

SCA  
SLAG CEMENT  
ASSOCIATION

# Slag Cements Role in Sustainable Concrete

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Professor  
Doug Hooton



# Agenda

## Overview of Performance Benefits

- Defining & the specifications
- Positive effects in concrete
- Durability benefits

## Overview of Sustainable Benefits

- Goal to net zero using Slag and PLC
- Conveying lower carbon benefits
- Measurement tools to convey lower carbon concrete message

# SCMs: Why Complicate the Mix?

(If portland cement has worked, why add Supplementary Cementitious Materials such as Slag cement?)

1. To use up  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$  byproduct of cement hydration to form more Calcium-Silica Hydrates (C-S-H)
2. To strengthen the aggregate/paste bond in the Interfacial Transition Zones (ITZ) around aggregate
3. To remove excess alkalis from pore water
4. To increase binding of chloride ions in aluminate phases
5. To increase sulfate resistance
6. To help lower heat of hydration.
7. To reduce “energy” & environmental footprint

# Slag Cement Specifications

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the page, creating a modern, layered effect. The text is centered on the left side of the page.

# Slag Cement in Concrete

## Standard Specifications

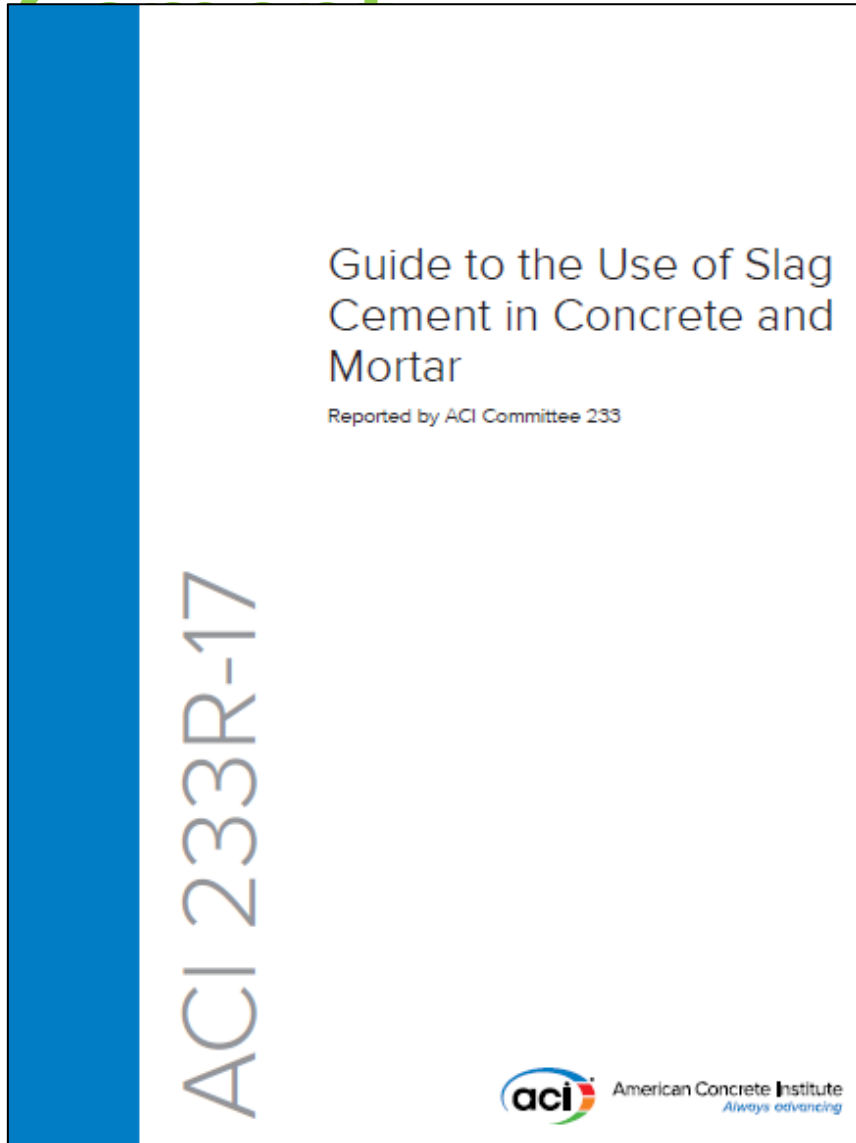
Slag cement as a constituent of blended cement

- ▶ **ASTM C595** or **AASHTO M 240** Standard Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements
  - ▶ Type IS(35) = 65% PC + 35% Slag
  - ▶ Type IT(S25)(P15) = 60% PC + 25% Slag + 15% Pozzolan
  - ▶ Type IT(S25)(L10) = 65% PC + 25% Slag + 10% Limestone

Slag cement as an SCM in concrete

- ▶ **ASTM C989** or **AASHTO M 302** Standard Specification for Slag Cement for Use in Concrete and Mortar or **CAN/CSA-A3000-98** Cementitious Materials Compendium

# Reference Guide on Slag



A good document to start with

ON

PRODUCT TYPES  
, AND BATCHING  
CONCRETE CONTAINING SLAG CEMENT  
PROPERTIES OF FRESH CONCRETE  
PROPERTIES OF HARDENED CONCRETE AND

APPLICATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT



# PLC for Special Properties

## Cement modifiers

Sulfate resistance – MS, HS

Sulfate-containing soils

Sulfate-containing groundwaters

Heat of hydration – LH, MH

For mass concrete placements

No counterparts in CSA

High-early strength – HE

For precast concrete

New in August 2021

Cement type	OPC C150 (M 85)	PLC C595 (M 240)	PLC CSA A3000
<b>General use</b>	I	IL	GUL, GULb
<b>moderate sulfate resistance</b>	II, II(MS)	IL(MS)	MSL
<b>moderate heat of hydration</b>	II(MH)	IL(MH)	-
<b>high sulfate resistance</b>	V	IL(HS)	HSL
<b>low heat of hydration</b>	IV	IL(LH)	-
<b>high-early strength</b>	III	IL(HE)	HEL, HELb



# Next Evolution and transition towards zero

## Current

- ▶ PLC

## Future

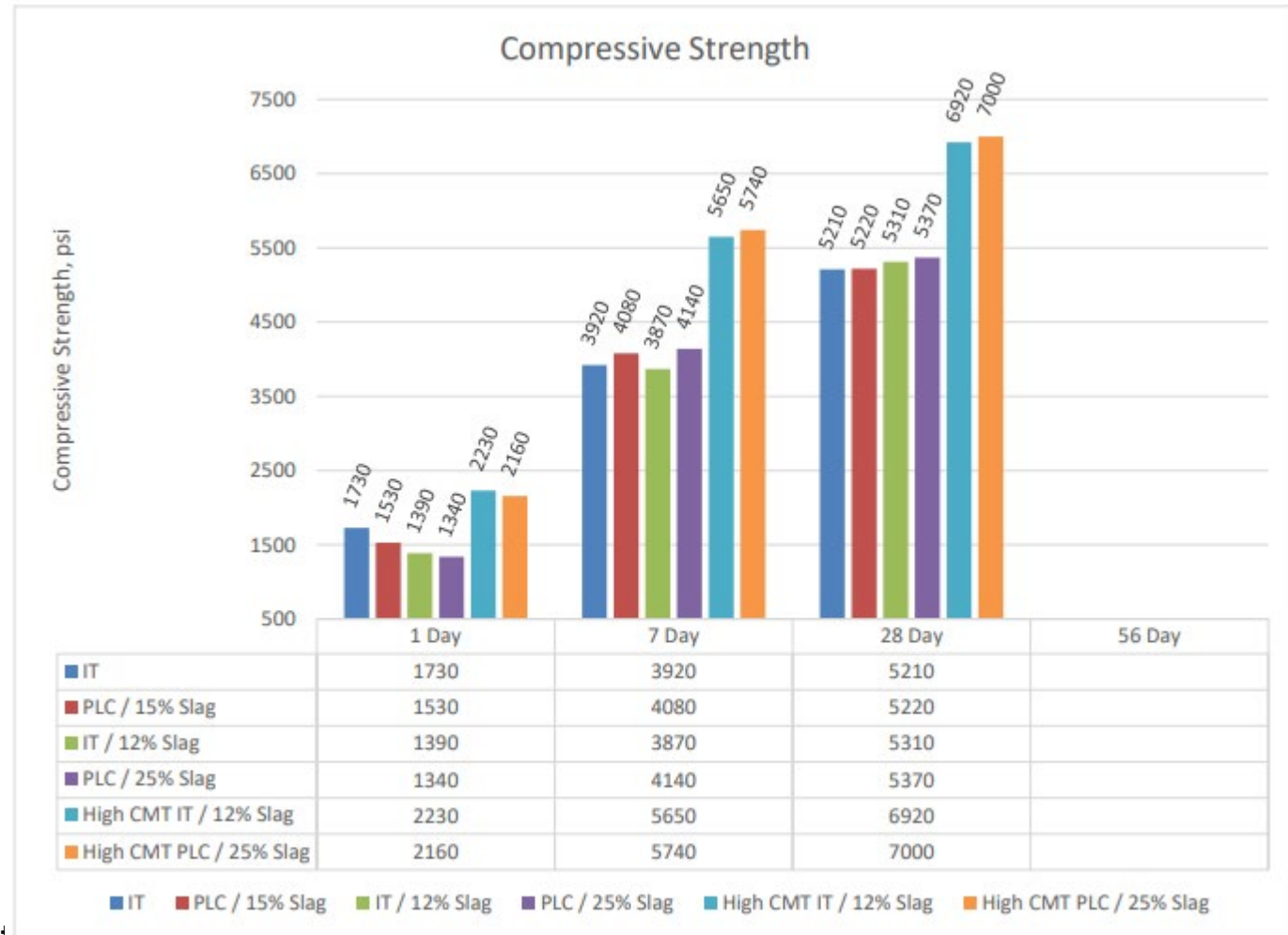
- ▶ IT Limestone blend with slag or scm
- ▶ High Early Limestone PLC HE
- ▶ New SCM's
  - ▶ Calcined clays
  - ▶ Volcanic ash
  - ▶ Ground glass
  - ▶ Harvested ash

