



On nearly every project, Balfour Beatty, relies on sustainable practices to maintain its position as one of the largest providers of interior construction services in Texas. By using the best practices developed by the United States Green Building Council for LEED® certification, Balfour Beatty diverts and tracks nearly all construction waste generated on the job site for both LEED® and non-LEED® projects. On a recent project, Balfour Beatty and Choice Energy were able to track diverted waste online, through a web-based application, exemplifying sustainability in action, and setting a new standard for the construction industry.

Case Study: OTC Choice Energy, Houston

Choice Energy wanted to remodel its offices in Houston, TX. Working closely with Balfour Beatty and Waste Management, they launched an environmental solutions plan, which included a waste diversion program designed to keep construction running on the desired schedule. The project team, which had limited space in which to operate, needed flexible schedules, frequent communications and multiple pick-ups from Waste Management on a daily basis.

From the outset Choice Energy chose to use LEED-rated dumpsters for the non-LEED project, since the solution made sense for both the environment and their bottom line. By employing Waste Management's resources, it was possible for construction debris to be comingled, collected and recycled.

The Choice Energy project utilized

Waste Management's online Diversion and Recycling Tracking tool, DART, tracks the diversion efforts of a project and provides useful charts and graphs to show it all in real-time. Balfour Beatty and Choice Energy used DART to monitor their goals and promote their green initiatives. With the help of Waste Management, Balfour Beatty achieved an astounding 90.5% diversion rate, meaning the majority of material —lumber, concrete, tile, etc.—was effectively recycled or reused.

Normally, meaningful recycling progress reports and graphs require difficult calculations or take too long to compile. With DART, precise reports, colorfully displayed, were generated quickly and made available online. Access to the data helped both Balfour Beatty and Choice Energy spread the message of sustainability to a wider audience – helping educate clients and the industry on the benefits of being [\(ecoengaged®\)](#) on construction projects.

Case Study Choice Energy – Green Facts:

Green Facts

Recycling & Diversion Program Environmental Impact

Working with Waste Management, we saved energy and reduced Greenhouse Gases through recycling and diversion efforts. Recycling and diverting materials uses less energy, preserves natural resources, and emits less carbon dioxide (CO₂) because less energy is required in the manufacture of products made from recycled material than from virgin, raw material.

Our recycling and diversion efforts represent the following resource savings:



121,438 Kilowatt Hours of Electricity from Recycling:
Enough power to fulfill the electricity needs of the following number of homes per month

121



0 KW-Hrs of Electricity from Waste-to-Energy:
Enough power to fulfill the electricity needs of the following number of homes per month

0



338 Barrels of Oil: Enough energy to heat and cool the following number of homes per month

70



113 Mature Trees: Enough saved timber resources to produce the following number of sheets of newspaper

1,395,659



86,018 Gallons of Water: Enough fresh water to meet the daily fresh water needs for the following number of people

1,147



133 Cubic Yards of Landfill Airspace: Enough airspace to meet the municipal waste disposal needs of the following number of people per month

2,075



The following is an example of the DART tool reporting function:

Diversion Reporting

