WAIHANGA ARA RAU
Construction and Infrastructure
Workforce Development Council

Micro-credential 1 Summary

Title	Reduce Material Waste in a Construction Environment		
Level	2	**Credits**	3
Purpose	The purpose of this micro-credential is to recognise the skills and knowledge needed to reduce material waste in a construction environment. A *construction environment* is any environment where construction, modification, or maintenance of buildings, structures, or infrastructure assets takes place. This micro-credential is suitable for both new learners and those already in the workforce who are looking to build or formalise their knowledge of waste reduction practices. It is designed for people working in or preparing to work in a construction environment, including apprentices, suppliers and anyone with an interest in reducing waste, who want to adopt more sustainable approaches.		
Outcome	On successful completion of this micro-credential, learners/ākonga will be able to reduce waste through everyday tasks in a construction environment by: • Identifying recyclable construction materials in line with relevant recycling guidelines • Applying a waste reduction plan in a construction environment • Describing the environmental, social, and financial benefits of minimising material waste in construction.		

Content	• Benefits of waste reduction:
	  ○ Environmental, social, and financial benefits
	  ○ Economic advantages of efficient resource use
	  ○ Social value of sustainable practices, particularly in community projects
	  ○ Relevance for Māori and Pasifika communities
	  ○ Benefits of repurposing and upcycling materials
	• Common types of waste in a construction environment
	• Recyclable materials on-site
	• Recycling practices:
	  ○ Sorting materials into bins
	  ○ Using clearly labelled recycling bins
	  ○ Following local recycling rules
	• Designing waste out of construction and practical ways to reduce waste:
	  ○ Following a waste reduction plan
	  ○ Using materials efficiently (e.g., measure twice, cut once)
	  ○ Reusing offcuts and surplus materials
	  ○ Storing materials properly to prevent damage
	  ○ Following site plans accurately to avoid mistakes
	• Waste prevention:
	  ○ Understanding how to prevent waste before it occurs
	  ○ Recognising practices that go beyond recycling and reuse
	• Identification and handling of hazardous materials
	• Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)		

Standard(s)	Skill standard 40291: Reduce material waste in a construction environment		
Delivery	Learning may take place through practical, work-based tasks, simulations, and guided instruction. Learners may also take part in discussions and reflections. Real-world videos and examples can be used to show best practice on-site. Providers are encouraged to support peer learning, reflective practice, and contextualise activities to suit specific construction environment settings.		