

NEWS

Setting the standard for waste handling

Recovery rates for construction and demolition waste might reach as high as 85% following publication of a specification for waste resource management on Monday July 13.



By WalesOnline

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Recovery rates for construction and demolition waste might reach as high as 85% following publication of a specification for waste resource management on Monday July 13.

Launched following work by **Constructing Excellence in Wales** (CEW) and **BSI**, PAS 402 (Publicly Available Specification) is a specification for waste resource management organisations to sign up to in the UK. It was developed as part of the waste programme managed by CEW on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government.

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Work on the PAS began in September 2008 following the launch of the Green Compass pilot project which is designed to act as a framework within which waste handlers can seek compliance with PAS 402. Ten organisations signed up to pilot the Green Compass scheme, in response to the Welsh Assembly Government target that 85% of all construction and demolition waste in Wales is either re-used or recycled.

The pilot project and the Green Compass scheme itself has been a major success. The validation that has taken place since September 2008 has shown that waste handlers involved with Green Compass are already achieving recovery rates of around 83% and one organisation has recovery rates of 100% for inert material.

Once waste handlers achieve accreditation builders will then be able to specify their waste contractor on the basis of demonstrable, sound waste management. Consequently the scheme will allow more construction and demolition waste to be recycled and diverted from landfill.

“This is the proof required that sound processes and standards have a major impact on waste recovery rates. What’s more, Wales is leading the UK in a scheme that could potentially divert more than 85% of waste from landfill once rolled out across the country,” said Milica Kitson, chief executive of Constructing Excellence in Wales.



Sir David John, Chairman of BSI, said: "This is a major step forward for the waste handling sector and the construction industry as a whole. Construction generates more waste than any other sector and a standard for its disposal and management was urgently required. We can already see the benefits that PAS 402 will bring based on the evidence from the Green Compass Pilot Project. Working alongside CEW, we have been able to access a lot of expertise in the field of waste handling to develop a robust, practical framework that will not only benefit the construction industry, but help divert significant levels of waste from landfill, achieving national environmental targets."

The Green Compass pathfinders deal with half a million tonnes of waste between them and it is estimated that around 200,000 tonnes of waste has been diverted from landfill since the Green Compass Pilot Project began in September. Feedback from the pilot

scheme and contractors has been positive and CEW is now looking for more waste handlers to join the scheme.

“If we are to successfully divert 85% of construction and demolition waste from landfill consistently, then builders need to know where their waste is going and what their waste contractor is doing with that waste material,” explains Emma Cottrell, waste programme manager for Constructing Excellence in Wales. “Green Compass can guide waste handlers towards compliance with PAS 402 which validates how they are disposing of waste. That gives everyone the reassurance needed and allows more construction and demolition waste to be recycled and diverted from landfill.”

The specification is organised around the demonstration of performance against key areas of delivery, including landfill diversion and materials recovery, assuring potential and existing customers of the service they are procuring. It was developed by a Steering Group, which included the CEW team, in collaboration with BSI. It was reviewed by the pilot organisations and went through a stage of public consultation.

Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, said: "This launch is a tremendous step forward in the right direction and is one of a number of significant initiatives being developed by Constructing Excellence in Wales that will help us, the public sector and industry in challenging head on the problems we face with waste. PAS 402 specification, together with Green Compass scheme, has the potential to drive forward improvements in the waste management industry to bring about the step change we need to achieve our goal of zero waste."

