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Waste caught in net!

Recycling scheme for builders

by MARY MURTAGH
 Environment Reporter

TONNES of unwanted glass, wood and plastic is being recycled thanks to a Merseyside website.

Builder Scrap was set up by Les Owens, managing director of the 36-year-old family firm Trustland Group in Bromborough.

It helps builders advertise surplus materials like over-ordered carpet, timber and office partitioning.

This stops unwanted materials from being thrown into skips which end up in landfill.

The unique project has just received the backing of industry body the National Federation of Builders (NFB).

It also won the Green

Apple Award for Environmental Best Practice.

Mr Owens, who is president of the Liverpool branch of the National Federation of Builders, said: "As a builder myself I understand the time and financial constraints waste management can have on a project which is why we have designed the site to be completely builder-friendly."

The construction industry is responsible for more of the UK's waste than households.

More than 90m tonnes of construction and demolition waste is produced each year in England and Wales, making up approximately 32% of total waste.

At least 13m tonnes of this is said to be surplus

material which could have been reused or recycled.

The project website is www.builderscrap.com.

The website already has 160 members and attracts more users every week.

It is free to use and allows contractors to advertise leftover material online, take a photograph and text it via a mobile phone.

Fellow builders can then pick the materials up free of charge or for an agreed price.

Material currently being advertised includes kitchen units, bricks, fencing and fireplaces.