

# Spotlight on Better Building Resource Circulation project

We're proud to support a range of local waste reduction initiatives through the Waste Minimisation Community Fund. This edition we put the spotlight on a joint Wastebusters and WAO Wānaka project to combat construction and demolition (C&D) waste in the district.

**With all the construction underway throughout the district, diverting construction and demolition waste from landfill is a fantastic idea. Can you talk us through how your project supports reduction,**

## **reuse, recycling and recovery of this type of material?**

Our campaign is championing reuse of surplus materials through trading on the dedicated construction app CivilShare and donating to community groups or not-for-profits like Wastebusters where material can be used instead of scraped.

This year we've seen plywood offcuts being made into rodent traps, surplus timber transformed into bike jumps and materials like roofing iron and insulation reused in small projects.

Through the campaign we're also highlighting diversion opportunities like packaging and scrap metal recycling, and developing online resources to help companies develop their own waste management plans so more materials can be recovered for reuse and recycling.

## **What drove you to look for a solution to this mounting problem within the building industry?**

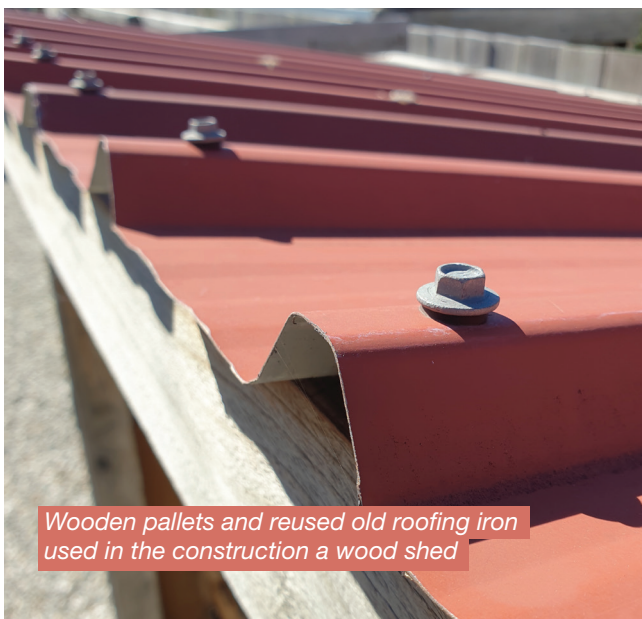
A construction industry survey carried out by WAO Wānaka in October 2019 revealed all the respondents were concerned about the industry's waste problem.

In response, Wastebusters and WAO, alongside the Better Building group, wanted to implement a resource recovery campaign aimed at using excess construction material in the community instead of sending it to landfill.

## **What has the uptake been like with the local building industry?**

We're seeing a real enthusiasm and interest across the building

**226 TONNES OF C&D WASTE IS THROWN AWAY EVERY WEEK IN THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES**



Wooden pallets and re-used old roofing iron used in the construction a wood shed



Sort material on site so it can be recycled or reused (example of set up by Dunlop Builders)

industry in reducing building waste to landfill, and finding local reuse solutions to keep building resources in circulation.

There's been an uptake in recycling from building sites and increasingly, builders are seeking assistance with their waste management practices.

Feedback from the building industry demonstrates that a change in culture is starting to happen, with some clients asking for information about builders' waste minimisation plans. Good waste minimisation

and recycling can give companies a commercial advantage and reduce the build's carbon footprint.

**We're proud to support this initiative through the Waste Minimisation Community Fund. Can you share how the funding has helped your project along?**

We really appreciate QLDC's support and backing of this project. Thanks to the funding we've been able to reach more people through events, workshops and face to face, and have initiated excellent

collaboration between the building industry, building suppliers and community groups.

The funding has helped us find local solutions to reuse and recycle C&D materials and take positive steps as a community to keep surplus building and ex demo material out of landfill.

**How can local building companies get involved?**

Anybody interested in reducing their building waste can follow our journey on Facebook (Better Building

Southern Lakes) or get in touch via email [ruth@wastebusters.co.nz](mailto:ruth@wastebusters.co.nz).

**What would future success look like in the Construction and Demolition waste space to Wastebusters and WAO Wānaka?**

We want to see a circular economy lens applied to the industry and construction waste designed out of projects. In the meantime, we'd like to see waste management practices on site that focus on recovery through reuse, repurposing and recycling.

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