

WHY SOURCE RECLAIMED STRUCTURAL STEEL?

There are two main reasons for using reclaimed steel - reduced environmental impact and cost saving. Carbon saving can be up 96% when compared with virgin steel and cost saving can be 20% or more when compared with virgin steel. These savings take into account the costs associated with rework, testing etc, that maybe required.

From an environmental perspective, using reclaimed steel aligns with:

Commitments to net zero

Many companies in the construction sector are committed to net zero and are developing their own action plans and trajectories for reaching it. For example:

- [British Land](#) have committed to achieving a net zero carbon portfolio by 2030, with all developments to be net zero embodied carbon at practical completion. Benchmarks are set for both embodied and operational carbon.
- [Grosvenor](#), have committed to reducing their emissions from their buildings, development and supply chain by 90% by 2040 and to be climate positive by 2050.
- [ISG](#) are committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and introducing an internal carbon tax by 2024 that can be used to fund sustainable innovation projects across their business.
- [340 local councils](#) (82%) have announced a climate emergency, of these 285 have a plan to address this.

Planning commitments

The London Plan requires all referable developments in London to undertake whole life carbon assessments and circular economy statements. This means the project teams need to consider how to best use materials on a project and reduce the carbon impact where possible. Using reclaimed steel, will reduce the carbon impact and is a circular economy strategy. Other local authorities also have similar requirements – [Westminster City Council](#) encourages encourage demolition proposals to consider whole life carbon impacts. Other councils are likely to follow suit e.g. [Bath and North East Somerset Council](#).

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS FOR RECLAIMED STRUCTURAL STEEL

ESG commitments

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) is now being commonly used by the investment community, including real estate. Investors are becoming increasingly aware of the circular economy. Some are embedding circular economy principles into their commitments and policies, by referencing them explicitly, or by using them to achieve [ESG goals](#). The forthcoming UK Green Taxonomy contains 5 environmental objectives including 'transition to a circular economy' – and criteria are being established.

Public procurement

The [Construction Playbook](#) states that all Contracting Authorities should have strategies in place to achieve net zero carbon across their portfolio of estates and/or infrastructure assets by 2050. As part of the procurement of new built assets, or the large-scale refurbishment of existing buildings and infrastructure, Contracting Authorities should require a Whole Life Carbon Assessment (WLC) as part of the tender requirement. Contracting authorities should consider how they can promote increased levels of reuse and recycling through their projects and programmes (more guidance available [here](#)). Sourcing reclaimed steel, could also align with the local sourcing of materials.

Building environmental assessment schemes

Using reclaimed materials such as steel can also help achieve credits within building environmental assessment schemes such as [BREEAM](#) and [LEED](#).

Download a free steel reuse toolkit and view case studies at asbp.org.uk/toolkit/disrupt-steel-reuse