

# Construction waste: let's skip the skip!

Construction and demolition waste, made up of a wide variety of materials including concrete, plasterboard, wood, metal, brick, glass and soil, accounts for around a third of all material sent to QLDC's Victoria Flats landfill.

Much of this material could be diverted from landfill through good practices before and during construction focused on reducing, reusing and recycling.

## Enter the Better Building Group.

Part of Wao Charitable Trust – a community non-profit set up right here in our district to inspire and enable communities to move towards a regenerative, sustainable future – the group has been running workshops to show firms practical ways to reduce waste.

Monique Kelly from Wao said the workshops, which are supported by QLDC's Waste Minimisation Community Fund, have different topics aimed at different roles from tradies to architects.

"The first workshop looks at what the problem is, the second shows how to set up a waste minimisation plan, and the third highlights ways to reduce waste in the design process," she said.

"Joel Herbert, Trade Sales Manager at PlaceMakers and a founding member of the group, has spoken about how at one of the first meetings he learned about the waste generated by certain packaging which was not recyclable and went straight to landfill. Since then he's been working to find alternative packaging which PlaceMakers has managed to roll out nationwide."

"We believe collaboration is the key to success and that no one person or business can tackle this alone. For example, we've seen skip providers helping builders with waste separation as well as creating solutions for materials recycling."

Ms Kelly said the building industry, like many sectors, has been under a lot of pressure these last two years.



*Joel Herbert from PlaceMakers talking about construction waste*

"Supply issues have caused major disruption but the silver lining might be that materials become more precious with less going into the skip."

And with the know-how shared at the Better Building workshops the future of construction waste in our district is looking greener.

Find out more at: [www.facebook.com/WaoAotearoa/](https://www.facebook.com/WaoAotearoa/) or [www.wao.co.nz](http://www.wao.co.nz)

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