



Site Waste Reduction Protocol Summary

Why do we need to tackle waste in construction?

A staggering fifty percent of Scotland's waste results from construction related activities. This incredible figure – half of all waste - has a huge impact on Scotland's carbon emissions. 80% of Scotland's carbon footprint comes from the materials, products and services we use, so using less and wasting less are hugely important for the achieving net zero in the construction sector.

There are sound business reasons for addressing waste, beyond environmental responsibility. The cost of materials is soaring. Material scarcity is becoming more common in a volatile global market. So keeping waste to a minimum allows

you to do more with less, maximising profit and reducing your emissions at the same time.

How can I tackle construction waste?

The best way to tackle construction waste is to measure it, find out where and why it's happening, and then take steps to tackle it.

The Site Waste Reduction Protocol is a new industry standard to help you do exactly that.

What is the Site Waste Reduction Protocol?

The Site Waste Reduction Protocol is a set of rules developed by Zero Waste Scotland to help you measure site waste in a standardised way, so you

can get a consistent and comprehensive picture of how much waste is being produced across all of your construction sites. It will ensure you measure waste in the same way across all sites so you can benchmark effectively and see where good practice is having an impact.

The protocol works hand in hand with the accompanying Construction Waste Indicative Cost Calculator (CWIC), which will give you indicative cost savings and other important information.

How to follow the Protocol

Here's a basic summary of how to follow the Protocol:

- **Assign a person to monitor:** A dedicated staff member will be needed to monitor the waste. They will be responsible for recording what goes into the skips, by entering it into the CWIC Calculator.
- **Develop a sampling programme appropriate to the project:** This should reflect the different stages of the build, the weather conditions and other contributing factors.
- **Monitor the skips:** The person carrying out the monitoring will be required to record what materials go into the skip, how much of that material there is, why it has ended up wasted and also log the distance it has had to be carried or transported in order to be placed in the skip. The full guidance document contains a wealth of information on how to effectively do this, including how to estimate volumes of material as accurately as possible, and guidance on assigning a reason for why waste has occurred.

- **Analyse the results:** The calculator has dashboards which show readouts based on the waste information that has been inputted. These dashboards will show the cost to your business of wasted materials and the environmental impact of the waste. It will also help identify the cause of the waste, the condition of the materials being disposed of and the value upfront cost of them as secondary materials to be used again.
- **Take action:** Once you have this information, you can start to take action. It will give you an informed position to start to set targets to reduce waste, reduce costs and reduce your environmental impact as a business.

Get started

To make a start on tacking your construction site waste, take a look at:

- **The Protocol Guidance Document:** This has all the detail you'll need to know about the Protocol, with in-depth and step-by-step guidance on how to follow the method and use the CWIC calculator effectively on site.
- **The CWIC Calculator:** The calculator is an Excel document. You can familiarise yourself with it and run the resulting dashboard reports on a computer, but it is best used on site on a mobile device like a phone or tablet, for ease.
- **Calculator Guidance:** There's also a specific guide to using the calculator itself.
- **Case Studies:** You can also see how other businesses have benefited from using the Protocol and CWIC calculator, with a pair of case studies.

EXPLORE THE CWIC CALCULATOR &
SITE WASTE REDUCTION PROTOCOL NOW

Explore now