



The true cost of waste

ASBP 9th February 2026

Jade Cohen

The construction industry generates 62% of all the UK's waste and 32% of all waste sent to landfill.

Crucially, 13% of construction materials are diverted straight to waste, without ever being used.

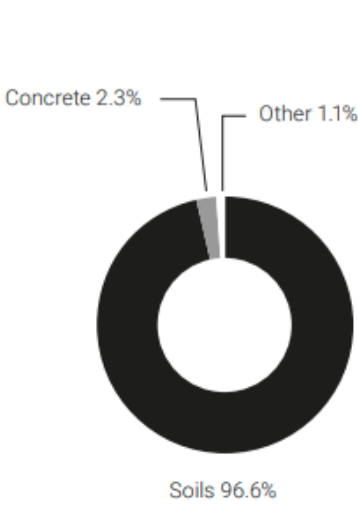
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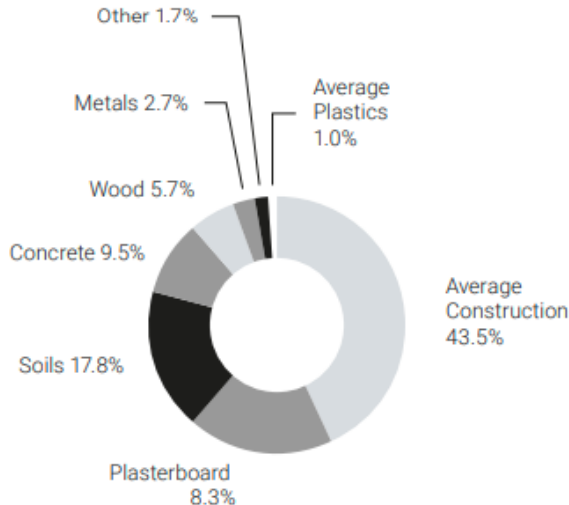
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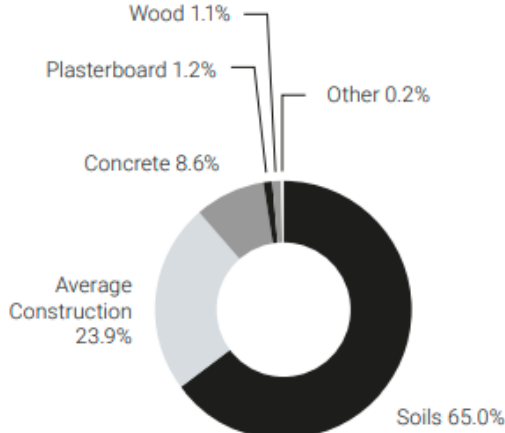
Waste type per sector



