



Waste Authority

MEDIA STATEMENT

Grant lays the foundation for recycling building waste

The foundation for an efficient system for recycling building waste collected from residential construction sites in Perth 's metropolitan area is about to be laid, following the awarding of a \$175 000 grant the Waste Authority's Strategic Waste Initiative Scheme (SWIS) to Earth Care Consulting.

With the backing of some major partners, including the Master Builders Association, Stockland and Midland Brick, 'Smart Builders' is an initiative that will bring together research, site trials and communication and education to minimise the amount of waste from construction sites ending up in landfill.

Waste Authority Chairman, Mr Barry Carbon, said Construction and Demolition waste was a major component of waste to landfill in Western Australia.

"The Authority is keen to see markets developed for these materials. Recently it has provided support for a number of initiatives such as investigating the application of concrete aggregate in road base, glass in bricks and timber recycling," he said

"So much of what ends up in landfill coming from construction sites could be reprocessed into valuable commodities. We're very pleased to be involved in this project."

Earth Care hope to trial 'Smart Builders' at Stockland's Newhaven development in Forrestdale where the waste from 120 houses will be collected at a central point.



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It is expected that 250 house sites will be part of Smart Builders operations in the first year. Based on the average figure of 14 tonnes of waste material generated per house built in the metropolitan area, the amount of waste the project will deal with is expected to be 3,500 tonnes in the first year. Smart Builders believes that it can recycle at least 70 per cent of this waste, or 2,500 tonnes, can be recycled.

This system also has the potential to help developers, builders and recyclers obtain partial carbon offset credits due to the increased efficiencies and use of recyclates.

SWIS projects are supported by the Western Australian Landfill Levy fund.

Media Enquiries: Barry Carbon, 0448 908 730