# ASTM C595 Ternary blend slag with limestone

## Concrete compressive strength

### Legend

- ▶ Low strength mixes (505lb w/cm 0.56)
  - ▶ IT 15% slag 12% limestone
  - ▶ Plc 15% slag addition
  - ▶ IT 12% slag addition
  - ▶ Plc 25% slag addition
- ▶ High Strength mixes (611lb w/cm 0.46)
  - IT 15% slag 12% limestone
  - Plc 15% slag addition



\*

# EPD- envirocemplus vs envirocem

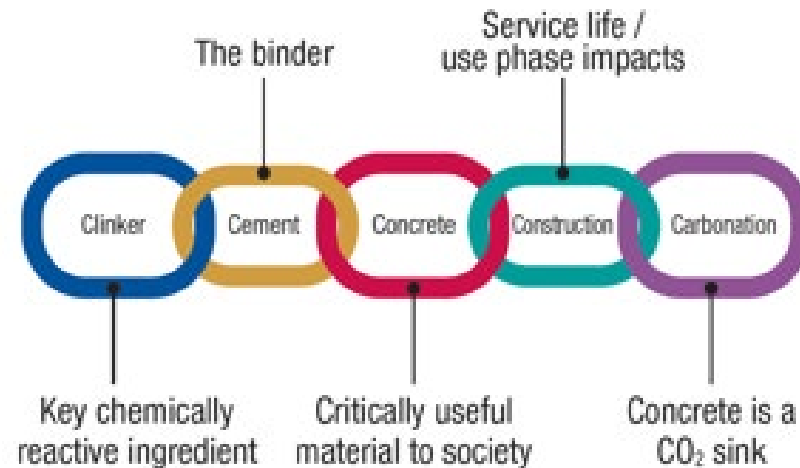
## Core environmental impact indicators

### A1-A3. Product

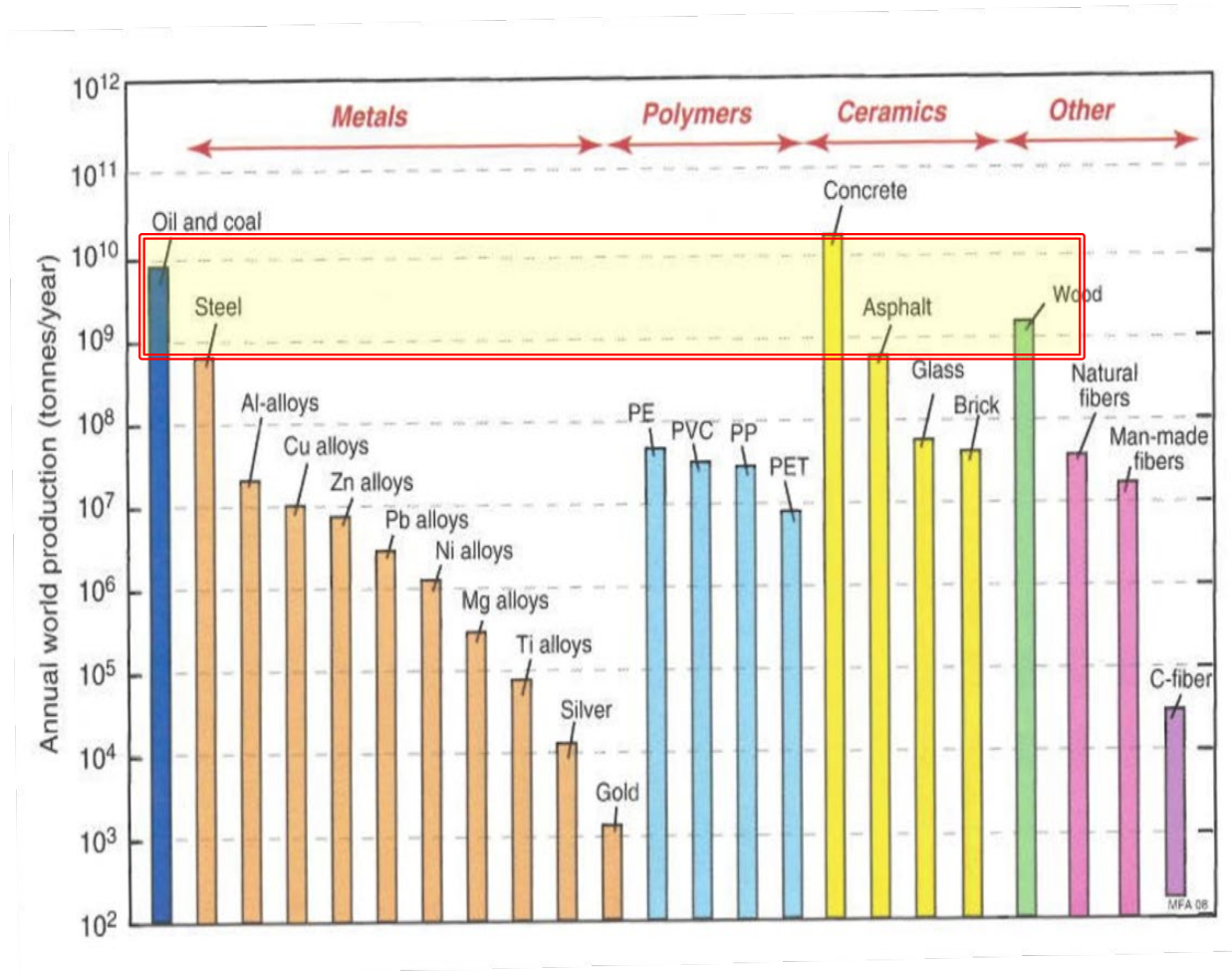
Indicator	DET Cement (Type IT (L12) (S15)) - 2022 data - final	DET Cement (Type IL) - 2022 data - final	Unit
Global warming potential	669.8	805.3	kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.
Global warming potential, biogenic	0.3569	0.4532	kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.
Depletion potential of the stratospheric ozone layer	1.729E-5	2.014E-5	kg CFC 11 eq.
Acidification potential of soil and water sources	5.315	6.402	kg SO <sub>2</sub> eq.
Eutrophication potential	0.6882	0.8423	kg N eq.
Photochemical oxidant creation potential	39.87	47.82	kg O <sub>3</sub> eq.
Abiotic depletion potential for non-fossil mineral resources	9.458E-5	1.110E-4	kg Sb eq.
Abiotic depletion potential for fossil resources	3398	4041	MJ, net calorific value

