

# The business case for reducing construction waste

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**CONSTRUCTING  
EXCELLENCE**

# Economic drivers

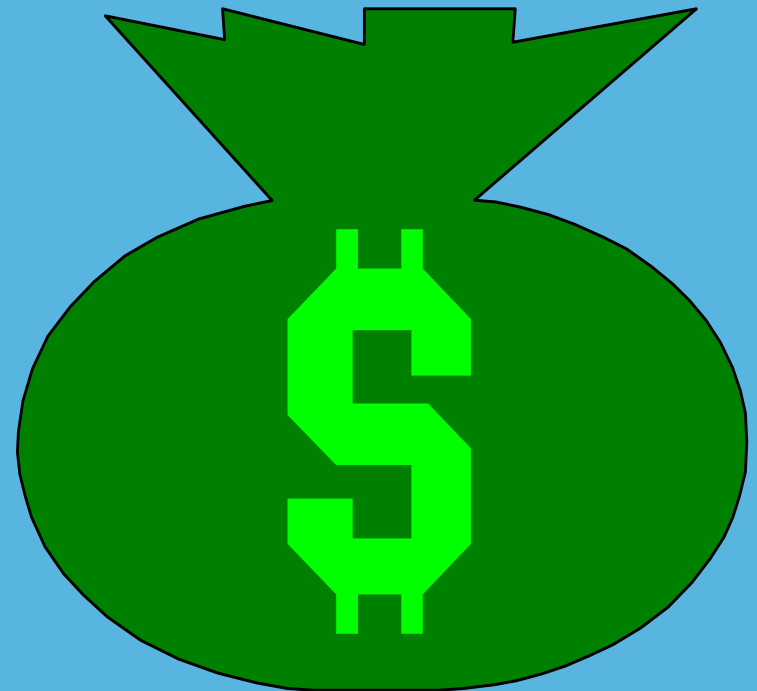
- Over 90 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste arises annually in the UK
- The construction industry spends over £200 million on landfill tax each year
- 13 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste is material that is delivered to sites but never used

# The true cost of waste

“The cost of waste is not so much the cost of getting rid of it, but the cost of what you are getting rid of”

# What does this actually mean?

- Purchase cost of materials
- Cost of storage, transport and disposal of waste
- Loss of income from selling salvaged materials
- **The true cost of waste is generally around 20 times the disposal cost**



