

What is WRAP's NW Tool?

Net Waste Tool, Version 1.1

WRAP's Net Waste Tool (the 'Tool' or 'NW Tool') is a freely accessible online resource, available at www.wrap.org.uk/nwtool. It will help you to: generate waste forecasts and prioritise waste reduction and recovery actions to input to your Site Waste Management Plan – inputs which are required by the new SWMP Regulation in England from April 2008;

- apply value engineering at the design stage to reduce the costs of wastage (value of wasted and unused materials, cost of waste recovery and disposal);
- optimise your strategy for on-site segregation of wastes for minimum cost within a known space constraint;
- target the top cost-competitive opportunities to adopt more reused materials and higher recycled content in building products, e.g. in response to a client requirement; and
- evaluate performance against corporate targets, such as a reduction in construction waste to landfill (in line with Government policy objectives) and progress towards waste neutrality or zero Net Waste.

The NW Tool replaced the Recycled Content Toolkit in April 2008. An improved version of the NW Tool (1.1) was released in October 2008. The NW Tool has been designed as a series of simple web pages that enable the user to enter information on their project and the materials they are intending to use and then to carry out analysis on both waste management and recycled content. The Tool uses a dataset containing both recycled content data and waste data, therefore it is only necessary to enter project information once to analyse both waste and recycled content.

The Tool contains data on the dimensions, recycled content, wastage rates and density (t/m³) of several thousand generic construction components. Once the user has entered information about their project, the Tool uses this information to estimate levels of wastage based on either value or mass of wasted material component. The Tool then allows the user to identify specific actions to reduce the levels of waste generated, sorting this information by either mass of waste or value of wasted materials.

WRAP, Cyril Sweett and Solstice Associates believe the content of this guide and the associated tool to be correct as at the date of writing. However, factors such as prices, wastage rates and levels of recycled content are subject to change and users of the Tool should check with their suppliers to confirm the current situation.

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