

FACT SHEET



PCA: Cementing a Reputation of Sustainability

Portland Cement Association (PCA) and its member companies are committed to environmental stewardship and sustainable development. Concrete and cement manufacturers have a long and proud history of working to reduce the industry's impact on the environment—while promoting the industry's benefit to community development and society.

Providing Environmental Stewardship

PCA is a reliable and trusted organization known for balancing environmental stewardship with community development. Architects, engineers and builders look to PCA experts when creating and developing sustainable building projects and applications.

PCA and its member companies are active in international and domestic efforts to measure and reduce greenhouse gases. Some examples of PCA's and/or member's leadership include participation in:

- The EPA Climate Wise program
- The EPA Climate Leaders program
- The World Resources Institute/WBCSD GHG Protocol
- The Pew Center on Global Climate Change
- The World Wildlife Federation Climate Savers program
- The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) report on a sustainable cement industry

Committed to Progress

Beginning in February 2003, the U.S. cement industry committed to reducing CO₂ emissions by 10 percent per unit of product below 1990 baseline levels by the year 2020. As part of the industry's efforts under the government's Climate VISION program, the cement industry is at the forefront of developing policies and improving manufacturing processes that are globally beneficial to the environment.

To achieve this goal, PCA and the cement industry have adopted a three-part strategy:

1. The cement industry is committed to continuing to improve the energy efficiency of manufacturing cement, building upon its success of reducing energy consumption by 33 percent since the mid-70s. The industry regularly upgrades plants with state-of-the-art equipment to reduce energy consumption and CO₂ emissions.
2. The cement industry is committed to product formulation improvements that reduce energy of production and minimizes the use of natural resources. Two examples of product formulation improvements that reduce CO₂ emissions are crushed limestone and industrial by-products such as fly ash.
3. The cement industry is committed to developing new applications for cement and concrete that improve energy efficiency and durability. The industry conducts significant research and product development for energy efficient concrete homes and buildings, concrete highways to improve vehicle gas mileage and light reflective concrete surfaces in urban environments to cool communities, thereby reducing electricity demand and subsequently reducing CO₂ emissions.