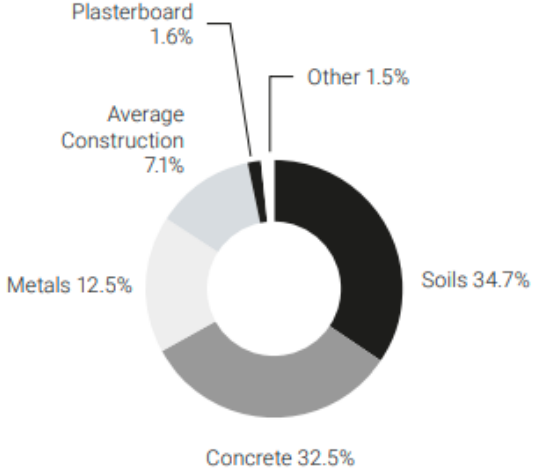
Infrastructure



Fit Out

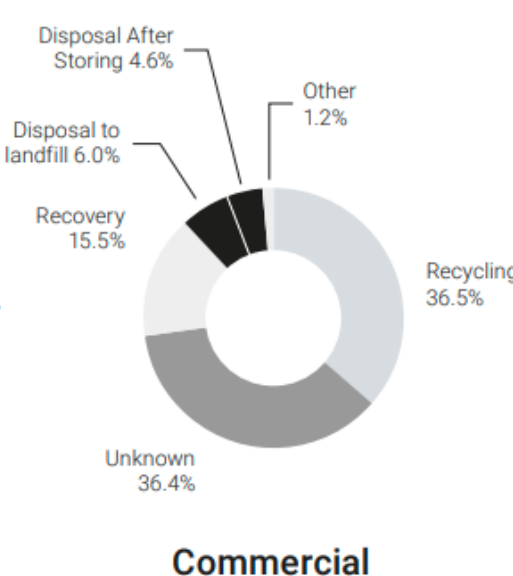
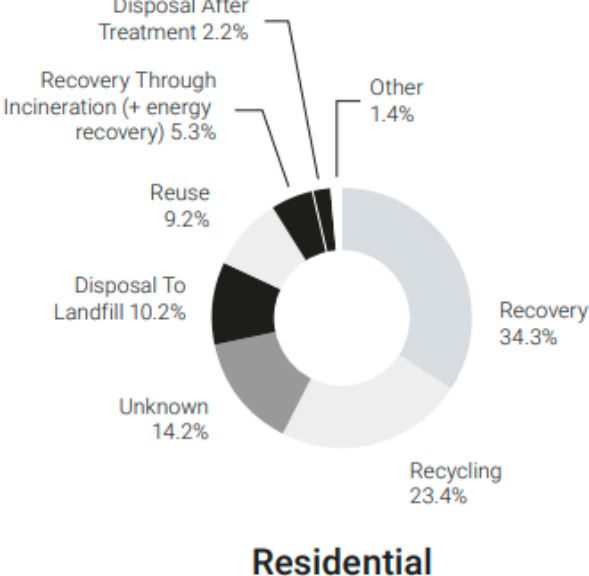
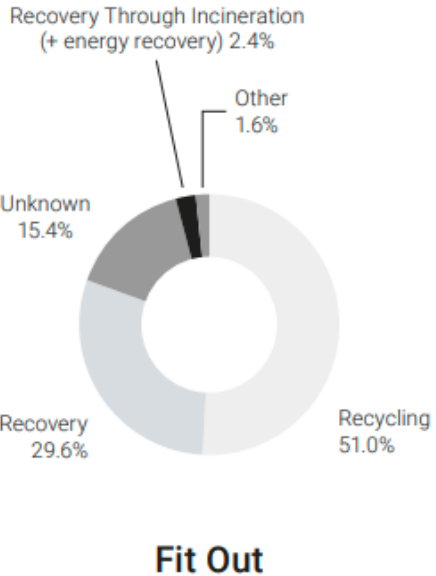
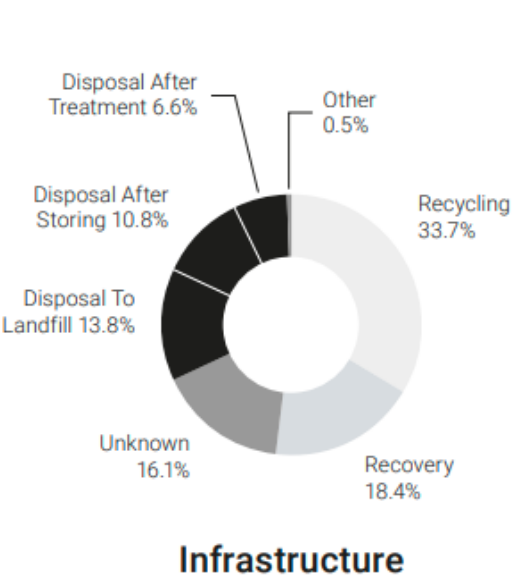