# General Overview of Sustainable Benefits from Slag Cement Concrete

# 2050 Road maps to carbon Neutrality in concrete



# Concrete is the most used material next to water



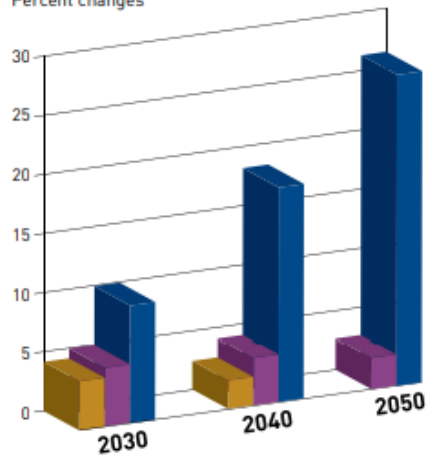
From Ashby 2009

# 2050 Road maps to carbon Neutrality in concrete



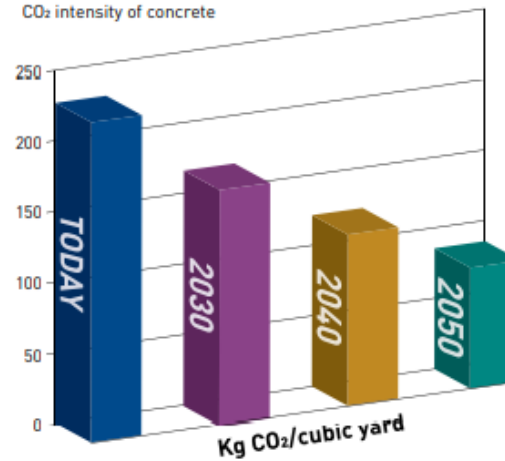
## Optimizing concrete: Pushing performance

HOW WE'LL GET THERE  
Percent changes



- Reduced mfr. CO<sub>2</sub>
- Reduced transport. CO<sub>2</sub>
- Improvements in mix design

THE RESULTS  
CO<sub>2</sub> intensity of concrete



**Optimized concrete:** Efficient manufacturing and transportation, zero waste, optimized mixtures engineered for peak performance

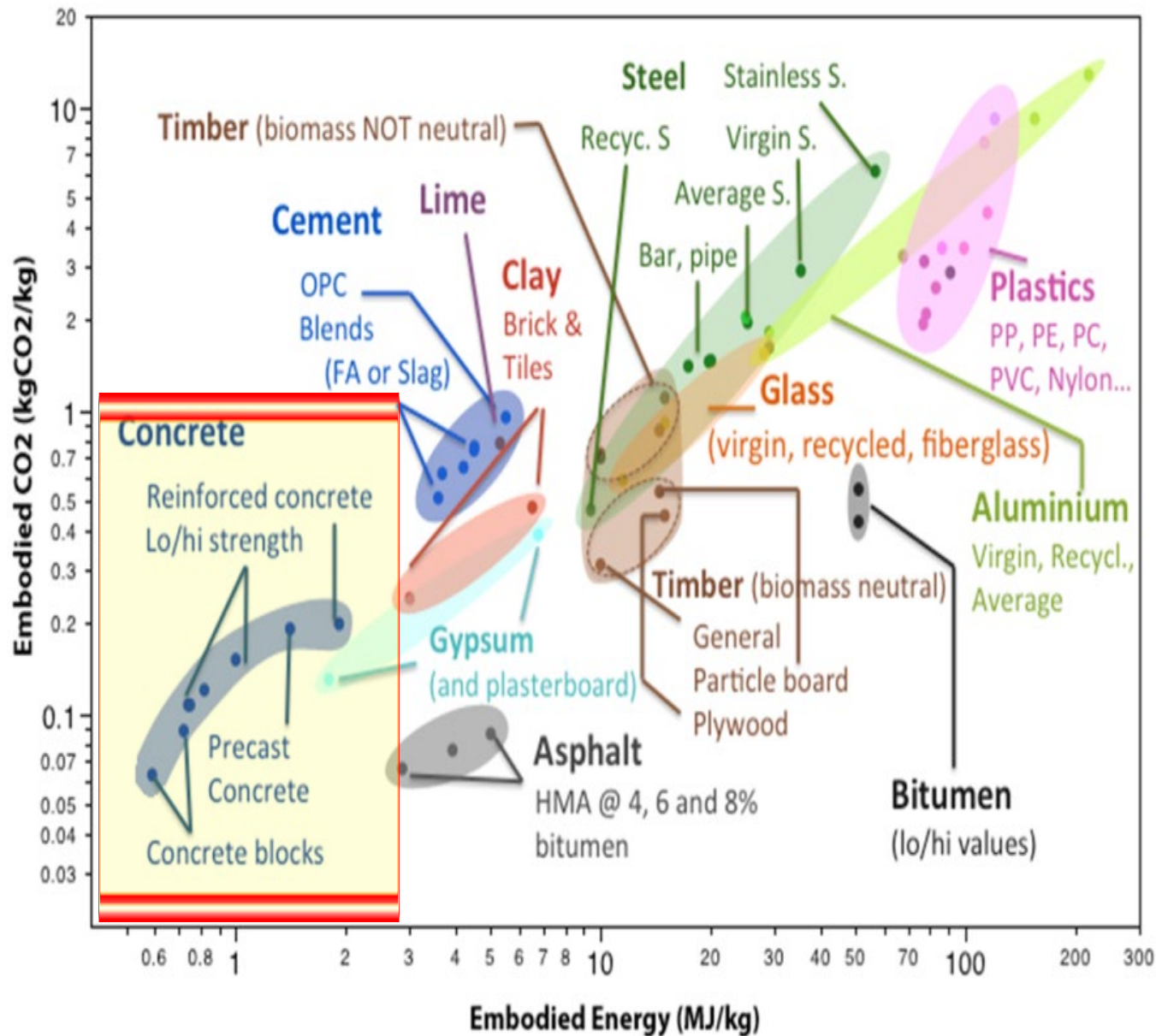
# Understanding Carbon

## ▶ Key Terms

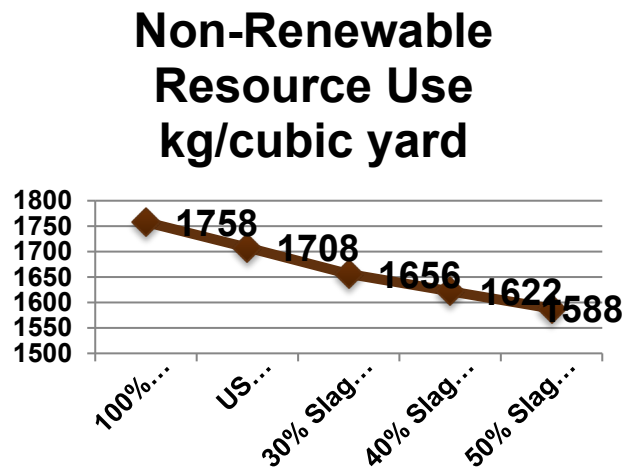
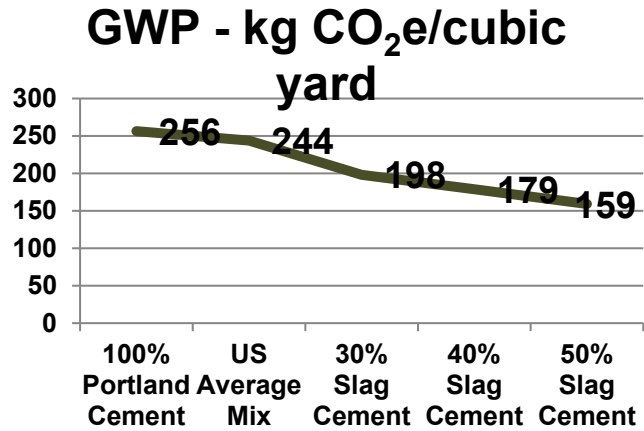
- ▶ **Operational Carbon:** Carbon load created by the use of energy to heat and power a building - 28% of total emissions
- ▶ **Embodied Carbon\*:** The greenhouse gasses that are emitted to construct structures and buildings - 11% of total emissions
- ▶ **Carbon:** term used to indicate all greenhouse gas emissions, not just CO2
- ▶ **(EPD) Environmental Product Declaration:** document that quantifies environmental information on the life cycle of a product to enable comparisons between products fulfilling the same function
- ▶ **(PCR) Product Category Rules:** documents that provide rules, requirements, and guidelines for developing an product EPD
- ▶ **(LCA) Life Cycle Assessment:** process to evaluate, assess, and improve the environmental burdens associated with a process, product, or activity by identifying and quantifying energy and materials used and wastes released to the environment.

