



PRESS RELEASE

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Free Site Waste Management Plan Support in the South East

ZeroWISE ERDF Construction

Construction companies are being encouraged to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste through a new South East-wide initiative.

The three-year project, funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), is being managed by Remade South East to support construction contractors, house builders, architects, designers and local authorities to minimise waste streams and find alternative markets for waste created from the construction industry.

The free-of-charge assistance is being provided to Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to develop and implement 75 Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) on sites in the South East (including pre-demolition audits, groundwork assistance and construction support). The project will promote reuse opportunities by developing building material reuse centres and new end markets for waste materials. Through the project businesses and local authorities will also receive training sessions and toolbox talks to explain how SWMPs can be implemented.

The project has 17 partners providing specialist support and advice across the region including Building Research Establishment, South East Centre for the Built Environment, Remade South East, BioRegional, Centre for Remanufacture and Reuse, ConstructionResale, Tiger Enterprise, Sust Marketing, Kent Sustainable Business Partnership, Hampshire Sustainable Business Partnership, WD Environmental, Olive Consultancy, Ecosys, Gypsum Recycling, May Gurney, Brighton and Hove Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

Diana Lock, Chief Executive of Remade South East said "This project aims to deliver a range of benefits to participating businesses, such as the reduction of waste to landfill, disposal costs, carbon emissions, as well as training and development opportunities for key construction and local authority staff."

SMEs and local authorities interested in signing up to the ZeroWISE sustainable construction project should contact Andrew Kent at Remade South East for further information on 01732 876619.

ENDS

Contact:

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Notes for Editors

1. About Remade South East:

Remade South East is an innovative programme aimed at assisting the public and private sector to find new markets for recyclable resources. Launched in 2001, as ReMaDe Kent and Medway, the programme has diverted around 175,000 tonnes of waste into new product development.

Remade assists businesses with the development of new reprocessing and recycling technologies and helps local authorities to improve their recovery rates in order to meet their recycling targets. To stimulate the demand for recycled material, Remade also works with companies and local councils to develop and promote “green” procurement policies and initiatives.

2. About Site Waste Management Plans:

SWMPs aim to address two key issues:

1. Improving materials resource efficiency, by promoting the economic use of construction materials and methods so that waste is minimised and any waste that is produced can be re-used, recycled or recovered in other ways before disposal options are explored; and
2. Reducing fly-tipping, by restricting the opportunities available for the illegal disposal of waste by ensuring compliance with existing legal controls and providing a full audit trail of any waste that is removed from the construction site.

Although it is a legal requirement to write and implement a SWMP, the greatest cost savings are likely to be achieved as a result of the consideration of materials resource efficiency which will be a necessary part of the preparation, before the SWMP is drafted.

A SWMP is required if the construction work planned will cost more than £300,000. SWMPs can save money, but only if used to challenge the way resources are used. By thinking about minimising waste from the outset companies can save money on materials, disposal costs and labour and make a real difference to the bottom line. They should also make tracking waste more straightforward as a log will be kept of all waste paperwork in one document. This will help to comply with the waste duty of care and reduce the risk of fly-tipping.

Engagement with the construction industry has in the past proved difficult, however as more companies are becoming aware of the new legislation they are now making an effort to find out what their responsibilities are.

It is vitally important that senior management are aware of the legislation and support all efforts to communicate responsibilities throughout their organisation.



Most companies now have someone responsible for environmental issues, usually someone who is keen for the company to do better things. Therefore engagement with the industry is a gradual process, as follows;

1. obtain buy-in from senior management to participate within the programme
2. meet with senior management and environment champion to explain the programme, what is expected of the company and identify suitable sites to trial the project
3. arrange site visit to meet with the site manager

Some companies have requested a site manager's workshop, usually held at their regular site manager's meeting, to explain who we are and what the programme is about. Others have requested toolbox talks on site to explain the programme to their suppliers and subcontractors, and what is expected of them during the programme period.

Once a site has been identified, details of the company and site are registered on the BRE SMARTWaste system (www.smartwaste.co.uk). This can be accessed from site via the internet, if they have the facility to do so, or from the company office. SMARTWaste is used to create the SWMP online, and also has the facility to print the document for use on site.

The responsibility of the site is to record data from waste arising and enter this onto the SMARTWaste system. If not possible directly from site the data is collected manually and sent to the company office such that it can be entered from there. The duties of the company office management are to;

- initiate the SWMP
- Allocate responsibilities within the site team
- Communicate responsibilities at site level
- Ensure waste data is being recorded, and
- Periodically review the SWMP to ensure compliance

Once the site is complete a full review of the SWMP is undertaken and at this point the company and site KPI's can be compared to the industry average. The information retained can then be used to make more accurate assessments of future SWMP's.