Residential



Commercial

Waste recovery per sector

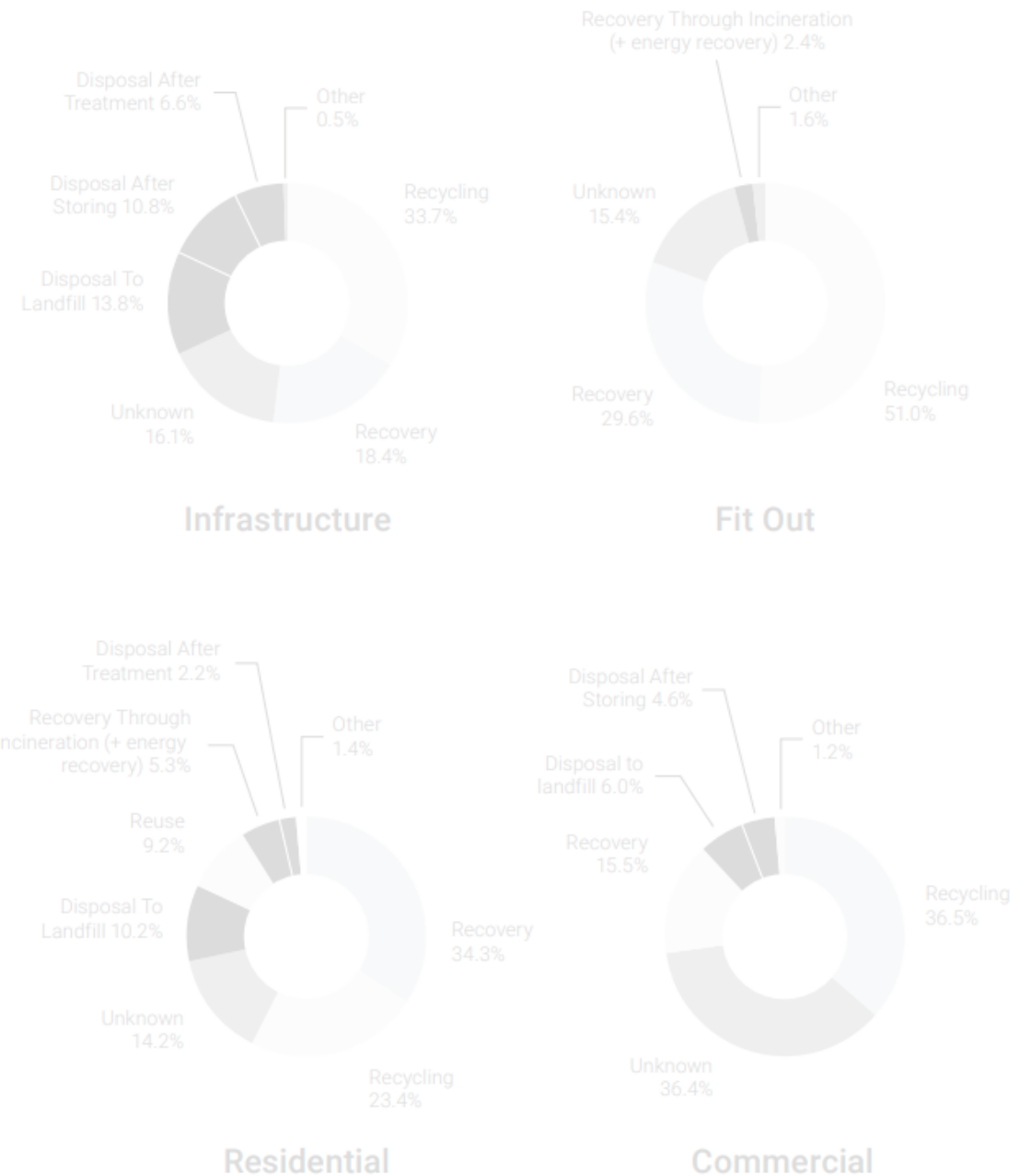


3 takeaways

The level of **segregated waste** has positive impacts on recovery/disposal, but the statistical significance of this is unknown.

What lessons can we take from Residential, where **reuse rates** are highest (9.2%)?

How do we **minimise landfill** for Infrastructure projects?



