

HARVEST MAP 2009

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 Location: Eden Project, Cornwall, UK
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 Partners: The Eden Project
 Donors: The Eden Project & time donated by ASF team
 Project type: Live Project

PROBLEM ADDRESSED



The construction industry is one of the least efficient and most wasteful of all sectors within the UK. Some 120 million tonnes of waste is created annually from the demolition and construction sectors, with as much as 10% of new materials delivered to site heading directly to landfill. It is estimated as much as 10% of all energy consumption in the UK comes from construction. Waste materials from a number of industrial sectors could be made useful for new buildings, diverting valuable resources from landfill. An efficient process of identification, collection, innovative re-design, and distribution is required to realise such a programme. Currently, knowledge of locally specific waste resources available in the south west of England simply does not exist. The 'harvest map' process seeks to provide the first link in a process desperately needed to ensure potentially useful materials are made available to designers for reuse and superuse in the construction of innovative new buildings.



GOAL ACHIEVED

Research began with a team of ten volunteers working remotely on an individual sector. The three broad sectors identified as possessing potentially useful waste materials included transport, public sector operations (including waste collection services), and general industry. The main sections were further divided to make up ten sub-sectors. Volunteers searched for resources initially within a 100 mile radius of the Eden Project, sourcing information from directories and the internet. Businesses were contacted via email and telephone for more detailed information. A meeting prior to the workshop allowed volunteers to share their findings with each other and discuss the potential applications of each material/ component identified. The list of potential resources was further refined and businesses were contacted to arrange meetings in person. Subsequently, a workshop involving five volunteers from ASF-UK met with businesses within a 50 mile radius of the Eden project over four-days, photographing and documenting each waste material and its specifications. All materials and resources identified, including details of key contacts, were compiled into a single document.

METHODOLOGY OF WORK

Countless businesses and local enterprises were contacted and a comprehensive database of local resources ranging from heavy industry to waste recycling facilities was compiled. The 'harvest map' workshop enabled visits to over fifteen local businesses identifying seventy-seven potentially useful and readily available building materials. The team were staggered by the quantity and variety of waste materials readily available from local industry. The mapping and documentation process was refined and executed effectively within the short time available. The final presentation document was refined in the weeks following after the workshop.



FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

The document provided a valuable resource for developing the designs of any future interventions to be located on the Building Plot site. The workshop acted as a catalyst for creating contacts and networks with local industry, and enterprises that will prove valuable for future workshops and building programmes.

