UNITED STATES: Cement Industry Impact

Portland Cement Association, Representing America’s Cement Manufacturers

The cement and concrete industry contributes approximately $130 billion to the U.S. economy and directly and indirectly employs 577,000 people. It operates in every state in the continental U.S.

Concrete is formed when cement is mixed with water and aggregate (sand and rock) and allowed to harden. Cement is the glue that holds concrete together.

Concrete, the second most-utilized material in the world after water, sees an annual usage of about 260 million cubic yards in the U.S. In plain terms, that’s 600 times the amount of concrete in The Pentagon—annually.

In the U.S., 600 times the amount of concrete in the pentagon is used each year.

Concrete is used to build highways, bridges, airport runways, water and sewage pipes, high-rise buildings, dams, homes, floors, sidewalks, and driveways. Concrete’s durability makes it the most disaster-resilient construction material available.

For decades, PCA member companies have invested millions of dollars in research and state-of-the-art technology to develop alternative fuels and lower-carbon cements to help reduce carbon emissions released during the production of cement and throughout its life cycle. The next frontier for CO2 reduction is the development of carbon capture utilization and storage—the heavyweight solution as identified in the PCA Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality.

PCA encourages state and federal lawmakers to support legislation that will assist cement manufacturers in reaching net zero.

The Portland Cement Association is the premier policy, research, education, and market intelligence organization serving America’s cement industry. PCA supports sustainability, innovation, and safety while fostering continuous improvement in cement manufacturing, distribution, infrastructure, and economic growth.