\*Some consider embodied carbon to include the entire life cycle of a building, including the operational carbon. As we are discussing building materials, we will focus on **initial embodied carbon, or the impacts associated with extracting, manufacturing, and transporting materials to a jobsite.**

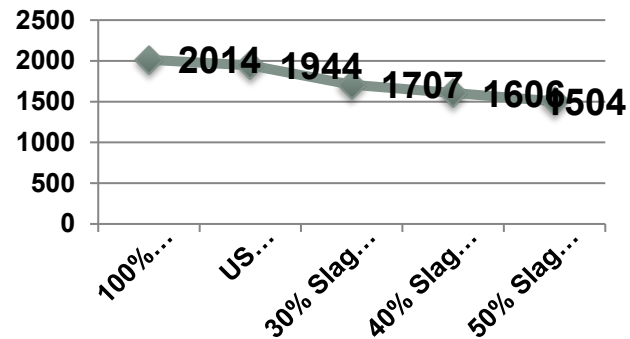




# LCA Results for Concrete



### Primary Energy Consumption MJ/cubic yard

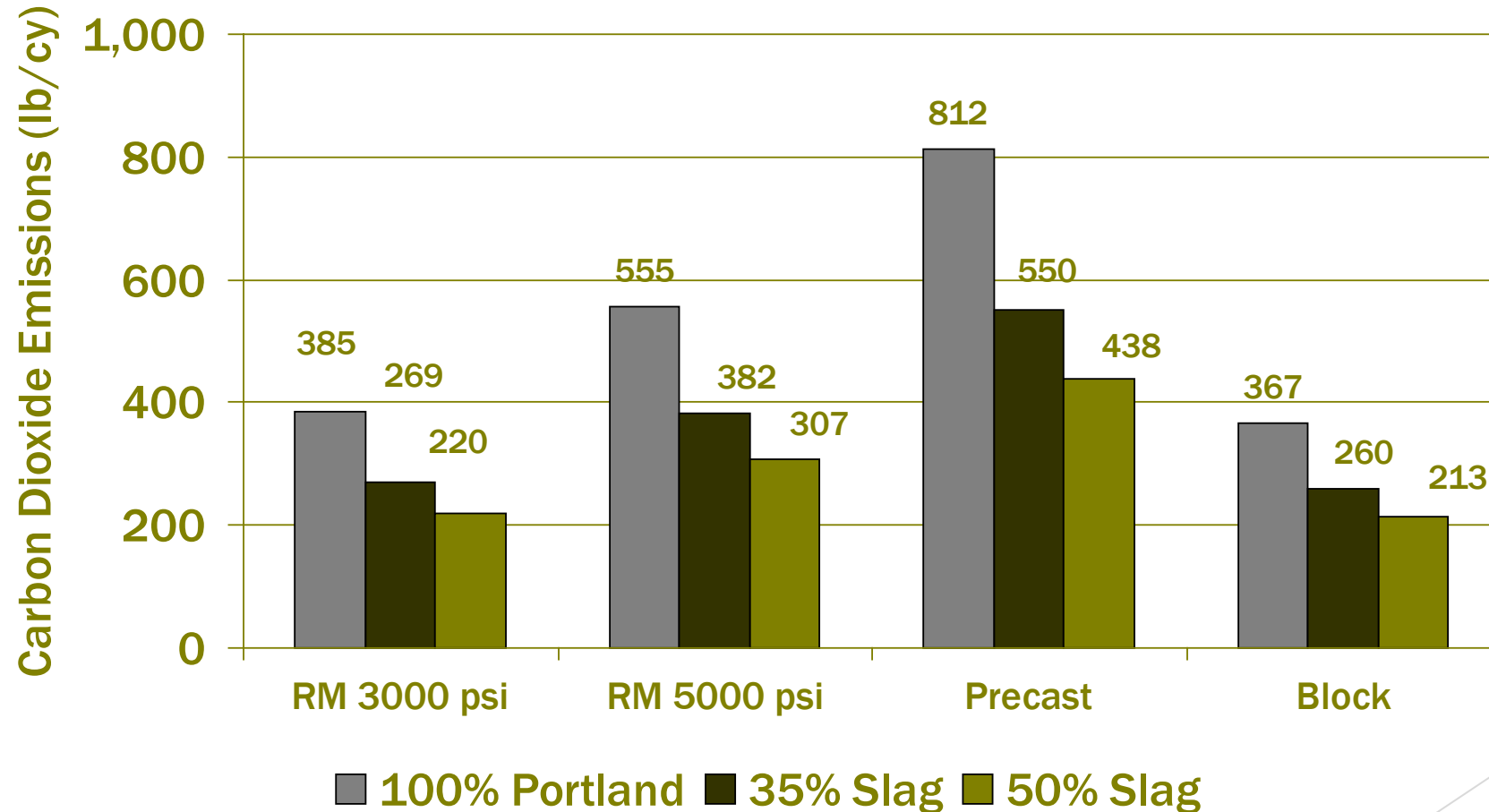


## 3,000 psi Mix Design

Possible savings...

- 100 kg CO<sub>2</sub>
- 200 kg of resources
- 500 MJ of energy

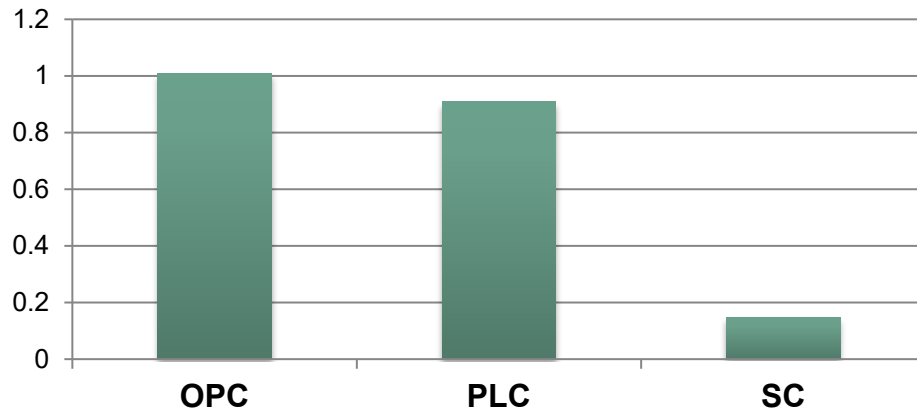
# Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> to Produce Concrete and Concrete Products



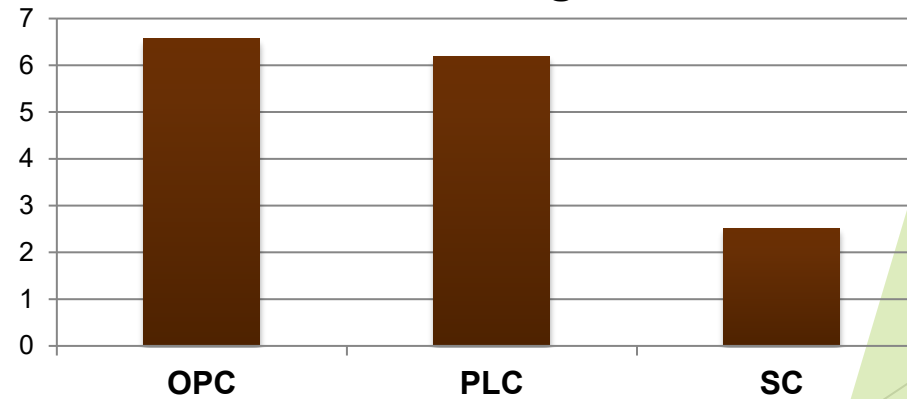
# LCA Results

Slag Cement relative to Ordinary Portland Cement & Portland Limestone Cement ....

**Global Warming Potential  
(kg CO<sub>2</sub> equiv./kg)**



**Primary Energy Consumption  
MJ /kg**



OPC - 92% clinker, 3% limestone, 5% gypsum

PLC - 82% clinker, 13% limestone, 5% gypsum

# What is PLC?



## A greener cement option

A blended cement with additional limestone content, optimized for performance

The easiest way to reduce your carbon footprint by about 10%

Suitable for buildings, bridges, pavements, geotechnical applications

Available throughout the U.S

[www.greencement.com](http://www.greencement.com) for more information on:

