

Clifton DPW expects recycling of asphalt, concrete to be smashing success

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Chunks of asphalt heading into a hired company's crusher in the Clifton Department of Public Works yard, to be crushed into fine debris. Following the asphalt into the machine on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, were chunks of concrete for the same high-impact treatment.

CLIFTON – Tons of asphalt and concrete were hurled through a mammoth machine in the city's DPW yard on Tuesday and spit out as material for future construction projects. Public works supervisors Dennis Markovich and Al Dubois watched on as the Rubble Master 80, an Austrian-made crusher, broke apart a stockpile of concrete pipes, catch basins and blacktop that had accumulated on the public works property over three years. An excavator dumped load after load of the debris into a hopper. The crusher then tossed it against an impact wall, and it poured out as a steady stream of fine-grained reusable fill. Markovich said it would have cost about \$18,000 to truck away the 700 tons of debris to a quarry or asphalt plant. Instead, the city contracted with a Lyndhurst company, DAG, for about \$8,000 to pulverize the material so it could be used either as a temporary fix for potholes or foundation for new sewer pipes and roads, he said. Factor in the costs from not having to buy fill material for those future projects and an additional \$25,000 was saved, Markovich said. The crushed debris should last for at least three years, he said. "This way we keep it in-house and save money," he said. "It's cheaper for the taxpayer in the long run." Dubois played up the environmental benefits, saying the rock-crushing helped the city reuse materials while also saving energy from hauling it elsewhere. "We're all impressed," he said. Dubois suggested that Passaic County officials coordinate a similar operation for smaller towns that don't build up as much construction debris as Clifton does. Then towns could pitch in for the costs of the contractor and take from the fill material as needed. "Some things towns do better, some things are better done on the county scale," Dubois said. "You need partnerships."

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