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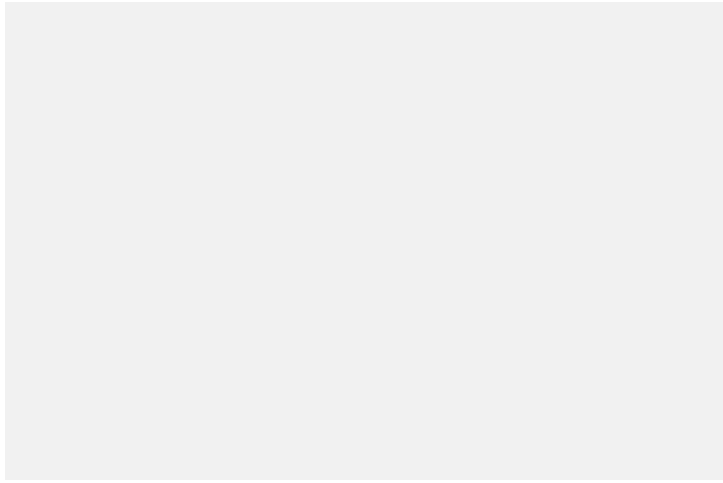
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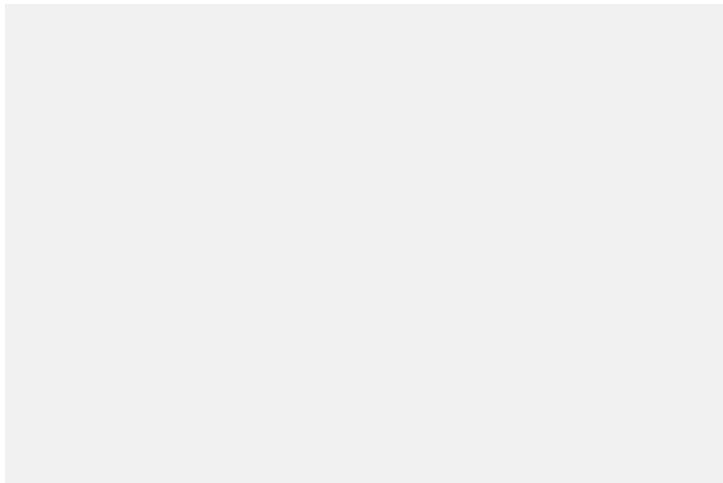
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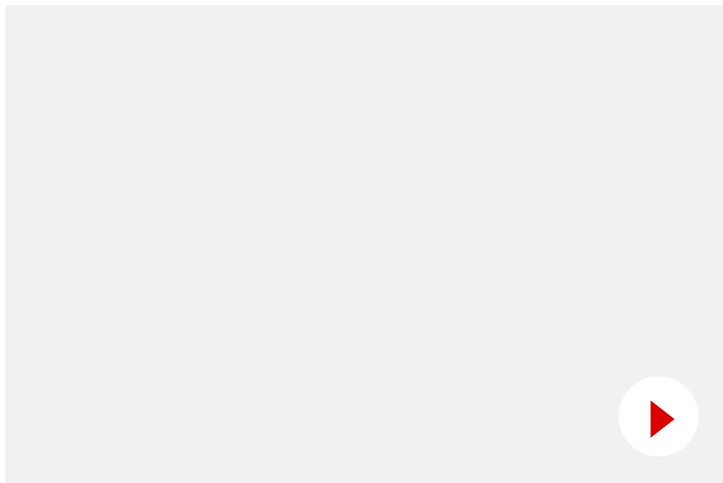
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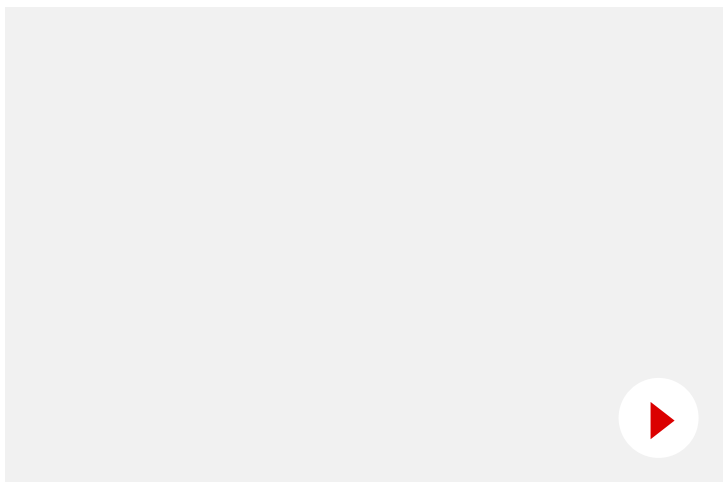
