



Kreislaufwirtschaft Bau

Summary

Between 1995 and 2005 the KWB (society for the recycling economy in the building sector) presented to the federal ministry for the environment every two years a report of the environmental statistics for the area of building waste materials. The KWB was successful in reaching the prescribed target to which the KWB had committed itself, which was established for 2005 already in 1998 with a material utilisation of 90 % of relevant building waste materials.

With respect to his responsiveness for a sustainable building economy the KWB decided to continue the series of the monitoring reports.

In January 2021 the KWB presented the data for the year 2018, based on the official data of the environmental statistics in the building economy to the ministry of building.

In 2018 building waste formation in Germany was altogether 218.8 million tons, composed of 130.3 million tons soil and stones, 59.8 million tons building debris, 14.1 million tons road construction waste, 14.0 million tons mixed construction waste and 0.6 million tons of gypsum based construction waste.

In 2018 as a fraction road construction waste reutilisation was 97.5 %, building debris was 93.9 %, mixed construction waste was 98.7 %, soil and stones was 86.2 % and gypsum based construction waste it was 49.6 %. Altogether 94.9 % reutilisation of the building waste in 2018 was achieved.

The recycling building materials industry in 2018 produced 73.3 million tons and so was able to cover 12.5 % of all mineral building materials of a total of 587.4 million tons. The recycled building materials were used for 37.6 million tons for road construction (51.3 %), 16.3 million tons for earth moving construction (22.2 %), 15.8 million tons for the production of recycled asphalt and concrete (21.6 %) and 3.6 million tons (4.9 %) for other reutilisations.

The legal framework for the reutilisation of recycled building materials at the moment is discussed in Germany with the aim to launch a national regulation with regulations for the protection of groundwater and soil and a sustainable recycling economy saving area for deposits and preserve mineral resources. The draft discussed at the moment does not satisfy the actors for recycling economy but predominantly aims at strict regulations for protecting soil and groundwater combined with the establishment of 20 new parameters for testing recycling building materials thus jeopardizing a reutilisation of millions of tons of building waste in the future. The KWB requires support from government instead of the continuous erection of obstacles and hindrances – otherwise it will not be possible to maintain the successes accomplished, still less to building on them.

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