



PROGRAM ON THE ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

CIRCULAR ECONOMY ADOPTION IN CONSTRUCTION: STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

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Construction and demolition activities globally generate 600 million tons of waste, contributing significantly to environmental degradation and resource depletion. This waste can be effectively mitigated by adopting circular economy principles that prioritize the reduction and recycling of construction and demolition materials. The implementation of circular economy initiatives within the construction industry holds the potential to mitigate carbon emissions, foster local job creation, and reduce material costs. This study aims to provide a better understanding of how to engage stakeholders in circular economy efforts within the construction sector. To achieve this, I interned with King County's Solid Waste Division and conducted a comprehensive survey of local stakeholders to assess their interest in a Salvage Lumber Warehouse, a key element in their circular economy strategy. The findings reveal that a majority of stakeholders express a strong interest in participating in circular economy initiatives; however, they often lack adequate information on how to do so effectively. This knowledge gap highlights the need for improved awareness and education to facilitate their involvement. Furthermore, the survey results demonstrate that most stakeholders highly value the concept of a circular economy and believe that its implementation will enhance the value of their companies. This research emphasizes the importance of engaging construction industry stakeholders in circular economy efforts and highlights the potential benefits that can be realized through Salvage Lumber Warehouses and similar initiatives. It also emphasizes the significance of addressing information gaps and promoting awareness to create a more sustainable and economically viable construction industry.