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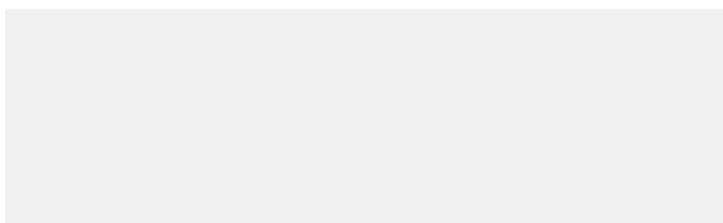
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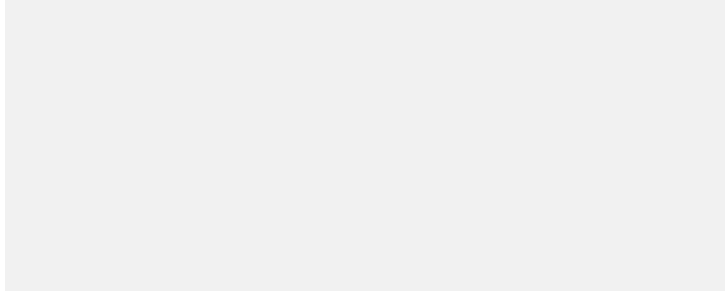
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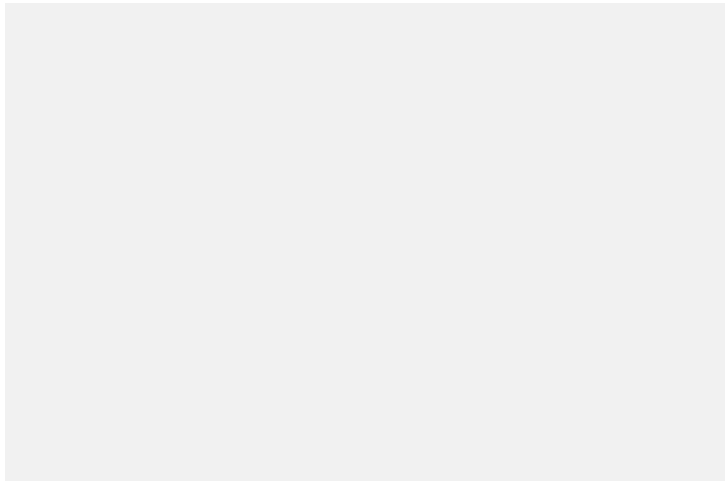
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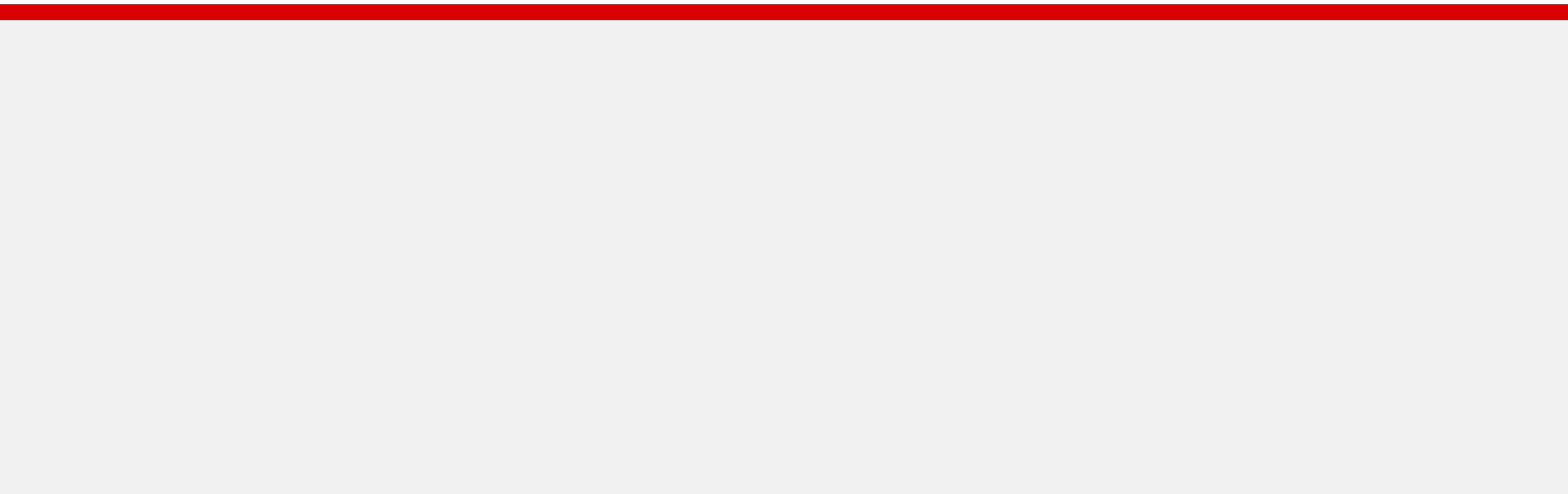
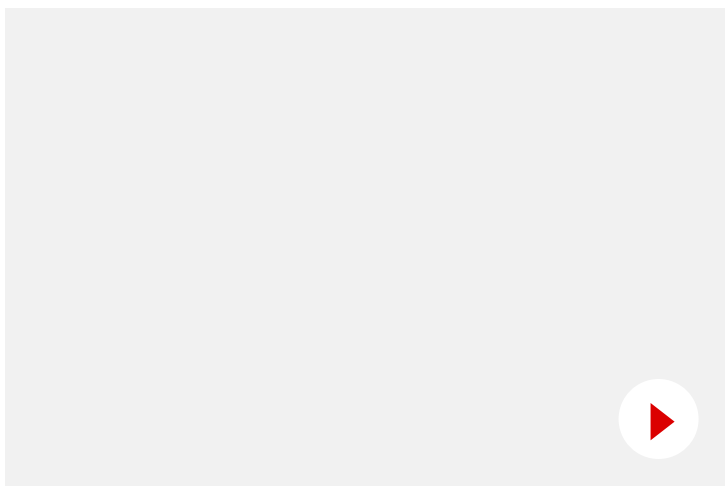
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