

City of Chicago Pilots: Plastic Concrete Forms

One million feet of lumber saved annually

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Department of Transportation
Curb Appeal Materials

SUMMARY

The Chicago Department of Transportation builds and maintains sidewalks throughout the city of Chicago. To create the sidewalk squares, a wooden form is used to contain the concrete until it is set. Afterwards, the wood is caked with concrete residue, and unusable for future projects. Plastic lumber can be re-recycled making plastic lumber forms much less wasteful, and more economical.



BACKGROUND

Sidewalk maintenance within the City of Chicago uses over 1 million linear feet of lumber annually in concrete form creation.

THE WTPN CONNECTION

Plastic lumber from Curb Appeal Materials was found to be a good fit for DOT sidewalk forms as it could be shaped and joined using traditional woodworking tools and was easy to recycle locally after the forms were used several times. The Waste to Profit Team introduced the involved partners to the concept and facilitated the preliminary discussions surrounding a wood form pilot in both network functions and outside meetings.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Enhanced recycling within city of Chicago projects
- Created cost savings in disposal and hauling fees, new material procurement
- Sets a standard which other construction industry members can replicate.
- CO2 savings from increased recycling of plastic, and reduced use of wood products