

# EUROX GYPSUM

THE VOICE OF THE EUROPEAN GYPSUM INDUSTRY

## Sustainable C&D Waste Management:

towards 70% Recycling,  
Re-use and Material Recovery Target



Raw Material



Unscreened Gypsum with paper



Screened Gypsum without paper

## Our Commitment

The aim of this charter is to promote in real life an ever increasing culture of sustainable production and consumption patterns for gypsum products and systems within the Gypsum Industry and with the relevant stakeholders in the construction chain.

Protecting the natural resources and avoiding an overall negative impact on the environment is a key element of such a culture – well-being, quality and sufficiency for all – within a global economy.

The European Gypsum Industry is conscious of those challenges which are embedded in the Waste Framework Directive<sup>1</sup>. Based on its long industrial experience in sustainable extraction, quarry rehabilitation, biodiversity enhancement, waste reduction, prevention and recycling, the European Gypsum Industry wishes to rationalise even more its efforts in conjunction with the relevant operators in the construction chain to recover construction and demolition waste. The Gypsum Industry takes advantage of the eternal recyclability of Gypsum to move the construction chain towards a positive environmental footprint.

Enhancing the access to natural resources by developing outstanding C&D waste management will divert C&D waste from landfill applying the waste hierarchy (prevent-reuse-recycle-recover-dispose) in accordance with the life-cycle impact of gypsum products and systems (from extraction until the end-of-life).

## Our Efforts

### Waste Prevention: Design for Construction

1. Promotion of an efficient and interactive dialogue with Construction Site Managers for proper storage, handling, sequencing, fixing and finishing of gypsum products and systems;
2. Promotion of demountable and reusable partitions for commercial buildings;
3. Promotion of, whenever feasible, bespoke size boards (plasterboards, fibreboards and blocks).



Plasterboard sorting



Metal scraps

### Waste Disposal Reduction Measures: Design for Deconstruction

1. Promotion of research and development for the design of gypsum products and systems which ensure that recycling is maximised, i.e. that diversion from landfill is taking place effectively;
2. Promotion of selective deconstruction and sorting among the relevant stakeholders and more particularly the demolition industry;
3. Promotion of research and development for ensuring the proper recycling of gypsum demolition waste;
4. Optimisation of the internal recycled material input capacity of gypsum manufacturing plants.



Plasterboard dismantling

## The Way forward

Sustainable construction means the efforts for addressing the entire life cycle of a building: its planning, design, construction, operation, modifications, renovation, retrofit and ultimate disposal.

The principles of sustainable construction include:

- > reduce, reuse and recycle resources of the whole building or of parts of a building (systems);
- > protect nature in all activities: eliminate toxic substances from construction;
- > apply life cycle economics in decision making and;
- > create a quality built environment (aesthetics, durability, maintainability, etc.).

The European Gypsum Industry wishes to go forward in reducing **the environmental impact of construction at the end of the life cycle, i.e. at the demolition phase of a building or during major renovation of a building.**

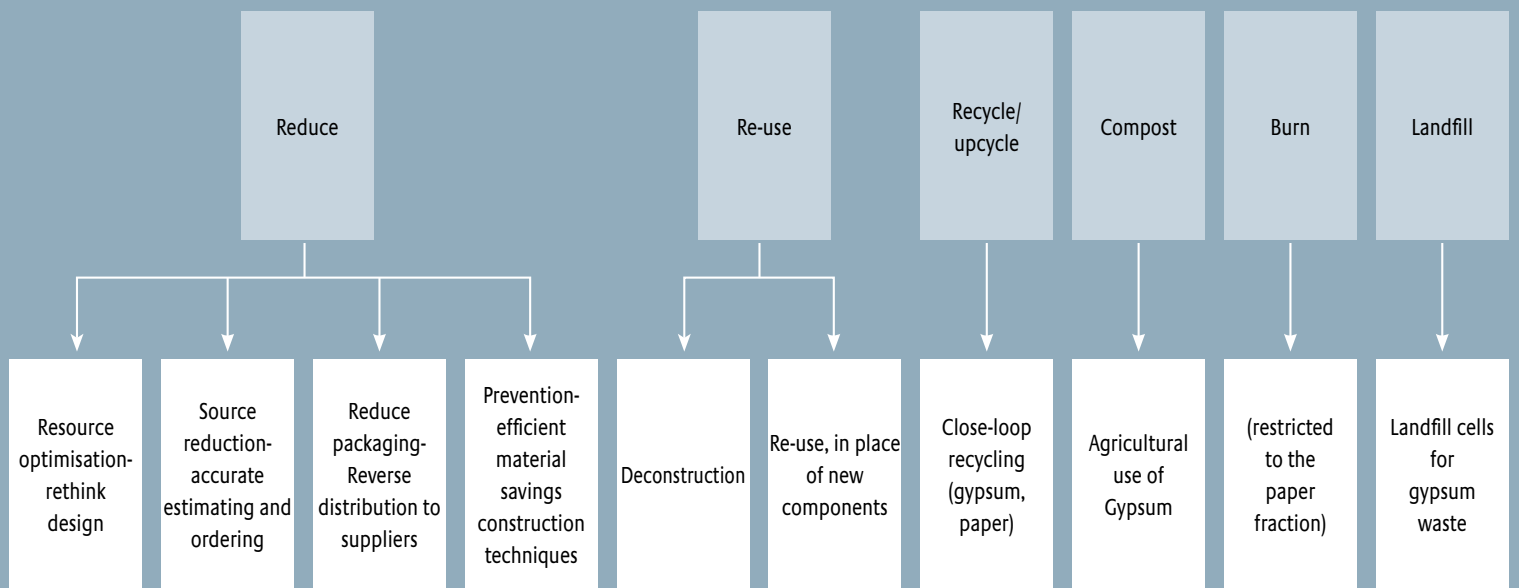
This is a challenging task. Indeed, the Construction Industry is characterised by a high material intensity and hence by a large amount and a heterogeneous mix of construction and demolition waste (C&D waste). The high and diversified amount of C&D waste is not only a today's challenge with respect to recovery of components and materials but also with respect to the organisation of **the associated logistic activities.**

Therefore, the deconstruction works, the decontamination of gypsum waste, the quality of the recyclate and the recycling organisational network and its flows and components are fundamental to C&D waste recycling feasibility.

The European Gypsum Industry wishes to ask European Funds for enhancing the recyclability of gypsum systems in conjunction with the relevant operators in the construction chain.

1. L312-Official Journal of the European Union-22 November 2008

# Waste Hierarchy applied to Gypsum Products



Cover page : credit photo : tree and product: USA Gypsum  
 Cover page: credit photo: equipment and powder photo: Saint-Gobain Gyproc  
 First page: credit photos: Saint-Gobain Gyproc