



**SUSTAINABLE
CONSTRUCTION
GROUP**

**GUIDANCE
FOR
PROJECT SPONSORS
AND
PROJECT MANAGERS**

GUIDANCE NOTE 2:

TARGETS FOR RECYCLING

February 2006

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The aim of this note is to focus on one of the most important primary targets for sustainable construction. A minimum of “10% of the materials value of the project should derive from recycled or re-used content”. (Ref Achieving Excellence Guide 11 ‘Sustainability’, Page 22).

Contracting Authorities have the right to demand a minimum percentage of recycled or re-used content where possible. (Ref The European Commission’s Handbook on environmental public procurement (SEC (2004) 1050, August 2004).

2.1 BENEFITS

There are a number of important benefits in setting challenging recycled or re-used content targets. These are:-

- A reduction in materials going to landfill
- A reduction in consumption of natural resources
- A reduction in transport and energy costs.

2.2 SETTING THE TARGET

When setting the target, the Centre of Procurement Expertise/Contracting Authority should consider the scope and nature of their work to set challenging but achievable targets. It is expected that each Centre of Procurement Expertise/Contracting Authority will achieve a minimum of 10% in material value of recycled or re-used content on average across all projects. It is recognised that this is an aggregated target and that, for an individual project, a target of 10% may be too high or too low depending upon the nature of the work.

2.3 ASSESSING THE TARGET

The tender assessment process should aim to measure the following: -

- Re-use of materials on site
- Use of imported recycled materials. (However, where these have to be transported over large distances the transport and energy costs may cancel out the benefits of using recycled materials. For low cost materials, such as recycled aggregates, transport over distances greater than 30 miles may negate the benefit.)
- Off-site recycling of waste material
- In calculating the percentages of recycling achieved, high value items such as stainless steel or other metals should be discounted.

An appropriate auditable process should be used to demonstrate the recycled/re-used content.

2.4 FUTURE TARGETS

Centres of Procurement Excellence and Contracting Authorities should promote exemplar projects, which use recycled and re-used materials. These can be used to explore the achievable limits of using recycled/re-used materials in particular areas of work. The results obtained should be used to set future targets. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) advise that up to 30% recycling/re-use can be achieved, at no additional cost for some projects. Even greater recycling/reuse targets can be achieved if a small additional material cost is accepted. The WRAP web-site www.wrap.org.uk shows examples of construction projects, which illustrate good recycling/re-use of materials practice.

Future targets should also be set from the experience gained from previous similar type projects.

2.5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.5.1 Centres of Procurement Expertise/Contracting Authorities

- Set minimum percentage targets for recycled or re-used content in all projects. This will initially be set to 10% on average across all projects per annum.
- Promote trailblazer projects, which use recycled and re-used materials. These can be used to explore the achievable limits of using recycled/re-used materials in a particular area of work. The results obtained should be used to set future targets.

2.5.2 Project Managers

At Pre-Contract Stage:

- In developing specifications ensure that the use of recycled/reused materials is permitted and promoted
- Agree and set the project recycling/reuse target

At Construction Stage:

- Ensure that the recycled/re-used materials identified by the Contractor are used

2.6 IMPLEMENTATION

The requirements contained within this *Guidance Note* are to be implemented from 1st April 2006.