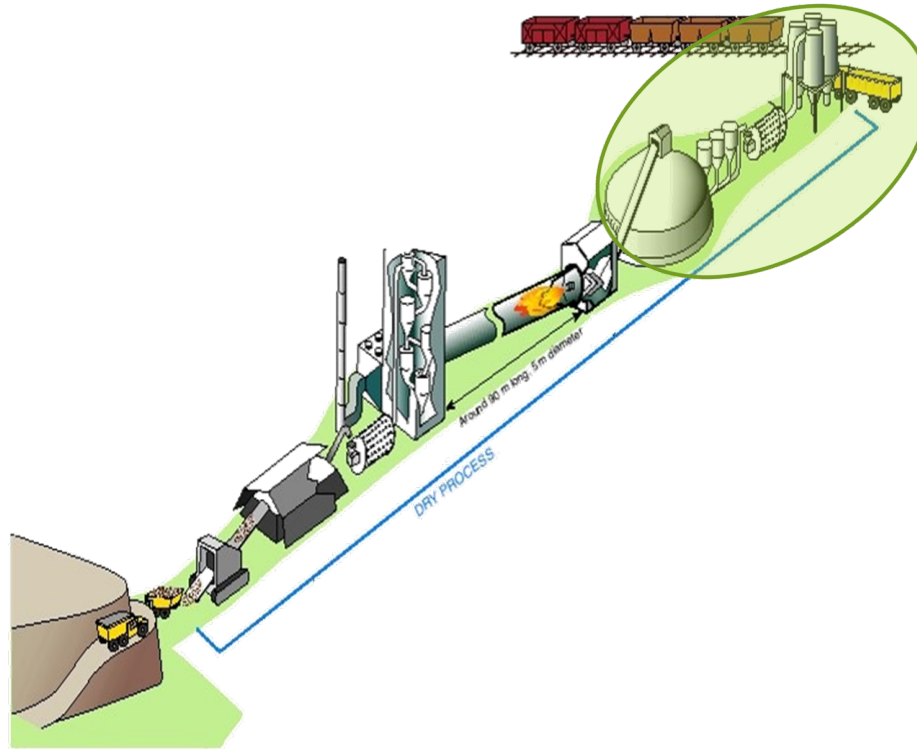
- Specification help
- Case stud applications
- Technical papers
- Sustainable GWP tool for quick application calculations

**Same durability.  
Same resilience.  
10% carbon footprint reduction.\***

Portland-limestone cement is engineered with a higher limestone content. PLC (Type IL) gives specifiers, architects, engineers, producers, and designers a greener way to execute any structure, paving, or geotech project, with virtually no modifications to mix design or placing procedures. All while maintaining the resilience and sustainability you've come to expect from portland cement concrete.

\*Typically, PLC can reduce your carbon footprint by 10%.

# What is PLC Cement



## ► What is PLC?

- Type IL blended cement in ASTM C595/AASHTO M 240
  - 5% to 15% limestone by mass
- Option to implement proven technology to obtain desired performance and improve sustainability of concrete

# 2030/2050 How do we accomplish this?



## Use Smart

Do the materials you use need to be new? Are there recycled or salvaged materials that can be used instead of creating new materials?



## Build Smart

Use materials, tools, and resources available to build the best product (outcome) that will also reduce the carbon impact. Life Cycle Assessment, and other modeling tools are available to compare the use of different materials



## Buy Smart

Use Environmental Product Declarations as the “nutrition label” of a products environmental impact.



# Sustainable Metrics



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## GSA Announces Actions to Reduce Emissions from Building Materials

February 15, 2022

*GSA releases two requests for information to gather insights on sustainable, low-emission concrete and asphalt materials*

**WASHINGTON** — Today, as part of a governmentwide effort to strengthen American leadership on clean manufacturing, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) [announced](#) actions to reduce emissions from building materials. GSA released two requests for information (RFIs) to gather current marketplace insights from industry, including small businesses, on the national availability of [concrete](#) and [asphalt](#) materials with environmental product declarations, low embodied carbon or superior environmental attributes. GSA will also participate in the first ever Buy Clean Task Force established by The White House Council on Environmental Quality to find ways to harness the federal government's massive purchasing power to support low-carbon materials.



- Construction product assemblies can also qualify for IRA funding where at least 80% of the assembly's total cost or total weight comprises IRA-qualifying material such as low embodied carbon cement.

GSA IRA Limits for Low Embodied Carbon Cement - May 16, 2023 (EPD-Reported GWPs, in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per metric ton - kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/ t)		
Top 20% Limit	Top 40% Limit	Better Than Average Limit
751	819	858

## Industry EPD's

- PCA industry Type I  
922 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- PCA industry Type II  
844 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT

### GSA top 20% limit

- Detroit MI Type IT (15s)  
668 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Fleetwood PA type IS40  
531 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Mississauga ON Type IL  
742 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Mason City IA Type IL  
687 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Ste. Genevieve MO Type IL  
724 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Whitehall PA Type IT(25s)  
682 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT

### GSA top 40% limit

- Bath ON Type IL  
771 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Detroit MI Type II  
796 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Miami FL Type IL  
758 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Mojave CA Type IL  
815 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- San Antonio TX Type II  
759 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Union Bridge MD Type II  
801 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT

### GSA better than average

- Fleetwood PA type IS40  
531 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Picton ON Type IL  
828 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Ragland AL Type IL  
844 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Redding CA Type I/II  
820 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- San Antonio TX Type II  
828 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Whitehall PA Type II  
847 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT

### GSA above the limit

- Alpena MI Type II  
984 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Charlevoix MI Type II  
995 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Greencastle IN Type II  
1023 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Harleyville SC Type II  
889 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Leeds AL Type II  
867 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT
- Rapid City SD Type II  
893 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/MT

# Owner's low carbon requirements

## The NYS Buy Clean Concrete guidelines

**Effective June 2022:** The Law is intended to increase the: use and innovation of low carbon concrete in state procurement projects.

**Maximum GWP (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e) Limits for NYS Buy Clean Concrete guidelines  
(relevant for Phase 1 and Phase 2)**

Specified compressive strength (f'c in PSI)	NYS Buy Clean Concrete GWP Limits (in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per cubic yard - kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/ y <sup>3</sup> )	
0 - 2500	275	
2501 - 3000	302	
3001 - 4000	360	
4001 - 5000	434	
5001 - 6000	458	
6001 - 8000	541	

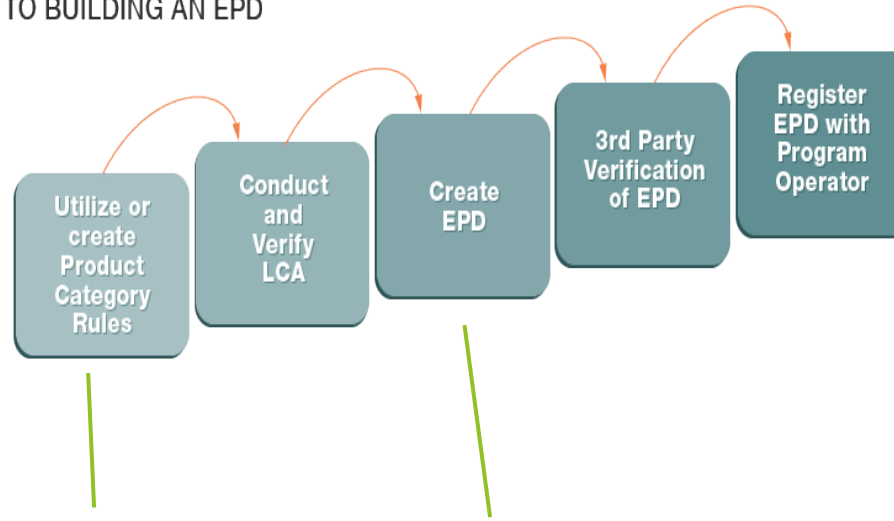
2501 to 3000	410	289
3001 to 4000	456	313
4001 to 5000	503	338
5001 to 6000	531	356
6001 to 7000	594	394
7001 and higher	657	433
up to 3000 light weight	512	578
3001--4000 light weight	571	626
4001--5000 light weight	629	675

Specified concrete strength class (compressive strength [f'c] in pounds per square inch [PSI])	GSA IRA Limits for Low Embodied Carbon Concrete - May 16, 2023 (EPD-Reported GWPs, in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per cubic meter - kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/ m <sup>3</sup> )		
	Top 20% Limit	Top 40% Limit	Better Than Average Limit
≤2499	228	261	277
3000	257	291	318
4000	284	326	352
5000	305	357	382
6000	319	374	407
≥7200	321	362	402

Add 30% to these numbers for GWP limits where high early strength<sup>1</sup> concrete mixes are required for technical reasons.

