University of Huddersfield Construction and Refurbishment Audit Report

Conducted by Phil Tower, Energy Manager, Published [15/05/2025]

Introduction

This report summarises the findings and recommendations of an in-depth audit of construction and refurbishment waste at the University of Huddersfield.

Audit Methodology

- Identify sample projects to audit
- Collect all available construction waste data
- Analyse data to identify significance of discharges and any trends.
- Put forward recommendations for further research or mitigation.

Sample Projects

The two most significant recent/ live construction projects at the University of Huddersfield are for the first two buildings on the new Southgate campus: Daphne Steele and Emily Siddon. These have been selected as case study buildings to audit. The findings can then inform practises for future construction projects at the University and other major refurbishment projects.

Baseline

Daphne Steele: Project Completion September 2024

- Construction Waste: 1,437 m^3
- Waste diverted from landfill: 1,240 m^3
- **Percentage diverted from landfill: 86%**

Emily Siddon: Project still in progress

- Construction Waste: 2,730 tonnes
- Waste diverted from landfill: 2,594 tonnes
- **Percentage diverted from landfill: 95%**

Findings/ Results

- The data provided by the construction contractors included very little contextual data, for example, what was specifically included or excluded from the totals.
- The two contractors provided waste data with different units (m^3 vs tonnes), making it difficult to do a direct comparison between the buildings.
- A high proportion of waste was diverted from landfill for both buildings. However, the following should be noted:
  - The percentage diverted was greater for Emily Siddon (95%) than for Daphne Steele (86%). The reasons for this are unclear.
  - The Emily Siddon building has yet to be completed, so it is possible that the proportion diverted from landfill increases towards the end of the project.

Recommendations

- Future projects should include more specific requests for construction waste data, to include at a minimum:
  - Waste in terms of tonnage
  - Breakdown of different types of waste and waste destinations, including information on where "diverted" waste ends up
  - List of reasons given for whenever waste is sent to landfill
- With tonnage data, future projects should benchmark construction waste in terms of tonnes/m^2 floor area, for comparison.
- The Sustainability team should create opportunities to engage with construction contractors to develop plans to minimise waste