

Keep it green

How builders can recycle and save on costs

The construction and demolition sector produces the largest volume of waste. However, collection and recycling can save builders up to half their disposal costs.

Recycling has become the norm and resources are becoming scarce, so people look for ways to cut waste, save money and do their bit for the environment.

From households to business and industry, recycling rates across the state have never been higher, according to the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Kerbside bins have made recycling paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum and glass easier for households, but there is room for improvement in other sectors.

According to the federal government's most recent National Waste Reporting document, the construction and demolition sector generates the largest volume of waste in the country (followed by the commercial and industrial sector, then households and councils).

In NSW the diversion of waste from landfill, which includes recycling, in the construction and demolition sector alone increased by about 10 per cent over a decade,



Regyp's services can save builders up to 50 per cent off their regular waste disposal costs.

according to the EPA's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy report. However, cost and waste collection method issues are still barriers to the sector maximising the recovery rate of its resources.

Adam Proctor, manager of Regyp, Australia's largest plasterboard recycler, says financial benefits for companies are required to get more people on board.

"If there are no cost savings, they are less likely to recycle," he says.

Regyp offers plasterboard and Gyprock waste disposal and recycling services, provide skip bins, truck pick-up services and waste disposal points in Sydney, Melbourne,

Brisbane, Canberra and the central west of NSW.

Proctor, whose background is in engineering and construction, started Regyp in 2007 after seeing significant amounts of plasterboard used in buildings go to waste. Plasterboard is made from naturally occurring gypsum. Recycling reduces the need for gypsum mining, helping preserve natural resources. Plasterboard building waste can be converted into various gypsum products, such as soil conditioner for agricultural applications, as well as materials for industrial use and civil works.

Proctor says Regyp's waste collection and recycling services can save builders up to 50

per cent off their regular disposal costs, with the added benefit of improving companies' sustainability profile.

"We've designed and built equipment specifically for the recycling process and are able to recycle between 90 and 100 per cent of the plasterboard and Gyprock waste we get," Proctor says.

The company accepts plasterboard waste from commercial and residential construction and building projects, including fit-outs, demolitions and renovations. Proctor says there is "no volume too big or too small".

While the construction and demolition sector is responsible for generating the largest volume of waste nationally, it also has the greatest resource recovery rate.

But opportunities remain for recovering materials from mixed waste loads that often end up in landfill.

Waste management and resource recovery legislation differs between states and territories, however, and disposal of many materials, including plasterboard, is not regulated.

Proctor says the plasterboard that Regyp receives needs to be clean and separated from other waste materials so it can be recycled efficiently. There should be "minimal to no contamination" for the recycling process to be cost-effective, he says. This in turn helps keep disposal costs down for builders and companies.

regyp

PLASTERBOARD WASTE RECYCLING

FOR CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION COMPANIES

WE RECYCLE

- WASTE **PLASTERBOARD** FROM NEW **CONSTRUCTION** AND **FIT-OUT** PROJECTS
- **PLASTERBOARD** FROM **DEMOLITION** AND **STRIP-OUT** PROJECTS
- **PLASTERBOARD** AND **CORNICE** PRODUCTS (ALL MANUFACTURERS)
- NO VOLUME IS TOO **BIG** OR TOO **SMALL**



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