

Reusing construction and demolition waste

A study by CSIR Building and Construction Technology (Boutek), South Africa, has revealed that nearly a million tonne of construction and demolition waste end up in landfills. This is in addition to large quantities that are dumped illegally. The study also found evidence on the reuse of construction and demolition waste which have considerable potential to grow. Alternative uses for such wastes include bulk fill, alternative informal housing materials, landscaping and landfill engineering.

At present, recycling activity is restricted to two operations in Durban and Cape Town. The recycling process converts low-value construction and demolition waste into secondary construction materials including a variety of aggregate grades; road material (G2 and G5); and aggregate fines (dust). These materials are used in construction applications such as road construction, backfill for retaining walls, fresh concrete production, drainage and brickwork, and block work for low-cost housing. *Contact: Mr. Dennis Macozoma, CSIR Building and Construction Technology, South Africa. Tel: +27 (12) 8413 244; Fax: +27 (12) 8413 400; E-mail: dmacozom@csir.co.za.*

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