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## UK CEMENT INDUSTRY CUTS CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS BY TWO MILLION TONNES

- Carbon dioxide emissions decreased by 18.5% - over two million tonnes
- Around a million tonnes of waste used
- Reduced use of fossil fuels by almost 23%

The UK cement industry has cut its annual emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas linked with global warming by more than 18 per cent (over two million tonnes) over the last eight years, according to the latest *Performance* report produced by the British Cement Association (BCA).

The reduction was achieved through replacing traditional fossil fuels with more sustainable (usually waste-derived) alternatives; blending cement-like materials with traditional cement; using alternative raw materials and other significant investment by BCA members.

The report highlights further progress in the industry's contribution to the UK sustainable development agenda. The cement industry consumes more than 10 times the amount of waste it disposes of, and in 2005 used more than one million tonnes of waste as replacement for conventional raw materials and fossil fuels.

Mike Gilbert, Chief Executive of the British Cement Association said:

“The environment and reducing our impact on it has been a key focus for the industry for many years. I am pleased with the progress we have made, but even more excited by what's to come. The cement process is uniquely placed to make use of some wastes as fuel and raw materials and is therefore doing its bit to move the nation towards greater sustainability. We crystallised this potential last year when we published our sustainability agenda. It is our goal to adopt the practices set out in that agenda so that by 2010 we will be seen as leading the way in sustainability.”

UK cement manufacturers have signed a Climate Change Levy Agreement with Government to deliver an overall energy efficiency improvement across their sector of 26.8 per cent by 2010 against a base year of 1990. The industry has already achieved a 25 per cent improvement in energy

efficiency. The use of fossil fuels to generate energy has decreased by almost 23 per cent since 1998 per tonne of cement produced, while on the same basis, the use of raw materials dropped by 2.5 per cent.

This third issue of *Performance*, reports for the first time against new environmental improvement targets agreed with the industry's regulator, the Environment Agency.

The members of the BCA – Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, CEMEX UK Operations and Lafarge Cement UK – are continuing to invest heavily in new, efficient and cleaner plants and better distribution networks. In combination the members produce 12 million tonnes of cement, meeting 90 per cent of the UK's needs for this essential building material which is vital for sustainable construction.

The report can be obtained from the BCA Press Office or can be downloaded from the BCA website, [www.cementindustry.co.uk](http://www.cementindustry.co.uk).

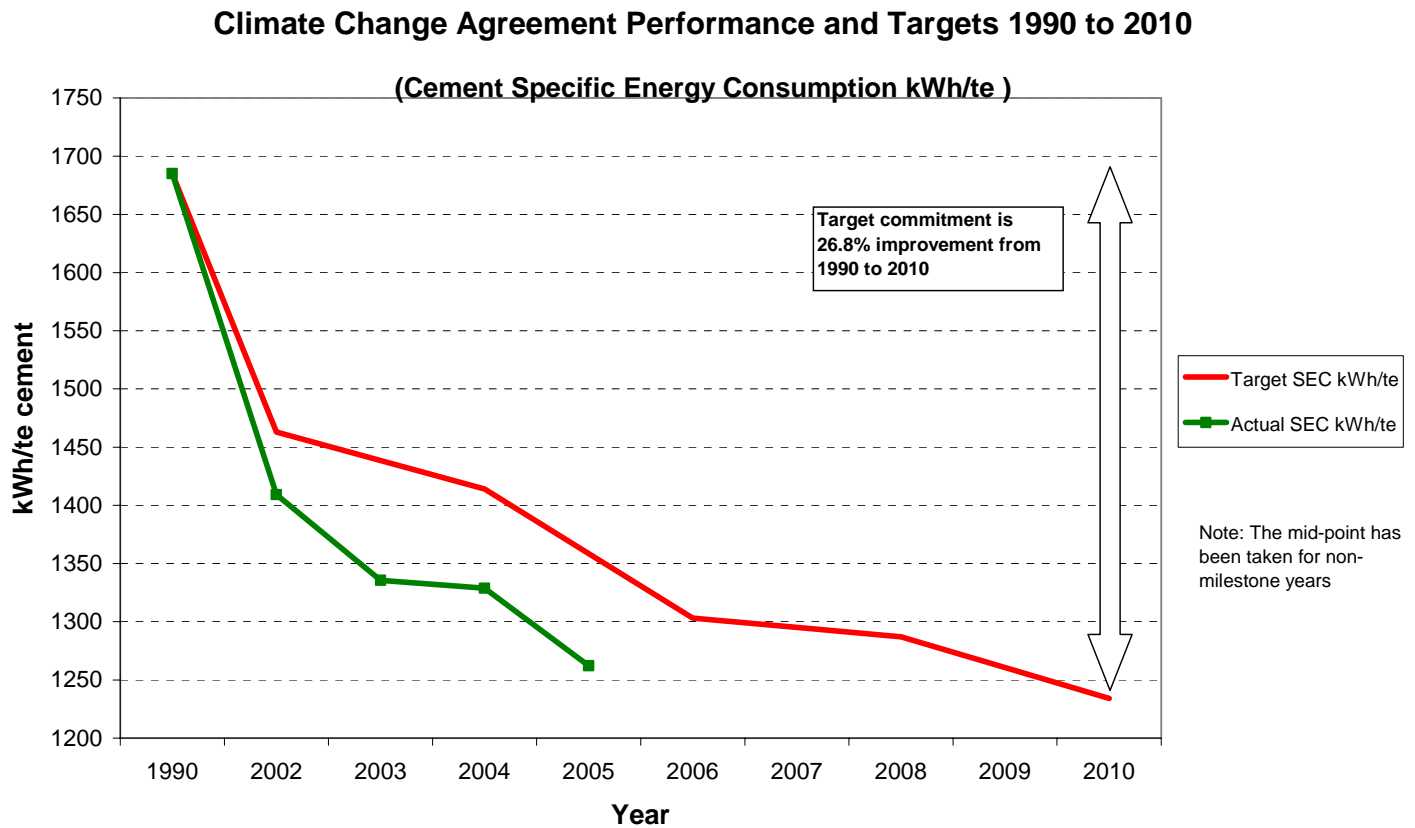
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## Notes to editors:

1. The chart below tracks progress of actual cement specific energy consumption against the Climate Change Agreement Targets.



2. *Performance* is the industry's annual corporate responsibility report and outlines the UK cement industry's progress on environmental, social and economic performance. The industry has worked with the Environment Agency to set environmental objectives beyond statutory requirements in its sector plan for the industry. In previous years, the cement industry reported on its draft requirements.
3. The British Cement Association (BCA) is the trade and research organisation that represents the interests of the United Kingdom's cement industry in its relations with Her Majesty's Government, the European Union and relevant organisations in the United Kingdom. The members of the BCA (Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, Cemex Cement UK and Lafarge Cement UK) are the major domestic manufacturers of Portland cement producing over 90% of the cement sold in the UK.

The cement industry has an annual turnover of £775 million and is a major supplier to the construction industry. It employs around 3,400 people directly with a further 15,000 jobs depending upon its operations.