



**4 September 2007**

**‘Spotlight’ on cement industry’s environmental performance**

The cement industry has today welcomed the launch of the Environment Agency’s Spotlight on business report on environmental performance in 2006, and is encouraged by the Agency’s acknowledgement of the progress in the performance of the cement sector and the development of its sector plan.

Mike Gilbert, BCA Chief Executive, speaking after the launch, said ‘the cement industry has made great strides in its drive towards sustainable production achieving a 29% reduction in direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions between 1990 and 2006, giving a CO<sub>2</sub> saving of over 3.9 million tonnes. In part, the reduction has been achieved through the replacement of primary raw materials and fossil fuels by processing wastes and by-products from other industries into alternative raw materials or fuels for use in the cement kiln.

The industry is also making significant progress against the environmental objectives set by the Agency in the cement sector plan published in November 2005. For example, UK cement manufacturers have achieved a 45% fall in the industry’s total environmental burden to air between 1998 and 2006, within which dust emissions per tonne of cement manufactured have reduced by 60% over this period, while sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions have fallen by 58% and 27% respectively.

The cement industry has been a leader in the publication of environmental information and progress towards the targets in the sector plan is published annually in BCA’s *Performance* report. This relies on the provision of data from the Agency, and work is in progress on improving processes for data collection and collation. The latest edition of *Performance* was issued in August and highlights the industry’s major reduction in use of fossil fuels,

which has been cut by 23% since 1998, and its positive record on waste recovery, with the volumes of cement kiln dust (the largest component of waste) going to landfill falling by 75% since 1998.

The cement sector plan also lays down performance indicators for the Environment Agency itself which the BCA notes they are striving to meet.

Overall, the cement industry is pleased that the Agency acknowledges the continually improving environmental performance of the sector, and looks forward to working with them on the further development of the sector plan, and the reporting of environmental performance in "Spotlight" and *Performance*.

-ENDS-

**For further information:**

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**Notes to editors:**

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 (Tarmac Buxton Lime and Cement, Castle Cement, Cemex 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 3,500 people directly with a further 15,000 jobs depending upon its operations.

A copy of both the cement sector plan and *Performance 2007* can be downloaded from [www.cementindustry.co.uk](http://www.cementindustry.co.uk) . The cement sector plan uses 1998 as the base year for performance measurement.

Wastes processed into alternative fuels for use in the cement kiln include scrap tyres, meat and bone meal, processed sewage pellets, waste solvents. By-products from other industries used as alternative raw materials include ground granulated blastfurnace slag, a by-product from the iron making industry, and pulverised fly ash from coal burning power stations.

The base year of 1990 for the measurement of CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions is used to reflect the signing of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is an amendment to the international [treaty](#) on [climate change](#), assigning mandatory emission limitations for the reduction of [greenhouse gas](#) emissions to the

signatory nations. The objective of the protocol is the 'stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system'.