

# Proposed Voluntary Construction Industry Initiative to Prevent, Minimise and Recycle C&D Waste



## 1.0 Background:

### Evolution of the National Construction and Demolition Waste Council.

The National Construction and Demolition Waste Council (NCDWC) was established on June 20th 2002 by the Forum for the Construction Industry on the recommendation of Task Force B4 as approved by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in his letter dated 11th December 2001. The Council was set up as a Voluntary Construction Industry Initiative. The role of the Council is to provide a framework to achieve compliance with the policy and targets as set out by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government in the Policy Document 'Changing Our Ways' which has committed to a 50% recycling target by 2003 and a progressive increase to 85% by 2013.

To achieve this the Council will seek to implement the recommendations of Task Force B4 "Recycling of Construction and Demolition Waste". Membership on the Council comprises all the organisations represented on Task Force B4 together with other parties recognised as having a significant contribution to make as outlined on [www.ncdwc.ie](http://www.ncdwc.ie).

The NCDWC meets on a quarterly basis unless otherwise determined by the Chairman in consultation with the Secretariat. A Steering Committee has been set up to direct and assist the Secretariat in carrying out the work of the Council. Five subcommittees have also been established to assist in particular areas of work.

## 2.0 Voluntary Construction Industry Initiative – Proposal

Since its formation in June 20th 2002, the NCDWC has considered and discussed the recommendations of Task force B4. Through its subcommittees it has researched the change options available to the industry under the headings of;

- Infrastructure and Facilities
- Markets for Recycled Products
- Project Practice and Waste Management Plans
- The Regulatory Framework
- Information and Public Awareness

It is clear that making progress on these issues will involve timeframes of many years. Indeed, the Ministers objective recognised as much in targeting 85% recycling by 2013.

While the present level of C&D Waste recycling is estimated to be 65.4%, this is mainly comprised of the recovery of inert soil and stones at permitted sites. The purpose of this Voluntary Construction Industry Initiative is therefore to accelerate progress toward the Ministers 85% recycling target. The initiative also recognises that recycling is an established practice internationally and that Ireland must make much more substantial progress through voluntary effort, before engaging in new legislation which could prove to be ineffective or have unforeseen impacts.

This initiative calls upon each of the players in the construction industry to commit themselves by undertaking a number of agreed actions, which will promote and accelerate recycling or reduce barriers to progress.

We believe that this approach will accelerate the industry's progress towards the 85% target.



### 3.0 Outline Proposal

- 3.1 This proposal requests each participant in the Construction Industry commits to a series of actions, which will promote waste prevention, reduction, reuse of materials and recycling.
- 3.2 The initiative will be a rolling one, i.e. it will concentrate on the major waste fractions in the early years and establish the most suitable practices for Ireland through practical experience – further steps will be initiated later.
- 3.3 Having evolved best practice, the need for legislation / regulation will be considered at a later stage.
- 3.4 The initiative proposed have been evolved through the work of the various committees of the NCDWC.
- 3.5 It is proposed to recognise commitment to the initiative through an awards scheme
- 3.6 The NCDWC will monitor progress towards these goals and make annual recommendations for change/improvement.

### 4.0 Objectives of Key Participants for a Voluntary Construction Industry Initiative

Organisation	Responsibility	Target/ Commencement Date
Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government	• Develop specifications for unbound recycled concrete and brick for use in low level applications in development works.	09/04
	• Develop Fiscal Policy to discourage C&D Waste going to landfill.	09/04
	• Work with LA's to simplify regulation of recycling activities.	Ongoing
National Roads Authority	• Qualify the use of unbound recycled concrete and brick for use as a base layer in Road construction.	06/04
	• Publicise and encourage users to specify opportunities for the use of recycled materials.	09/04
Local Authorities	• Allow the use of recycled materials in road repair and improvement work.	09/04
	• Investigate using recycled concrete and brick for housing sub floors.	09/04
	• Promote Staff Training in waste management improving enforcement and regulation and identify an "expert" in each Authority who can advise on and fast track permit applications.	09/04
	• In conjunction with the DoEHLG devote more resources to the enforcement of legislation and regulations.	09/04
	• Encourage the development of C&D Waste Recycling Facilities within the regions e.g. in quarries or landfill sites.	09/04
	• Encourage Selective Demolition and ensure that the client understands that pre-planning is required.	09/04
	• Provide explicitly for C&D Waste infrastructure when the Regional Waste Management Plans are being revised.	09/04

