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The Dirt On Rising Development Costs



The **Eglinton LRT tunnels** will displace enough soil to create a 580-metre-tall column that would fill the Air Canada Centre rink. But that's a tiny fraction of the **25M cubic metres** of construction soil excavated annually in Ontario, and a new [RCCAO report](#) concludes much of it ends up in landfill unnecessarily, driving up development costs and harming the environment. "Soil can be a valuable, reusable resource," says **Andy Manahan**, the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance's ED. But current regulations that treat nearly all of it as if it were contaminated may add **15% to the costs** of private developments and public infrastructure. The report at [rccao.com](#) presents suggestions for new "best management practices," including a **soil-matching** system that has proved successful in the UK. (So forget what your moms said people: play in the mud!)