

SITE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS HELP CONSTRUCTION BUSINESSES WIN CONTRACTS, DESPITE THE RECESSION

November 2009: A survey of UK construction SMEs conducted by NetRegs.gov.uk has shown a big uplift in businesses bucking the UK's longest recession by using Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) to help them win new business.

The annual survey, conducted in October, revealed that the number of businesses using SWMPs who believe they have improved their environmental credentials and helped them gain new business, has increased by 30% over the last year.

The findings support the results of a NetRegs.gov.uk survey of large construction business earlier this year, which showed that 95 per cent¹ of them would give preference to subcontractors who can prove their green credentials, when awarding work.

The October survey, of over 600 UK-based construction businesses, examined attitudes towards environmental responsibility, and opinions on SWMPs, which became a legal requirement in April 2008 for construction projects in England with an estimated construction cost of over £300,000.

Debbie Chatting, Strategic Marketing Manager at NetRegs.gov.uk, comments: "This is further proof that good environmental performance helps the bottom line, as well as the environment. It's great to see that small to medium-sized construction businesses are responding to the marketplace demand for environmental improvements by using SWMPs, and are seeing financial success as a result. The industry needs to think long term and take a proactive approach to environmental responsibility now, and not use the recession as an excuse to ignore it. Creating and using a greener approach on a daily basis will pay dividends to construction businesses in the long run."

¹ NetRegs.gov.uk survey Feb/March 2009

NetRegs.gov.uk offers a free, simple guide to SWMPs, which has already been downloaded more than 64,900 times. In addition, free monthly email updates are available for construction businesses to keep them up to date on any changes to environmental law, by visiting www.netregs.gov.uk and clicking on the 'Sign up' logo.

For further information about Site Waste Management Plans or to download the guide, visit www.netregs.gov.uk.