



# Climate & Sustainability

## BACKGROUND

The cement and concrete industry supports our communities facing the realities of climate change with a stronger, sustainable infrastructure and is committed to working with partners to promote sustainable development initiatives that reduce the impact of production. As the cement and concrete industries continue to drive down the carbon intensity of their operations and products, the Portland Cement Association will develop a roadmap by the end of 2021 to facilitate its member companies achieving carbon neutrality across the concrete value chain by 2050. However, the industry faces unique challenges in reaching that goal due to the energy-intensive nature of our operations and the significant emissions resulting from the chemical processes involved in converting limestone and other materials into cement, the main ingredient in concrete.

Concrete is the most-utilized material in the world after water; the U.S. puts to use about 260 million cubic yards of concrete each year. It is used to build highways, bridges, runways, water & sewage pipes, high-rise buildings, dams, homes, floors, sidewalks, and driveways. It makes buildings more energy-efficient, roads more fuel-efficient, and our nation's infrastructure more resilient, durable, and long-lasting, mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events and reducing the emissions resulting from frequent repair and replacement. It is also fully recyclable, eliminating emissions associated with end-of-life disposal. In short, considered across their full life cycle from cradle to cradle, cement and concrete building materials are critical and sustainable components of any economy-wide decarbonization strategy.

## NACA MESSAGE

The cement and concrete industry has already spent billions to reduce emissions and has significantly increased product output and emissions efficiency. We are committed to carbon neutrality by 2050 in a responsible and sustainable manner. Cement and concrete products provide resilient, long-lasting infrastructure that can resist damage and minimize disruption time after disasters. Importantly, concrete infrastructure has a role in combating the effects of climate change. Studies show concrete, during its life-cycle, is a carbon sink with the capacity to absorb significant amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

## SOLUTIONS

- Cosponsor the SCALE Act (H.R. 1992) and CCUS Tax Credit Amendment Act to accelerate solutions to the capture, transmission, and storage of CO<sub>2</sub>: The SCALE Act would establish a RD&D center to support the development of chemicals, building products, and materials from captured CO<sub>2</sub>. The CCUS Tax Credit Amendment Act would extend and expand the 45Q tax credit to help manufacturers install and operate carbon capture equipment.
- Modernize Alternative Fuel Rules: Ease processing requirements for discarded materials and revise the regulatory definition of "discard" to encourage use of recycled materials as fuel. Using these materials as fuels could further reduce GHG and other air emissions, reduce waste, reduce unsafe vectors from landfilling, promote energy security, and ensure cleaner waters by preventing marine debris.
- Encourage the Use of Low Carbon Cement and Concrete in Federal Infrastructure Projects: The increased use of blended cements and low carbon concrete will help aid in the further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Preserve American Competitiveness: Prevent leakage from the import of less regulated foreign goods from countries without similar standards.

[northamericanconcretealliance.org](http://northamericanconcretealliance.org)

## CONTACT INFORMATION