

Press release: 27th March 2007

For immediate release

Reclamation specialists launch new website to bring down environmental impacts of building

Reclamation specialists BioRegional Reclaimed¹ have launched a new web site to help demolition contractors reclaim materials and fittings and aid developers and DIY enthusiasts to use more reclaimed building materials - reducing environmental impacts at no extra cost. BioRegional Reclaimed is part of the BioRegional Development Group who are sustainability specialists. The team are funded to work with the industry through Defra's Business Reuse Fund.

Jonathan Essex, Reclaimed Materials Manager, said: *"High-value, low volume architectural salvage is already common practice, we have launched this website to increase reclamation of lower-value, high-volume materials and fittings such as bricks and steel. We have been successfully working with businesses to instill reclamation into their practice so they can save the embodied carbon in materials rather than simply sending them to landfill or using new materials. For example we help demolition contractors to conduct a reclamation survey at the start of a job to identify materials and fittings that can be reclaimed, achieving more by identifying opportunities reclaim and reuse materials in advance. We also help developers to specify and use the reclaimed materials that are available. In many cases this is at no additional cost."*

It is very important to reduce the environmental impact of construction materials because they account for 20% of the UK's environmental impact, and 19% of our carbon emissions. Reclamation keeps materials in a closed loop cycle, re-using them rather than downgrading them through recycling or sending them to landfill.

Reclamation can reduce the embodied CO₂ of materials by up to 97% (i.e. bricks).

BioRegional Reclaimed has been helping developers, demolition contractors, architects and individuals to release and use reclaimed materials for 7 years. In the past year

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alone, the team has worked with over 30 contractors, researchers, developers and councils to reclaim 1,300 tonnes of materials saving over 300 tonnes of CO₂.

With the carbon footprint of buildings currently high on the political agenda, this new web site and the other services that BioRegional Reclaimed provide are increasingly important to the industry. BioRegional Reclaimed are particularly keen to work on large scale projects with developers and demolition contractors and have funding to carry out this work in most cases. Where funding is not available the team offers a consultancy service.

Ends

Editors Notes

1. **BioRegional Reclaimed** promote and facilitate the use of reclaimed materials, working with all types of demolition and construction projects to divert materials from landfill. The new web site address is www.bioregional-reclaimed.com. BioRegional Reclaimed are part of BioRegional Development Group, a visionary environmental organisation dedicated to developing practical solutions for sustainable living.

www.bioregional.com

2. **BioRegional Reclaimed** are available to write articles for publication and case studies of projects that the team have worked on are available on request.

3. The **Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT)** is working in partnership with the **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)** in England to manage the Business Reuse Fund.

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4. **RSWT** is a registered charity, incorporated by Royal Charter, to promote conservation and manage environmental programmes throughout the UK. It has established management systems for holding and distributing funds totaling more than £20 million annually to environmental projects across the UK. www.rswt.org
5. **Defra** (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) was formed in June 2001. Defra works for the essentials of life – food, air, land, water, people, animals and plants. Their remit is the pursuit of sustainable development – weaving together economic, social and environmental concerns. www.defra.gov.uk