



**THURSDAY, APRIL 09: TODAY'S NEWS**

### **SECBE TO RUN FREE SITE WASTE TRAINING SESSIONS**



The **South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE)** is running free training sessions around the region to help councils, and through them, the industry, understand the environmental benefits of imposing the legally required Site Waste Management Plans for construction sites.

Research carried out by SECBE showed little awareness of the requirement among both the industry and local authorities. It gained **DEFRA** funding to organise the free workshops to help local authorities, including all the departments likely to be involved in the development process including planning, building control, waste, health and safety and environment.

The aim was to make them aware of their responsibilities – more than just as enforcers but, using their planning powers, to require a SWMP at the outset, right at the start, when the architect first designs a scheme.

**Derek Rees, SECBE Chief Executive**, said: “There has been little sign of enforcement to date. But local authorities are becoming increasingly aware of their powers and responsibilities. It may not be long before Building Control Officers are asking for SWMPs so the industry cannot be complacent. But more importantly, with the kind of training we’re giving, authorities will be much better placed to advise the industry so we can all achieve vital waste and cost reducing results.”

Derek also feels strongly that effective management of waste during the design and build process, as well as enforcement, can make a major contribution to improved resource efficiencies and reduced waste to landfill.

Reaction from delegates at the first fully booked workshop was very positive as they acknowledged the training was really helping them to understand the issues and how they should now engage with developers. An added benefit will be the opportunity to feed back to DEFRA on issues relating to enforcement.

The sessions are now being rolled out across the South East during April and May and all 74 local authorities have been invited to attend. Take up so far has been very high but, for anyone working within the built environment, help and advice on SWMPs can be found at [www.secbe.org.uk](http://www.secbe.org.uk) or call Julian Carter on 0118 920 7200.