

Project NoWaste (NoW) is an innovative collaboration between Bovis Lend Lease and Greenfile Developments Ltd addressing some of the practical issues in more sustainable construction. The project was developed through Bovis Lend Lease's partnership with the Building London Creating Futures (BLCF) initiative, which provides construction jobs and training for disadvantaged London residents who are often under-represented as workers in the construction industry. Greenfile Developments and Bovis Lend Lease implemented the pilot NoWaste programme with support from, UCATT and Business Link for London as part of the Carbon Trust's programme. Funding was through BLCF and the EQUAL Community Initiative and Cross River Partnership.

One of the major issues facing the construction industry is waste. It has been estimated<sup>1</sup> that 15-20% of all building materials entering a construction site end up in skips.

This is incongruent with the Climate Change Levy sector energy saving targets of 10% for the construction materials sector.

Project NoW addresses this through actions at the construction site level to reduce waste through awareness raising and skills development. Part of the outcomes from NoW is therefore skills development in the areas of managing waste. It is important for construction site teams to become more aware of their personal responsibilities towards waste reduction and the development of these skills will enable any architect/designer- or project manager- level actions to reduce waste to be implemented more effectively.

The programme is based around the 5 "S" principles - Sort, Set, Shine, Standardise and Sustain and provides training and skill development in practical waste management techniques leading to National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) which are awarded by the WAMITAB – the Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board.



▲ One of the slides used in the training programme.

Project NoW was also developed to tackle some of the other significant issues faced by the construction industry:

- 49% of accidents on construction sites are due to poor housekeeping and site layout (HSE, October 2003) – Project NoW contributes to the Bovis Lend Lease Incident and Injury Free philosophy, which aims to change the mindset, attitude and culture towards health and safety issues.
- Strengthening the positive social impacts offered by construction through training and skill development.
- Strengthening our relationship with the community through involvement with local educational establishments and helping people on the 'qualifications ladder'
- Improving the management of environmental risks.

<sup>1</sup> Michael Roberts, Confederation of Construction Clients, NetRegs Construction Sector Guidelines Launch, London October 18 2002

Linking lean construction techniques and linking them to waste reduction and skills development, the project was first trialled at Project W8 on London's Regent Street with Clipfine, a logistics contractor, raising awareness and skills for their operatives on site. The initiative has also since been in operation at another Bovis Lend Lease construction site at Chelsea Bridge Wharf with Munnelly Support Services, another logistics contractor, and to date eighteen operatives have achieved NVQ qualifications.

The project also now ties in with a recently developed national construction industry standardised waste signage initiative to improve the segregation of waste on site. Refer to: <http://www.wascot.org.uk/construction/colourcoding.htm> for details. The training programme educates operatives on the colour-coding scheme, which is also beginning to be used on other construction sites throughout the industry.

The programme is currently in progress at the refurbishment of Unilever House where all the construction trades, not just logistics contractors, are receiving training from the site induction and through toolbox talks and refresher training. The end goal is to achieve a further reduction in waste (a further 5% improvement over that achieved at Project W8, Regent Street, i.e., an overall 10% improvement on the DTI's Constructing Excellence KPI for waste) and for a far greater number of operatives to gain NVQs in Waste Management.

▼ One of the on site toolbox talks developed for Project NoWaste

**Project NoWASTE**

We've all seen it – waste materials, debris and rubbish scattered around the work area, filling up the skips, and causing slipping and tripping hazards.

This is not good for the environment, not good for our industry, not good for us and not good for our families.

Furthermore, the Health and Safety Executive has found that nearly half the accidents on a construction site were caused by messy housekeeping and poor organisation.

We all have a responsibility towards the environment and improving safety where we work – for ourselves, our workmates and our families.

**5S** is a tool that can help in keeping the work area tidier and better organised. It can also help us to reduce waste at work.

- Sort**: Arrange the workplace to eliminate clutter and waste
- Set**: Keeping the workplace neat and organised
- Shine**: Maintain a clean working environment to allow easy and early spotting of problems
- Standardise**: Bring order to the way we work by following standardised procedures
- Sustain**: Standardise approach part of our everyday working habit

**5S** Compatible and complements Incident and Injury Free

▼ Graph illustrating KPI achieved at Project W8, vs other projects where no special training or awareness measures were taken.

