

Moving ahead A-B of recycling – Airdrie to Bathgate



After 50 years of closure, we're re-opening the Airdrie to Bathgate line.

The work includes construction of around 15 miles of new electrified railway and associated electrification and twin-tracking of the existing railway, work to the bridge and stations, and replacing the cycle path.

We transport all waste collected from site to a waste transfer station in Midlothian. We send 100 per cent of recyclable waste for reprocessing by local firms, and all general waste is sorted by a material recycling facility, through which 73 per cent is recycled. We also make sure we recycle all paper and cardboard.

To date, we have recycled 82 per cent of the 378 tonnes of non-earthworks waste (soil and rock).

We carry out a number of actions to prevent, reuse and recycle waste:

- **Designing out waste.** Components of bridges and other structures are made off-site and delivered to where they are needed. Benefits of this factory-style production include shorter assembly times and less on-site waste.
- **Sustainable procurement.** We avoid buying in bulk using instead a 'just enough, just in time' basis. We expect our subcontractors to minimise waste, and use sustainable and recyclable resources when tendering for work.
- **Management of waste compounds.** The waste areas within sites are signed and fenced, and together with our contractor, we routinely inspect them all. A recent study by WRAP (the Government-backed Waste & Resources Action Programme) noted that all sites along the route had well-organised waste areas with clearly marked skips for the required segregation categories.
- **Sourcing reuse outlets.** Contractor staff attended workshops held by the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme in order to identify outlets for materials such as non-suitable fill (soil). A number of items have also been donated by the site to local organisations.

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- **Reuse of excavated materials.** The principal waste from civil engineering contracts is soil and stone from earthworks. We stockpile, classify, quantify and log all suitable materials so that they can be reused elsewhere on site.
- **Recycling facilities.** Each site has separate skips for general waste, timber, metals and plastics.

100%

of recyclable waste is sent for onward reprocessing by local firms.

