

01 November 2005

## **TASK FORCE REPORT SEES SUSTAINABILITY AT HEART OF UK CEMENT INDUSTRY**

Goals to ensure the UK cement industry can meet the sustainability challenges it faces throughout its operations are set out in a report by a task force of the British Cement Association (BCA), launched today (01 November 2005) at the House of Commons.

The UK cement industry's Sustainable Development Task Force, made up of representatives from the BCA and its member companies - Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, CEMEX UK and Lafarge UK - undertook the year-long project. It worked to identify and develop a response to the sustainability challenges faced by the industry. The outcome is a programme aimed at achieving more sustainable operation while working more closely with its stakeholders.

The report explains how the industry will maximise the contribution of cement to the delivery of a more sustainable built environment through future climate change control and building efficiency and how it can assist the UK with the delivery of the best feasible environmental options for waste recovery. The industry will also work with government on its proposal to carry out a study into the environmental and health effects of non-municipal waste.

The Task Force has built a sustainability business case for the industry to aid discussion with stakeholders, government departments and agencies; identified stakeholder groups with whom it needs to engage in dialogue; and developed a long-term strategy for management of carbon dioxide emissions. It is producing a cement-makers code and published 'Performance', the cement industry's corporate responsibility report.

Chairman of the Task Force and Managing Director of Lafarge Cement UK, Jean-Francois (Jeff) Sautin, explained: "Sustainability, in all its aspects represents a major challenge to our daily lives. Although we have made significant steps, it has continued to be something with which the cement

industry has wrestled. The Task Force was a logical response: a focused pooling of our resources to identify the challenges we have to meet and set out how we plan to respond to them.

“I am confident we have been able to achieve the first steps in bringing a local perspective to a global dilemma. Our activities have been carried out according to the ‘Cement Sustainability Initiative’, developed by ten international cement companies acting with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. We still have far to go but I am encouraged by the wholehearted support we have received from our colleagues in the industry,” concluded Sautin.

Minister for Industry at the Department of Trade and Industry, the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP, welcomed the initiative. He said: ‘Cement is an essential building material for this country and it is good to see an industry looking to foster a dialogue with those it affects, for the benefit of all. I am pleased that the Dti’s *Pioneers Group* has played a part in helping the industry to follow this route. The group is designed specifically to help industrial sectors in assessing the implications of sustainable development – balancing and integrating commercial environmental and social factors – for the future of business. This sort of joined-up thinking is vital for business and for government.”

The report, “Working towards sustainability”, can be downloaded from [www.cementindustry.co.uk](http://www.cementindustry.co.uk) or copies obtained from BCA, telephone 01276 608700.

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## Notes to editors

1. The Task Force has also identified five areas on which the industry should concentrate over the next 12 months:
  - development of the carbon strategy
  - looking further at health and safety matters associated with communities living near cement operations
  - increasing awareness of the benefits concrete can bring in terms of future climate control and building efficiency
  - continuing dialogue with stakeholders through open forums at national and local levels
  - implementing the cement makers’ code
2. 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, Lafarge Cement UK and Rugby Cement) 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 £750 million and is a major supplier to the construction industry. It employs around 3,500 people directly with a further 15,000 jobs depending upon its operations.

**For further information:**

Martin Casey, Director External Affairs at the British Cement Association, Telephone 01276 608708, mobile 07866 388250, email [mcasey@bca.org.uk](mailto:mcasey@bca.org.uk).

or

Liesel Tipper, Press Officer at the British Cement Association. Telephone 01276 608707, mobile 07870 179769, email [ltipper@bca.org.uk](mailto:ltipper@bca.org.uk)