# What is an EPD?

## STEPS TO BUILDING AN EPD



PCR = Guideline EPD = Communication  
"Nutrition label"

## EPD "Nutrition" Label

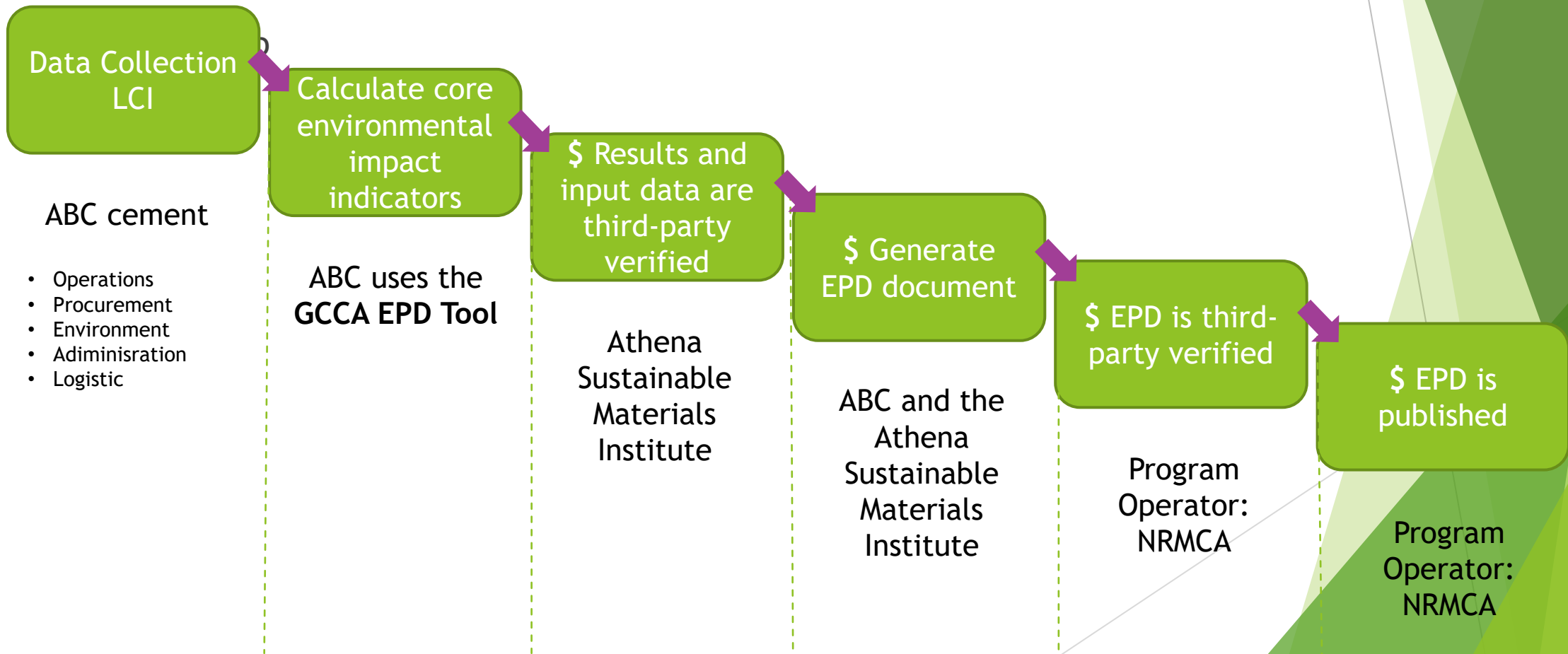
### Your Building Product

Amount per Unit

LCA IMACT MEASURES	TOTAL
Primary Energy (MJ)	12.4
Global Warming Potential (kg CO <sup>2</sup> eq)	0.96
Ozone Depletion (kg CFC-11 eq)	1.80E-08
Acidification Potential (mol H <sup>+</sup> eq)	0.93
Eutrophication Potential (kg N <sup>-</sup> eq)	6.43E-04
Photo-Oxidant Creation Potential (kg O <sub>3</sub> eq)	0.121

Your Product's Ingredients: Listed Here

# EPDs - ABC Process example





# Ready Mixed Concrete LCA Calculator for Slag Cement - Version 3.0



**Athena**  
Sustainable Materials  
Institute

Adjust Slag Cement %

Select Mix to Adjust

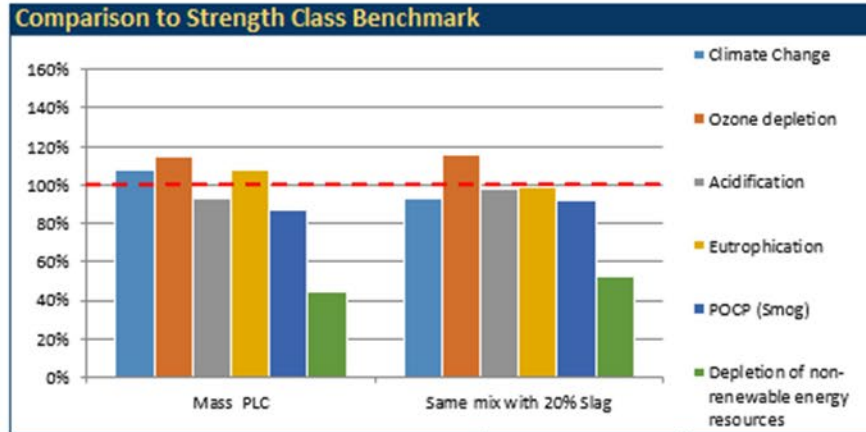
Select Region

Bui

Slag Cement %

Region

Concrete Mix		
Mix ID	Mass PLC	Same mix with 20% Slag
Slag Cement (%)	#DIV/0!	20%
Strength (psi)	3000	3000
Portland Cement (lb)	0	0
Portland Limestone Cement (lb)	470	376
Masonry Cement (lb)	0	0
Slag Cement (lb)	0	94
Fly Ash (lb)	0	0
Crushed Coarse Aggregate (lb)	1750	1750
Natural Coarse Aggregate (lb)	1540	1540
Crushed Fine Aggregate (lb)	0	0
Natural Fine Aggregate (lb)	0	0
Manufactured Lightweight Aggregate (lb)	0	0
Accelerating Admixture-Chlorides (oz)	0	0
Air Entraining Admixture (oz)	0	0
Water Reducing Admixture - plasticizer (oz)	18	18
High Range Water Reducing Admixture - superplasticizer (oz)	0	0
Water (gal)	30	30



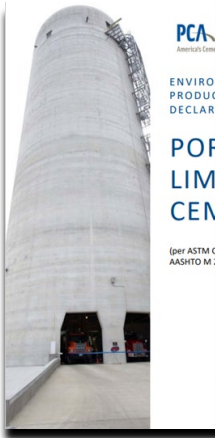
	Mix ID	Mass PLC	Same mix with 20% Slag
Strength (PSI) of Relevant Benchmark		3000	3000
Climate Change	108%		93%
Ozone depletion	114%		116%
Acidification	93%		98%
Eutrophication	108%		99%
POCP (Smog)	87%		92%
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources	45%		52%

### Additional Mix Options

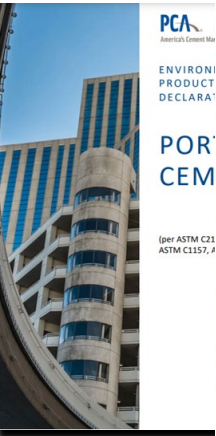
Mix ID	Mass PLC	Same mix with 20% Slag
Crushed Demolition Concrete (lb)	0	0
Crushed Returned Concrete (lb)	0	0
Fly Ash (processed) (lb)	0	0
Mineral Fillers (lb)	0	0
Road Dust Control Chemicals (lb)	0	0
Silica Fume (no processing) (lb)	0	0
Steel Fibers (lb)	0	0
Synthetic Fibers (lb)	0	0
Accelerating Admixture-Non Chlorides (oz)	0	0
Corrosion Inhibiting Admixture (oz)	0	0
Shrinkage Reducing Admixture (oz)	0	0
Water Retarding Admixture (oz)	0	0
Waterproofing Admixture (oz)	0	0
Grease (lb)	0	0

### Life Cycle Assessment Results

Metric	Mix ID	Mass PLC	Same mix with 20% Slag
Climate Change (kg CO2-eq)	210.33		181.25
Ozone depletion (kg CFC-11-eq)	0.00		0.00
Acidification (kg SO2-eq)	0.57		0.60
Eutrophication (kg N-eq)	0.28		0.26
Photochemical Ozone Creation/Smog (kg O3-eq)	10.57		11.19
Abiotic Depletion Potential ADPf (MJ)	319.85		325.49
Abiotic Depletion Potential ADPe (kg Sb eq.)	0.00		0.00
Use of renewable primary energy (MJ)	38.77		35.63
Use of non-renewable primary energy (MJ)	563.35		652.10
Fresh water consumption (m3)	0.41		0.38



PCA  
America's Green  
ENVIRO  
PRODUCT  
DECLAR  
POF  
LIM  
CEN  
(per ASTM C  
ASHITO M.)



