

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BEST PRACTICES

FOR GENERAL CONTRACTORS

MAKE RESPONSIBLE PURCHASES

- Adopt a responsible purchasing policy.
- Educate your suppliers about reducing packaging.
- Shop local, sustainable products.
- Prioritize the use of prefabricated components, as factory production is optimized to generate less waste.
- Ask suppliers to source or use more sustainable materials.
- Use eco-friendly materials (with low to no energy and environmental impact) for more sustainable construction.

MANAGE YOUR WASTE EFFICIENTLY

- Implement the 5 Rs (rethink your needs, reduce, reuse, recycle and reclaim).
- Learn more about material recovery services (recycling centre, ecocentre) offered by your RCM or municipality, or a material recovery business.
- Offer employee trainings on best practices in CRD (construction, renovation, demolition) waste management.
- Encourage R&D to implement innovative solutions (e.g., brick recycling by Groupe Maçon).
- Opt for deconstruction over demolition whenever possible.
- Sort and resell or give away materials in the event of demolitions and renovations.
- Proactively optimize design to minimize worksite waste.
- Provide durable, reusable personal protective equipment.

SAVE WATER

- Business office: Install devices to reduce water flow during renovations (e.g., toilets, faucets).
- Use environmentally friendly, phosphate-free cleaning products.
- Learn more about greywater recycling systems for new construction.
- Provide bottle refilling stations to encourage employees to use reusable bottles.

USE LESS ENERGY

- Business office: Implement energy efficiency measures (LED bulbs, programmable thermostat, *Energy Star* appliances, etc.).
- Use electric or battery-operated tools.
- Look into using generators fuelled by clean energy.
- Educate yourself on energy-efficient construction methods and related certifications.
- Learn about the different energy efficiency programs available, like *Quebec's Energy Transition* and what they can do for your clients.



REDUCE YOUR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG)

- Hire an expert to assess your carbon footprint and draw up a plan to cut and offset emissions.
- Encourage collective and active transportation by installing bike racks and incentivizing carpooling.
- Optimize transportation logistics.
- Go electric when acquiring vehicles.

IMPROVE WORKPLACE WELLNESS, HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Keep a defibrillator and first aid kit accessible onsite.
- Have a first aider present at all times (as required by the CNESST).
- Review the ergonomics of different tasks and implement recommendations.
- Respect your employees' and coworkers' right to disconnect.

INCREASE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Share your sustainable development successes.
- Sponsor sports and cultural events.
- Get involved in causes and donate used materials to organizations.

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For more information, reach out to your local's SADC or CAE

sadc-cae.ca