Recycling Hits 90 Percent During Campus Construction

Waste Management has been providing construction debris removal and recycling for Hardison/Downey Construction, Inc. during its $42.1 million project at The University of New Mexico. Hardison/Downey is building student housing facilities for American Campus Communities.

Included among the services Waste Management has provided, are:

- Assistance in qualifying for LEED® certification
- Construction and demolition, waste removal and recycling of cardboard, paper, plastic, metal, drywall, wood, concrete and asphalt
- Regular reporting of diversion rates and ratios using Waste Management’s Diversion and Recycling Tracking Tool, DART™

Recycling Culture Improved: When inappropriate materials, such as organic food waste, have been found within recycling loads, the recycling facility automatically has reloaded the contaminated materials and sent them directly to the landfill. Waste Management has educated Hardison/Downey’s changing crew of construction workers about the negative effects of mixing food waste in containers used for construction debris. Waste Management partnered with Hardison/Downey to solve the problem by providing incentives for the workers if they attained a 75 percent recycling objective. The response was so positive that workers policed each other, resulting in a recycling level ranging from 85 to 90 percent.

Extra LEED Credits: The 85-90 percent recycling level that Hardison/Downey has been able to achieve with Waste Management’s help, is enabling the company to earn extra LEED credits.

Single Point Of Contact: Ernesto Gachupin, Waste Management sales representative, provides a single point of contact. Hardison/Downey values a partner willing to provide on-site attention and work cooperatively in a consulting role. This level of service provides a stark contrast to several other local construction and demolition service providers, one of whom conducts its customer interface via telephone.

“Your monthly reports are an excellent tool for us. They were a pivotal factor in selecting Waste Management as our vendor during Phase One. These reports helped us document waste volumes and hauling tickets which, ultimately, facilitated communications with our LEED® consultant. We are looking forward to using your new DART tool, which now allows us to access reports ourselves.”

Doug Hansen, Project Manager