PCA  
America's Green  
ENVIRO  
PRODUCT  
DECLAR  
POR  
CEM  
(per ASTM C31  
ASTM C1157.1)



RAGE EPD FOR



al Product Declaration

# Current Industry EPD's for OPC, GUL and Slag cement

LCA Results - Type OPC/PLC/Slag one metric ton - absolute basis

Category Indicator	Unit	Total		
		OPC	PLC	Slag
TRACI v.2.1 Category Indicators				
Global Warming Potential (GWP)	kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq	922	846	147.0
Acidification Potential (AP)	kg N eq.	1.75	1.64	2.0
Eutrophication Potential (EP)	kg O <sub>2</sub> eq.	1.02	0.94	0.33
Smog Creation Potential (POCP)	kg O <sub>3</sub> eq.	32.9	30.2	37.6
Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP)	kg CFC -11 eq.	2.10E-05	2.17 E-05	2.4E-05

# Slag Cement LCA Results - 1 metric tonne

EPD Summary Results - One metric ton of slag cement

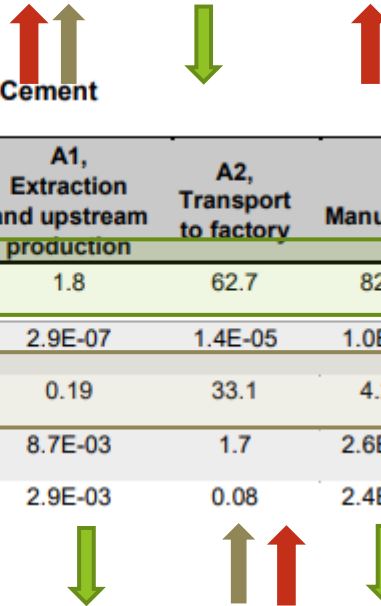
Category Indicator	Unit	Raw Material Supply	Transport	Manufacturing	Total
		A1	A2	A3	
Global warming potential	kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	4.6	57.0	85	146.6
Acidification potential	kg SO <sub>2</sub> eq.	0.2	1.2	0.7	2.1
Eutrophication potential	kg N eq.	0.01	0.05	0.21	0.27
Smog creation potential	kg O <sub>3</sub> eq.	0.4	20.2	5.8	26.5
Ozone depletion potential	kg CFC-11 eq.	4.21E-07	9.57E-06	6.9E-06	1.69E-05

2015 EPD

Production stage EPD Results for one metric ton of Slag Cement

Impact category and inventory indicators	Unit	A1, Extraction and upstream production	A2, Transport to factory	A3, Manufacturing	Total
Global warming potential, GWP 100 <sup>1)</sup> , AR5	kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq	1.8	62.7	82.6	147.0
Ozone depletion potential, ODP <sup>2)</sup>	kg CFC-11 eq	2.9E-07	1.4E-05	1.0E-05	2.4E-05
Smog formation potential, SFP <sup>2)</sup>	kg O <sub>3</sub> eq	0.19	33.1	4.28	37.6
Acidification potential, AP <sup>2)</sup>	kg SO <sub>2</sub> eq	8.7E-03	1.7	2.6E-01	2.0
Eutrophication potential, EP <sup>2)</sup>	kg N eq	2.9E-03	0.08	2.4E-01	0.33

2021 EPD

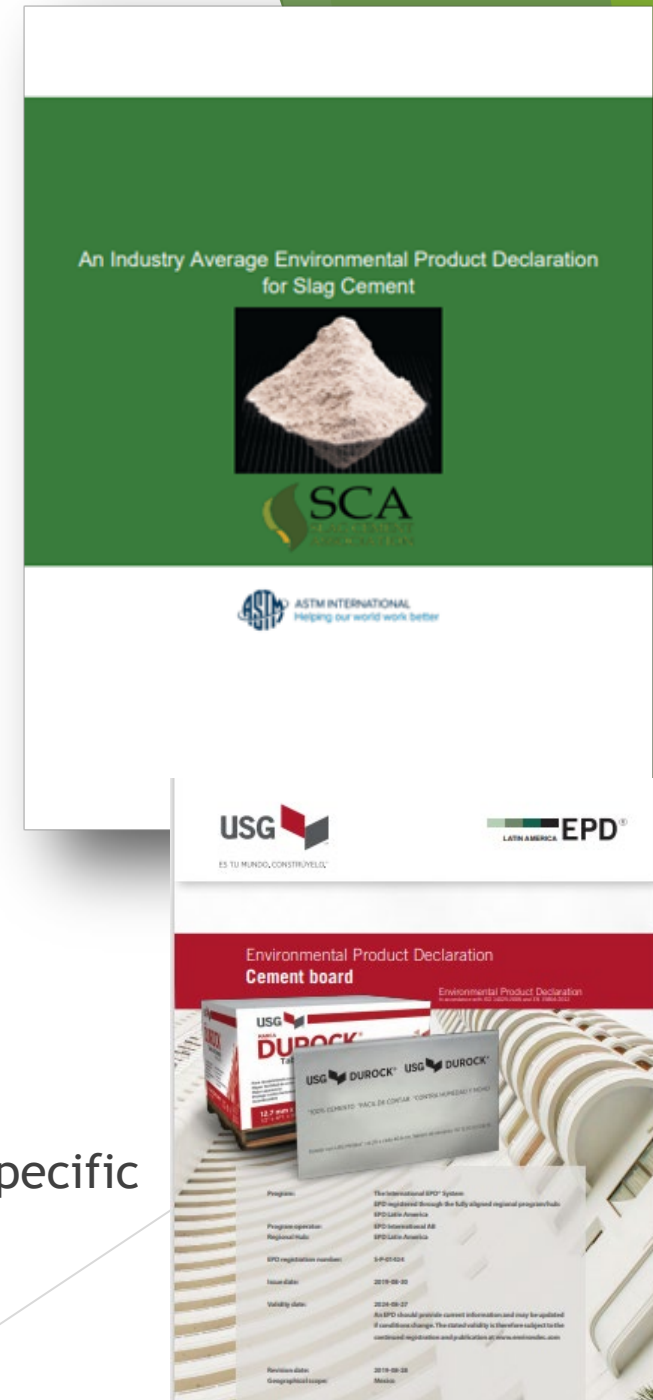


# Environmental Initiatives LEED v4

## MRc2: Building Product Disclosure and Optimization: Environmental Product Declaration (Possible 2 Points)

- ❖ **OPTION 1. Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) (1 Point)**
- ❖ Use at least 20 different permanently installed products sourced from at least five different manufacturers (v4.1 is now 10 epd's)
- ❖ Industry Wide EPD = ½ product, Product Specific Type III EPD = whole product (v4.1 industry 1pt)
- ❖ Product Specific Type III EPD = whole product (v4.1 TIII Specific 1.5 pts)

► Company Specific





# Example of low carbon concrete using slag cement -SCA EPD tool example

- ▶ Owner: Federal Agency Building 10 story concrete frame structure
  - ▶ Project Funding: Funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
    - ▶ *GSA low-emission concrete requirement for funding “GWP reduction aka lower carbon concrete”*
    - ▶ *LEED New Construction Platinum Building*
  - ▶ General Contactor specialized in low carbon concrete awarded job
    - ▶ Designer/ engineering firm likes slag cement as a lever to lower gwp
    - ▶ Concrete Contractor A: mass foundation concrete and concrete columns
      - ▶ Concrete Contractor Sub: post tension decks
    - ▶ Ready Mix Concrete Producer
      - ▶ NRMCA Industry EPD Participant
      - ▶ Cementitious Suppler A has industry EPDs for below products
        - ▶ PLC plus has product specific EPD
        - ▶ Slag Cement
      - ▶ **Cementitious Suppler B**
        - ▶ OPC no product disclosure
- ▶ MRC2 LEED EPD credit
  - ▶ V4 7.5/20 EPD (3 products)
    - ▶ NRMCA,SCA,PCA
    - ▶ Type III PLC
  - ▶ V4.1 13.5/10 (3 products)
    - ▶ NRMCA,SCA,PCA (1pt each)
    - ▶ Type III 1.5 pt

# Cementitious solution options

- ▶ Cement Supplier A
  - ▶ Can support leed credit for supplying EPD's
  - ▶ Support durability aspects for structure
  - ▶ Support mass concrete heat of hydration
  - ▶ Materials have environmental impact numbers available
  - ▶ Ability to communicate project GWP reduction (after design)
    - ▶ SCA EPD tool Calculator for design
    - ▶ Concrete material specific EPD "information after design"
  
- ▶ Cement Supplier B
  - ▶ Project will need to use prescriptive measures
  - ▶ Project will need to find other avenues for carbon reduction and leed credits

