

SITEwise II



Environment
Agency

**Clare Watkins
Designing Out Waste**

SITEwise II



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Waste is not a key issue!



- This is what we learnt from 200+ pre-construction professionals during a sustainable construction campaign
- It ranked 8th amongst other environmental issues of energy, flood, sustainable materials, land contamination, ecology etc
- If it's not is the building, planning and environmental legislation expect no change in practice



Drivers for change

- 10 M tonnes construction products wasted/yr @ cost £1.5 billion
- 400 M tonnes resources used/yr – single largest user in the economy
- Produces largest portion of waste in England over 30%
- Huge issues as to where and how to treat and dispose of waste - in the region average 3 years landfill capacity remaining
- Contribute 20% of hazardous waste

- EA has a broad interest in construction
- As regulators of waste and discharges our role is to ensure construction waste is managed safely and to drive reduction in pollution and waste volume
- We work with others to address waste issues e.g. SITEwise II
- View is for a stronger regulatory position so developers and others are not allowed to avoid responsibility for waste
- View is for targets on recycling construction waste and use of fixed % of reclaimed materials.
- Continue to use Landfill Tax to help industry improve its environmental performance

Causes of waste arisings

- Complexity of buildings – increases specialisms, processes and components
- Materials - more materials used in design, more waste streams are generated (C&D)
- Components – increased integration of components can lead to increased likelihood of changes during the process.
- Co-ordination – elements build in isolation and with poor exchange of information between parties
- fast tracking – overlap between design and construction can cause rise changes
- unpredictable workflow, e.g. defects, delays caused by upstream activities, over processing, over production, excess inventory, unnecessary movement of materials and people



Barriers and Opportunities

1. Can waste reduction (and associated economic benefits) overcome the barrier of cost to sustainable design?
2. Is procurement where waste reduction is our best opportunity?
3. Is planning friend or foe to designing out waste?