify more than two dozen successful application sites around the state.

Base course and embankment fill are among the most common uses. Producers classify their waste materials into standard industrial byproduct categories and certify them

or blended with natural aggregate. Standard specifications for using glass and other reclaimed materials are available from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Wisconsin is a leader in evaluating and using recycled materials in highway construction. WisDOT has done considerable testing and evaluation and numerous demonstration projects. The Recycling Market Development Board has worked with recycling facilities to identify, test and classify suitable materials.

Contact the T.I.C. for copies of **Using Recovered Materials in Highway Construction, Bulletin No. 20**. Contact the Recycling Market Development Board at 800/435-7287 for information on materials availability. Your WisDOT district office materials section can help with specifications or advice on appropriate use.

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