
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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WMD-SW-19

2011

Scrap Metal Management and Scrap Metal Recycling

The scrap metal waste stream includes a wide variety of items ranging from automobiles, appliances, boats, electronics, furniture, and toys. As access to raw materials decline and costs of mining and processing increase due to environmental degradation and increased regulation, recycling is becoming the better economic choice.

Scrap metal is divided into two types: nonferrous and ferrous. A few examples of nonferrous scrap are aluminum, copper, lead, tin, zinc, and the precious metals. Ferrous scrap consists of scrap iron, steel [a low carbon iron] and iron alloys. There are more than 100 grades of ferrous and ferrous alloy scrap. A metal alloy consists of two or more metals combined with iron.

Recycling both nonferrous and ferrous metals conserves both natural resources and energy. For example, it takes four pounds of aluminum ore to produce one pound of aluminum metal and it takes 95 percent less energy to make new aluminum from used cans. Today, every aluminum beverage can contains more than 50 percent recycled content.

A solid waste permit is required to operate a scrap metal recycling facility. Most facilities accepting less than 30 tons per day will qualify for a permit-by-notification. See Env-Sw 407.04 of the *Solid Waste Rules* to determine if your facility would qualify for a permit-by-notification. All other facilities will require a Standard Permit.

For additional information contact the DES Waste Management Division, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord NH 03302-0095; (603) 271-2925; or TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964.