

## Kreislaufwirtschaft Bau

## **Summary**

For more than 25 years, an initiative of the building materials industry, the construction industry and the waste management industry has been working intensively on the promotion of closed material cycles in the construction sector. The focus is on mineral construction waste. The "circular economy construction" initiative (KWB) was launched in 1995 with a voluntary commitment to the federal government to halve the amount of mineral construction waste landfilled within 10 years, despite its potential for recycling. The voluntary commitment was successfully fulfilled. In fact, the recycling rate was even increased to around 90 percent of the mineral construction waste produced.

The initiative has documented its successes to the federal government in monitoring reports on mineral construction waste. The monitoring reports enjoy a high level of acceptance among all stakeholders. With this 13th monitoring report, the initiative provides evidence of almost completely closed material cycles for the year 2020 and thus makes an important contribution to the current discussion on resource conservation and circular economy.

In 2020 building waste formation in Germany was altogether 220.6 million tons, composed of 129.2 million tons soil and stones, 60.0 million tons building debris, 16.9 million tons road construction waste, 13.8 million tons mixed construction waste and 0.7 million tons of gypsum based construction waste. Of the total 220.6 million tons of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste generated, 89.5 % or 197.5 million tons were recycled in an environmentally sound manner.

In Detail: The fraction road construction waste reutilisation was 95.9%, building debris was 94.5%, mixed construction waste was 98.6%, soil and stones was 85.7% and gypsum based construction waste was 59.6%.

The recycling building materials industry in 2020 produced 76.9 million tons and so was able to cover 13.2 % of all mineral building materials of a total of 584.6 million tons. The recycled building materials were used for 38.7 million tons for road construction (50.3 %), 17.7 million tons for earth moving construction (23.0 %), 15.0 million tons for the production of recycled asphalt and concrete (19.5 %) and 5.5 million tons (7.2 %) for other reutilisations.

With the handover of the 13th monitoring report (data basis 2020) to the Federal Government, the initiative once again underlines its commitment to keeping mineral construction waste as completely as possible in the material cycle.







Kreislaufwirtschaft Bau
c/o Bundesverband Baustoffe – Steine und Erden e. V.
Kochstraße 6-7, 10969 Berlin
Tel: +49 (0)30 / 726 19 99-0