Organisation	Responsibility	Target/ Commencement Date
Developers, Builders and Building Contractors (Construction Industry Federation Builders & Contractors Members Associations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise that waste is a considerable construction cost. CIF to prioritise training programmes to promote awareness and enable members to understand the "true" cost of waste disposal.</li> <li>Make waste management a priority.</li> <li>Commit to segregating waste into its main fractions or hire a waste management contractor who will undertake this activity.</li> <li>Prepare a waste management plan for each project, which aims to prioritise prevention, minimisation, recycling and recovery of C&amp;D Waste with disposal used only as a last option.</li> <li>Keep records of waste arising and submit annual statement of waste arising.</li> <li>Train staff on waste management Best Practice and keep training records.</li> <li>Apply policies for Selective demolition.</li> </ul>	09/04  09/04 09/04  09/04 09/04 09/04
Design Professionals (Royal institute of Architects of Ireland, The Institution of Engineers of Ireland The Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland Society of Chartered Surveyors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design to facilitate waste minimisation and recycling.</li> <li>Commit to and promote waste management Best Practice.</li> <li>Develop programmes for continuous improvement.</li> <li>Specify products that can be readily recycled.</li> <li>Avoid the use of products that cannot be easily recycled, where possible.</li> <li>Adopt standardised Waste Management Plans above stated thresholds.</li> <li>Recognise contractors participating in this initiative.</li> <li>Ensure that recyclable materials encountered on sites be reused or recycled.</li> <li>Keep waste management records for each project.</li> <li>Commit to recycling rather than landfilling.</li> <li>Ensure that C&amp;D waste modules are included in the relevant undergraduate and postgraduate courses.</li> </ul>	09/04 Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing 09/04 09/04 Ongoing 09/04 09/04 09/04 Ongoing
Building Materials Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commit to using recycled raw materials.</li> <li>Train members on waste management.</li> <li>Encourage members to recycle.</li> <li>Encourage members to set up recycling facilities to serve the industry e.g. in quarries, pits or landfill sites.</li> <li>Provision by members of environmental information to assist with recycling.</li> </ul>	09/04 09/04 09/04 09/04 09/04

Organisation	Responsibility	Target/ Commencement Date
Irish Waste Management Association	• Encourage members to set up C & D recycling facilities.	09/04
	• Encourage Best Practice in the industry.	09/04
	• Develop a code of practice for waste minimisation.	09/04
Concrete Producers Associations (Irish Concrete Federation.) (National Concrete Producers Association)	• Encourage members to set up C & D recycling and reuse in quarries for materials compatible with quarry products.	09/04
	• Demonstrate the benefits of recycling to members.	09/04
Irish Association of Demolition Contractors	• Develop a Code of Practice and commit to selective demolition.	09/04
	• Train staff in demolition Best Practice.	09/04
	• Keep records of waste arising and submit annual statement of waste arising.	09/04
	• Use a standardised Waste Management Plan.	09/04
	• Develop auditing, reporting and monitoring tools.	09/04
	• Ensure that recycled materials produced meet specified quality standards.	09/04
National Standards Authority of Ireland	• Publish standards for recycled concrete and brick for use as unbound fill, and house sub-floors.	09/04
IPFMA	• Review IPFMA Diploma Programme to establish whether a Waste Management Module might be included.	09/04
	• Develop awareness programmes in waste management for clients.	Ongoing
FÁS	• Provide training in waste management Best Practice.	Ongoing
	• Devise training programmes for Site Operatives, Site Managers and Senior Management.	09/04
EPA	• Work with LA's to simplify regulation of recycling activities.	Ongoing
	• Publish more frequent statistical analysis and show regional distribution.	09/04
	• Publicise Best Practice projects.	09/04
	• Demonstrate the benefits of recycling.	09/04
	• Sponsor research on C&D Waste Management.	Ongoing

