

Cement Industry Open Week



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The European Cement Association

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CEMENT INDUSTRY OPEN WEEK



Cement plays a key role in our lives: it is an essential material for all types of construction, including housing, roads, schools, hospitals, dams and harbours. The most important use of cement is in the production of concrete, acting as the binder gluing the other key ingredients of concrete – water, air, sand and gravel.



A study performed by the National Research Council of Canada (NRCC) concludes that, due to less friction, **the full net CO₂ savings** per mile travelled by tractor trailers (goods vehicles) on concrete roads amounts to **6% less than on asphalt roads.**



In the EU, CO₂ emissions from buildings represent 40% of total CO₂ emissions, according to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) (2002/91/EC). Concrete, due to its high thermal mass, can reduce **heating energy consumption by 2 – 15%.**

In addition, intelligent combinations of heating, natural ventilation, solar shading and building design can **reduce energy use for cooling and related CO₂ emissions by up to 50%.**



Another major emitter of CO₂ in Europe and in the world is **traffic.** In the EU, CO₂ emissions from **transport amount to 28% of total CO₂ emissions** and these are on the increase.

Scientists expect climate change over the next few decades to have a substantial impact on society, resulting in higher temperatures, increased rainfall and more extreme weather. Concrete can help society to adapt to climate change, as it provides homes which are both temperature and flood resilient, it is an essential element in flood defences, as well as in managing rainwater, drainage and sewage.



In France the Normandy bridge across the Seine estuary, a gateway between Northern and Southern France as well as to the West coast, allows a reduction of travel time of 20 minutes for cars, 25 minutes for lorries, leading to an **average gain of time of 300 000 hrs and a saving of about 3 500 tonnes of oil equivalent each year**, with the corresponding reduction of CO₂ emissions.