



**£30,256**  
**SAVED**

## SMALL CHANGES ADD UP TO BIG SAVINGS IN REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

<p><b>WHAT HAPPENED?</b></p>	<p>Solihull Community Fire Station needed refurbishing, with a floor area of approximately 1740m<sup>2</sup>. There was plenty of scope to minimise waste, and opportunities were identified early on in the project.</p>
<p><b>OUTCOME</b></p>	<p>Targets to reduce waste by 10%, recycle 70% and send no more than 20% to landfill were easily achieved.</p> <p>Inert waste was forecasted to be 339 tonnes, but no inert waste was sent from site during construction, with only 114 tonnes of non-hazardous waste – remarkable for such a large project.</p> <p>This reduction in waste, and resulting reduction in skip costs, led to a cost saving of £30,256.</p>
<p><b>CONTEXT</b></p>	<p>Numerous waste minimisation decisions were taken, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The removal of existing materials was carried out economically while limiting damage</li> <li>• Mechanical cutting techniques were used to ensure reduced waste</li> <li>• Timber waste was reduced by reusing pallets through procurement</li> <li>• Tape/joint finishes were used instead of plastering, reducing excessive waste</li> <li>• Waste arisings were segregated on site</li> </ul> <p>The total effect of these decisions was a large reduction in waste and a significant cost saving.</p>
<p><b>LESSONS LEARNT</b></p>	<p>The large cost saving was made by implementing many small decisions to reduce waste, but major lessons learnt include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only waste contractors with high offsite recycling rates will be used, to ensure best practice and reduction of waste to landfill</li> <li>• Segregated skips will always be considered for future projects as they reduce costs</li> <li>• In-house forecasting data will be developed to ensure pre-construction plans align as closely as possible to actual waste arisings data</li> </ul>