

SEEDA commits to halve its construction waste sent to landfill by 2012

24 November 2009

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) has signed up to Waste and Resources Action Plan (WRAP) Commitment to halve the amount of construction, demolition and excavation waste it sends to landfill in the South East by 2012.

The commitment means that half of the waste currently going to landfill from SEEDA regeneration projects will be reused or recycled. SEEDA will benefit not only from cost savings and greater resource efficiency, but is playing a part in helping the industry work towards its target of halving the 20 million tonnes of construction waste going to landfill every year.

WRAP works with organisations to prevent waste and increase recycling. SEEDA is working in partnership with WRAP and the Environment Agency on a major initiative to move to a zero-waste region: "Pathway to Zero Waste". This commitment to adopt WRAP's standards of good practice to reduce waste going to landfill is a part of achieving SEEDA's ambition for the region.

Oona Muirhead, SEEDA's Executive Director for Skills and Sustainable Prosperity said: "We are proud of our commitment to cutting waste going to landfill. WRAP has a wealth of knowledge and experience that we can incorporate into our wider strategy on waste."

WRAP's campaign was launched in October 2008 with eight signatories and it has just marked the end of a very successful first year, with the number of participants now over 200. Dr Mike Watson, Head of Construction at WRAP commented: "By signing up to the 'Halving Waste to Landfill' agreement, SEEDA is demonstrating that it takes the issue of waste and resource use seriously and will require good practice in waste reduction and recovery in all its projects."

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Notes to Editors

- **SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency**, is the Government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development of the South East of England – the

driving force of the UK's economy. Through supporting businesses, encouraging innovation, developing skills and engaging with public and private partners, we aim to create a successful, sustainable future for the region.

- **SEEDA's support helped deliver the following** over the period 2005-2008:
 - 17,500 jobs created or safeguarded
 - 32,500 people helped to get work
 - 10,000 businesses created or attracted to region
 - 137,500 businesses assisted
 - £638m investment, 45% levered from private sector
 - 200ha Brownfield land remediated
 - 148,500 people assisted in skills development

- In 2007 the Environment Agency reported there is only five years of landfill capacity left in the South East and £5 billion needs to be invested in 170 new resource management centres by 2025.

- In 2007 SEEDA launched the Pathway to Zero Waste Project (PTZW), this initiative aims to tackle food, wood and construction waste going to landfill. The Government is using PTZW as a blueprint for other parts of the UK.

- **For media enquiries**, please contact:
Ben Jun-Tai (Media Relations Officer): 01483 470 155; benjun-tai@seeda.co.uk
Jessica Stewart (Media Relations Manager): 01483 501 307; jessicastewart@seeda.co.uk

- **About WRAP:**
 - WRAP helps individuals, businesses and local authorities to reduce waste and recycle more, making better use of resources and helping to tackle climate change.
 - Established as a not-for-profit company in 2000, WRAP is backed by government funding from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
 - Working in seven key areas (construction, retail, manufacturing, organics, business growth, behavioural change, and local authority support). WRAP's work focuses on market development and support to drive forward recycling and materials resource efficiency within these sectors, as well as wider communications and awareness activities including the multi-media national Recycle Now campaign for England.
 - More information on all of WRAP's programmes can be found on www.wrap.org.uk