

# Expanding reuse opportunities for recycled construction materials

New survey results show that 3 in 5 construction industry practitioners have no, limited, or only some understanding of recovered or recycled materials available in WA.

Researcher Geoff Cooper from Foundations Research said there is a need for the construction industry to use recycled rather than virgin construction materials.

“The construction industry is wasting cheaper, safer and environmentally friendly supplies that are available right now,” he said. “There are increasing stockpiles of construction waste in WA that can be reused in projects as fill, road base and landscaping.”

The results of the survey that closed in June show that 2 in 5 respondents were not able to identify any projects where they were aware of recycled products construction being used.

Co-researcher, Mr David Beyer from ActiveSustainability, said that there are many fit for purpose applications where contractors could reuse recycled materials.

“The survey revealed numerous case studies of where recycled materials have been reused successfully in WA – from Margaret River to the Vale to the CBD,” said Mr Beyer. “We want to increase the awareness of the recycling of sand, soil, bricks, tiles and pavers – as well as materials such as plastics, metal, timber, and rock and stone.”

“Our survey showed a thirst for more information on recycled materials. Positively, our survey found that 71% of respondents are very likely to or will definitely use recycled construction materials in future projects. “We will be putting together a freely available industry guide for release in July that will assist buyers of recycled waste in Western Australia.”

The survey was circulated between April and June 2020 to industry and government participants by key industry associations and institutes. 68 responses were received from developers, builders, engineers, landscape architects, environmental consultants, and civil contractors.

A full copy of the report is available upon request – email: [gcooper@iinet.net.au](mailto:gcooper@iinet.net.au).

*Active Sustainability and Foundation Research acknowledge the funding and support from the Waste Authority through the Community and Industry Engagement program (CIE) for this research project to tackle perceived impediments to recycling of construction materials in WA. It aims to reduce stockpiles and to encourage construction industry recycling to achieve the WA Government's Waste Strategy 2030 'Recover' objective target to increase material recovery and reuse to 75% by 2025. Enquiries: Mr Geoff Cooper 0406 893 955 / Mr David Beyer 0407 427 927*

recycling APPLICATIONS



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