The hidden costs

Average diversion from landfill rates

87%

Average cost per project for landfill

£162,000

Average waste non-compliance

64%

Unclaimed fines from waste non-compliance

£13.2m

Average number of skip removals

169

per year, per project

Transport costs per project per year

£33,757



The biggest hidden cost...

When things go wrong with incoming materials, and mistakes are made, the average impact is **£2m for every project.**



Better monitoring

Smarter tracking for materials data, recording what comes in and goes out, to assess against project requirements.

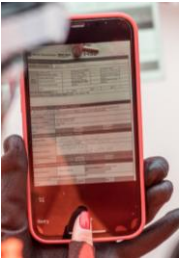
The screenshot shows the Qflow web application interface. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Dashboards, Deliveries, Records, Events, and Waste. The main content area displays 'Delivery Records' for the period 02/11/2023 - 01/11/2024. A table lists delivery records with the following data:

Arrival Date	Delivery ID	Delivery Address	Trade Contractor	Supplier Company
17/09/2024	1226-2009994	Shoreditch High Stre...	Smith Limited	SPEEDY ASSET SERV...
17/09/2024	D55003522	Shoreditch High Stre...	Joe Bloggs Ltd	PACADAR U.K. LIMIT...
16/09/2024	2201257257	Shoreditch High Stre...	Joe Bloggs Ltd	TARMAC TRADING LI...
16/09/2024	44751	Shoreditch High Stre...	Smith Limited	ACE GRAB HIRE AND...
16/09/2024	45074	Shoreditch High Stre...	Smith Limited	ACE GRAB HIRE AND...
16/09/2024	45650	Shoreditch High Stre...	Smith Limited	ACE GRAB HIRE AND...
16/09/2024	45073	Shoreditch High Stre...	Smith Limited	ACE GRAB HIRE AND...
16/09/2024	45649	Shoreditch High Stre...	Smith Limited	ACE GRAB HIRE AND...

At the bottom of the table, it says 'Showing 68 out of 68 total records'. In the foreground, a smartphone displays the Qflow mobile app login screen with the text 'Qflow' and a 'Sign In' button. The version number 'v2.15.4' is visible at the bottom of the phone screen.

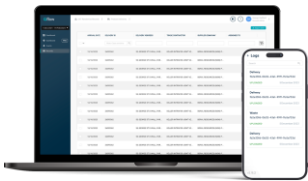


Powered by AI
Qflow



**Photo of
delivery/waste
ticket**

Photo or PDF sent
to Qflow app



Digitized

Qflow's AI cleans
the data and
structures it into a
database



Audited

Audits data against
project requirements
and flags risks



Analyzed

Data is visualized
for quick and
effective decision
making and
insights



Integrated

Qflow sends
data into
relevant
reporting tools

Balfour Beatty

The TE2100 framework, led by the Environment Agency, demands high levels of environmental reporting and compliance. For Balfour Beatty, this meant keeping track of metrics like waste diversion, responsible sourcing, and carbon-related transport data all while working within the fast-paced environment of a live infrastructure project.

99%

Materials met responsible sourcing criteria
(compared to a 20-30% target)

99%

Waste diverted from landfill

“Automation of the system provided workable, confident data for us to discuss with the client without needing to spend days going through documents.”

Leonard Connolly | Sustainability Manager | Balfour Beatty



MMOSER ASSOCIATES

M Moser Associates is a global architecture and interior design practice focused on expanding the potential of the built environment. M Moser is deeply committed to sustainability, integrating it into every aspect of their operations and projects, committing to net zero emissions by 2031 in line with the company's 50th anniversary.

82%

of all construction waste sent for recycling

39%

improvement in waste compliance since using Qflow

3

BREEAM projects successfully completed

“Qflow data enables us to meet our sustainability goals and provide transparency. Qflow has saved us days of work per project, making information easily accessible in a way that wasn't possible before.”

Suzanne Ries | Sustainability Manager | M Moser Associates



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