

“As a company that promotes innovation, we are proud to rethink traditional models of waste and how we can use our resources to impact and influence a solid connection to the communities in which we work.”

Cook Brothers Construction hopes to take what it has learned to improve its on-site practices for future projects and inspire others in the industry to follow its lead. Its work in this area demonstrates how planning waste minimisation into demolition and construction projects can not only save money, but also benefit the environment and local communities.

Want to find out how you can implement some of these practices in your construction or demolition projects?

Get in touch via info@cookbrothers.co.nz



WASTE MINIMISATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION INDUSTRY

**CASE STUDY – COOK BROTHERS
CONSTRUCTION, TE PUNA O WHAKAEHU**

 **DUNEDIN** | kaunihera
CITY COUNCIL | a-rohe o
ōtēpoti



Cook Brothers Construction, a local building company, has been tasked with building a new pool in Mosgiel for the Dunedin City Council and Taieri Community Facilities Trust. The previous facility struggled to cope with user demands and was only open six months of the year.

As part of its contract to build the new pool in Mosgiel, Cook Brothers Construction has been proactively reducing waste from the site.

Demolition materials included 500 tonnes of concrete from the old pool, which was broken up and reused as fill, and gravel from the carpark, which was either reused on site or used as fill on other sites. Nearly 6,000 tonnes of clay and topsoil have been diverted to local farmland. Thirty tonnes of trees were chipped and provided to community groups, and two tonnes of fence posts were reused in other projects.

Construction materials such as plasterboard, steel, polystyrene and soft plastics were all separated on site and then collected for recycling.

Cook Brothers has gone even further in thinking 'outside the square' and has employed Dan, a Sustainability Carpenter, based in Dunedin. He re-purposes both treated and untreated timber into items that can be used by local schools and community groups.

Timber from site is delivered to the Sustainable Carpenter's workshop and he creates items from this material for community groups, schools, Cook Brothers team, and clients.

Cook Brothers is expanding this approach by employing more Sustainable Carpenters in other regions.

"The work of our Sustainability Carpenters in Otago and Canterbury also contributes to savings on landfill costs and carbon footprint. Whenever waste materials are taken from a site, we intend that they serve the community."

Projects Dan has worked on:

- Sustainable gifts for clients and team
- New vertical cat cages for the SPCA, giving the cats almost 3 x the space
- Puzzle shelving units for Mosgiel Kindergarten
- Chicken coop for Opoho School
- Side tables and shelving for the Dunedin Night Shelter
- Traps and nesting stations for Otago Biodiversity Group and City Sanctuary
- Kids picnic table and toys for Grant Braes Kindergarten
- Postcard holder for Orokonui Ecosanctuary
- Furniture for the new Cook Brothers Dunedin office



And while being more mindful of the environment and community wellbeing is an important part of their operations, Cook Brothers also see financial benefits to establishing waste minimisation practices.

"Across the country, it is cheaper to pay for recycling than a skip bin. Our teams are utilising the cardboard bins on this site, which are more environmentally friendly and economic than the landfill skip alternative."

Taking these steps has impressed and inspired others, helping teams to think differently about waste minimisation practices.