

GREEN CONSTRUCTION: A CASE STUDY

A local construction company has showed that builders can significantly reduce the quantities of materials they use and throw away, thus saving money. The company built a traffic interchange in the New Territories with about 100 site staff, where it underwent a 12-month assessment for Wastewi\$e membership and carried out the following:

1. The concreting schedule was improved to prevent and minimise wastage, resulting in only 620 cubic metres of wasted concrete or 3.7% of the total amount required for the project. Steel bar wastage was also reduced by accurately estimating the appropriate size and length of steel bars required. Only 98 bars were wasted or 2.8% of the total.
2. Furniture, office equipment, box files, etc. were collected from other site offices for use at the traffic interchange site office. This eliminated the need to buy new equipment.
3. More than 84% of wooden formwork was replaced with metal formwork, which could be re-used. This meant a substantial saving in wood. In addition, bamboo scaffolding was replaced by metal scaffolding, which could also be re-used.
4. The company collected 1,700kg of waste paper, 83 spent toner/ ink-jet cartridges and 93 tonnes of waste steel bars for recycling. In addition, paper consumption was reduced by 5% during the assessment period.

All of these measures combined meant the Wastewi\$e member not only contributed to waste reduction, but also saved money and, in the case of recyclables, generated revenue.