# Potential savings

Case studies have shown savings of

- 3% of build costs
- 20% of material on site

**without** significant investment costs

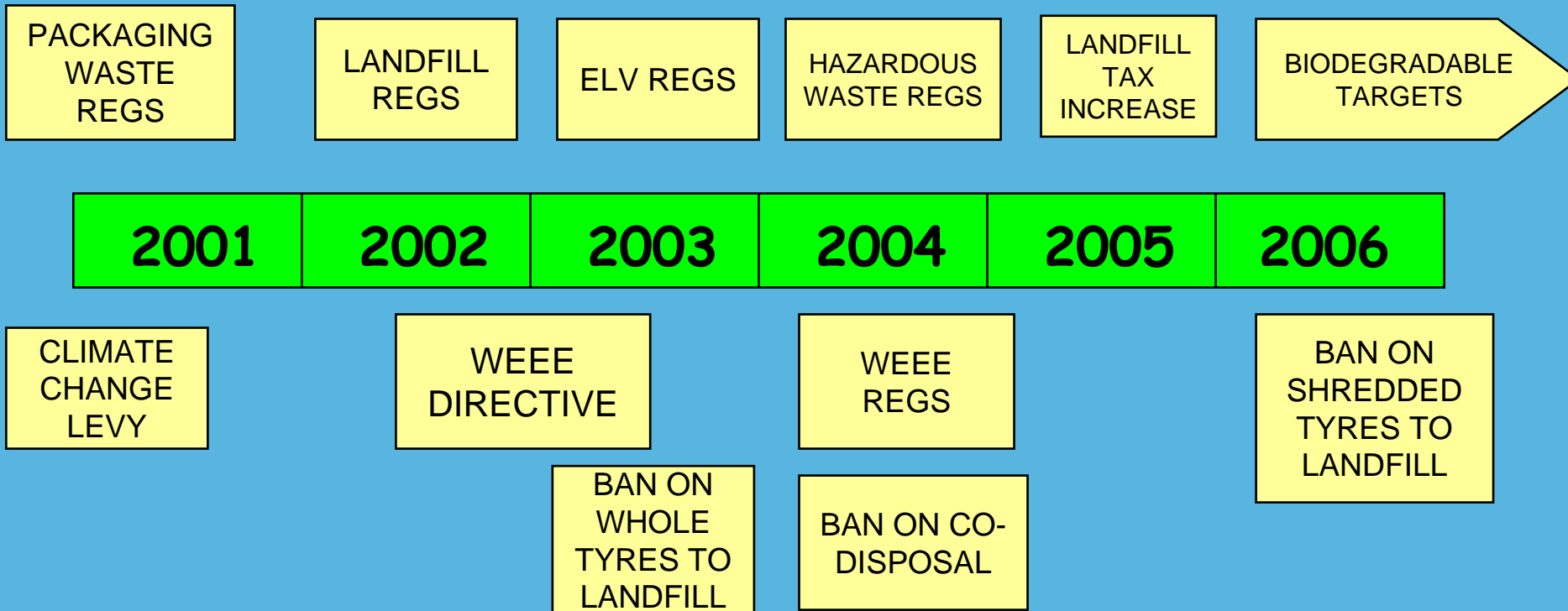


# Legal compliance

- Water Act
- Environment Act
- Duty of Care
- Waste Management Licensing Regs
- Special Waste Regs
- Landfill Tax
- Producer Responsibility Regs
- Carbon tax
- Forthcoming legislation .....
- *Some of these are also economic drivers!*



# Key legislative drivers: timeline

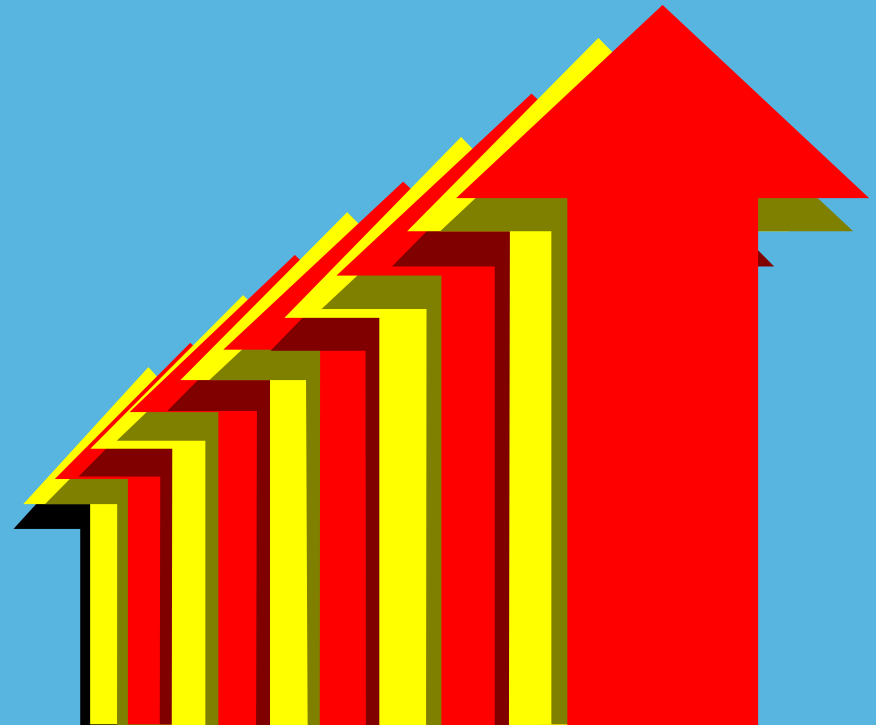


# Client pressure

- Clients are increasingly demanding improved environmental performance
- Reducing waste can help achieve this and save money at the same time!

# The waste hierarchy

- Eliminate
- Reduce
- Re-use
- Recovery (Recycling, Composting, Energy)
- Dispose



# Best practice: waste minimisation

“If you don't produce it in the first place, you don't have to deal with it afterwards”

# Hazardous waste and the construction industry

- Over 5 million tonnes of hazardous waste is produced in England and Wales
- 21% of the hazardous waste in the UK is construction and demolition waste

# What type of material is this?

- Soil/rubble from contaminated sites
- Asbestos
- Paints & tins with residues
- Oils
- Batteries
- Solvents



# Why is this a problem?

- Landfill Directive - reduction in number and availability of hazardous waste facilities
- Hazardous Waste Regulations - increase in the volume of wastes classified as hazardous
- Increasing costs to businesses in terms of landfill costs, haulage and its impacts
- Many SME's affected for the first time



# Landfill Directive

- In 2001 there were 240 landfill sites able to accept commercial hazardous waste
- From 17 July 2004 there will be fewer than 30
- Landfills not evenly distributed (none is in Wales or near London)

# Hazardous Waste Regulations

- Change the definition of what is classed as Hazardous Waste
- Hazardous Waste likely to grow by 2 million tonnes
- Alternatives to landfill needed - treatment facilities required -
- Planning regime will not be able to provide facilities for the short/medium term.
- Many businesses (especially SMEs) affected for the first time

## Incentive for change – a summary

- Non-hazardous waste costs will continue to rise
- Hazardous waste costs will rise dramatically
- Types and quantities of hazardous waste will increase dramatically
- Construction industry performance in terms of pollution and waste management offences is poor
- Performance will have to improve to meet client requirements