	<b>Cement limits</b> for use with prescriptive compliance methods 19.07.050.1 and 19.07.050.2	<b>GWP limits</b> for use with performance compliance methods 19.07.050.3 and 19.07.050.4
Minimum specified compressive strength f <sub>c</sub> , psi (5)	Maximum ordinary Portland cement content, lbs/yc <sup>3</sup> (1, 2, 4)	Maximum Global Warming Potential, GWP, kg CO <sub>2</sub> e /m <sup>3</sup>
up to 2500 (3,4)	362	260
2501 to 3000	410	289
3001 to 4000	456	313
4001 to 5000	503	338
5001 to 6000	531	356
6001 to 7000	594	394
7001 and higher	657	433
up to 3000 light weight	512	578
3001--4000 light weight	571	626
4001--5000 light weight	629	675

# Job Site mixes

- ▶ Option A OPC
  - ▶ Prescriptive (\_\_\_)
    - ▶ 410 lbs max for 3000 psi
    - ▶ 531 lbs max for 5000 psi
  
- ▶ Option B PLC
  
- ▶ Option C PLC with Slag
  - ▶ 65% slag in mass concrete
  - ▶ 35% slag in columns

	Mix 1 3000 psi mass	Mix 2 5000 psi columns and floors	
Volume	6000 yds	7000 yds	
Cementitious	470 (410)	611 (531)	
Fine Aggregate	1540	1380	
Course Aggregate	1750	1750	
Water	250 lbs	250	
WR	18 oz	24 oz	
Super P		48 oz	

## Life Cycle Assessment Calculator

Sustainability > Life Cycle Assessment Calculator

> Life Cycle Assessment Calculator

### Slag Cement Life Cycle Assessment Calculator

The Slag Cement Association (SCA) commissioned the Athena Institute to produce this Ready Mixed Concrete Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Calculator for Slag Cement - Version 1.0. It now allows you to calculate the environmental impacts of using slag cement in ready mixed concrete. The LCA calculator allows you to enter custom concrete mixes and then substitute varying amounts of slag cement through a simple dashboard interface. You simply select a preset mix or enter the details of a custom mix and the calculator will allow you to increase or decrease the percentage of slag cement and calculate LCA results in real time. The tool also allows you to compare custom mixes against region-specific industry average mixes and to compare the impacts of your own whole building to compare your whole building results.

#### Download the Calculator Here

Registration is required to download content. Registration information is used by the SCA to track use and will not be distributed to any third party.

Please review additional information below for instructions and frequently asked questions.

- Supporting Documents
- User Cautions
- Worksheet Instruction
  - Slag Substitution
  - Custom Mixes
  - Comparison to Benchmark
  - Impacts in Whole Building
- Calculator Support

#### Supporting Documents

The calculator is based off of LCA work previously completed by the Athena Institute for the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association as a part of Version 1 of their Industry-Wide EPD initiative. The complete documentation of Version 1 this LCA work can be found here: <http://www.nrmca.org/sustainability/EPDProgram/#IndustryWideEPD>.

\*The Slag Cement Association is in the process of updating the Product Category Rules and Environmental Product Declaration for Slag Cement. Once this is done, an updated Life cycle Assessment Calculator will be created based off this updated information and the most recent NRMCA data.

### Calculator Support

For any comments or questions related to the use or interpretation of this calculator, please email the Slag Cement Association at: [Life-Cycle-Calculator@slagcement.org](mailto:Life-Cycle-Calculator@slagcement.org)

Sustainability >

Download >

# Slag cement Life Cycle Assessment Calculator

Available for free download starting today at [www.slagcement.org](http://www.slagcement.org)

# Ready Mixed Concrete LCA Calculator for Slag Cement - Version 3.0



**Athena**  
Sustainable Materials  
Institute

Adjust Slag Cement %

Select Mix to Adjust

Select Region

Slag Cement %

Region  
 Great Lakes Midwest

Concrete Mix  
 Mix ID: Mass PLC | Same mix with 20% Slag

Comparison to Strength Class Benchmark  
 Climate Change

Usi  
 Inp

# Ready Mixed Concrete LCA Calculator for Slag Cement - Version 3.0



**Athena**  
Sustainable Materials  
Institute

Adjust Slag Cement %

Select Mix to Adjust

Select Region

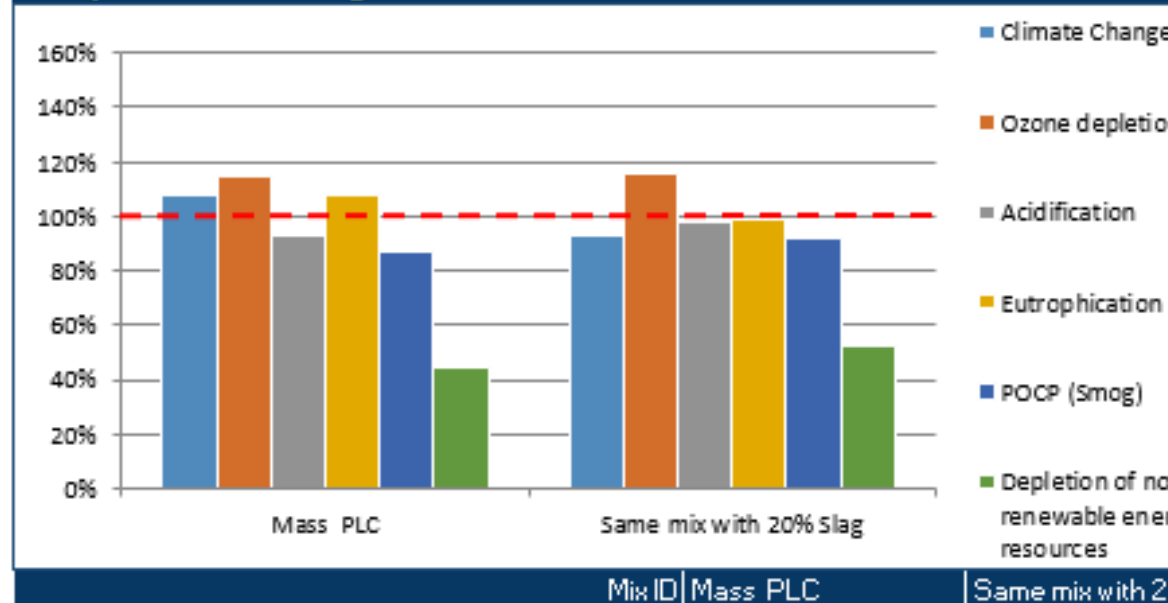
Slag Cement %

Region  
 Great Lakes Midwest

Concrete Mix

	Mix ID	Mass PLC	Same mix with 20% Slag
Slag Cement (%)	#DIV/0!		20%
Strength (psi)	3000		3000
Portland Cement (lb)	0		0
Portland Limestone Cement (lb)	470		376
Masonry Cement (lb)	0		0
Slag Cement (lb)	0		94
Fly Ash (lb)	0		0
Crushed Coarse Aggregate (lb)	1750		1750
Natural Coarse Aggregate (lb)	1540		1540
Crushed Fine Aggregate (lb)	0		0
Natural Fine Aggregate (lb)	0		0
Manufactured Lightweight Aggregate (lb)	0		0
Accelerating Admixture-Chlorides (oz)	0		0
Air Entraining Admixture (oz)	0		0
Water Reducing Admixture - plasticizer (oz)	18		18

## Comparison to Strength Class Benchmark





Enter Data for Custom Mixes on a per yd3 basis

## Using the SCA Cal Inputs

- ▶ On the **customer mix tab** enter custom mixes you would like to use.
- ▶ Type in Mix id
- ▶ Pick mix strength class
- ▶ Type in mix proportions
- ▶ Multiple mix classes can be entered in the custom mixes tab and mixes will be populated in the comparison to benchmark tab, impacts in whole building tab and a drop down selection in slag substitution tab.

Concrete Mix (per yd3)							
Mix ID	Mass OPC	Mass PLC	Mass slag	Floor OPC	Floor PLC	Floor slag	
Strength for Benchmarking (psi)	3000	3000	3000	5000	5000	5000	
Portland Cement (lb)	470	0	0	611	0	0	
Portland Limestone Cement (lb)	0	470	235	0	611	458	
Masonry Cement (lb)							
Slag Cement (lb)			235				153
Fly Ash (lb)							
Crushed Coarse Aggregate (lb)	1750	1750	1750	1750	1750	1750	
Natural Coarse Aggregate (lb)	1540	1540	1540	1380	1380	1380	
Crushed Fine Aggregate (lb)							
Natural Fine Aggregate (lb)							
Manufactured Lightweight Aggregate (lb)							
Accelerating Admixture-Chlorides (oz)							
Air Entraining Admixture (oz)							
Water Reducing Admixture - plasticizer (oz)	18	18	18	24	24	24	
High Range Water Reducing Admixture - superplasticizer (oz)				48	48	48	
Water (gal)	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	

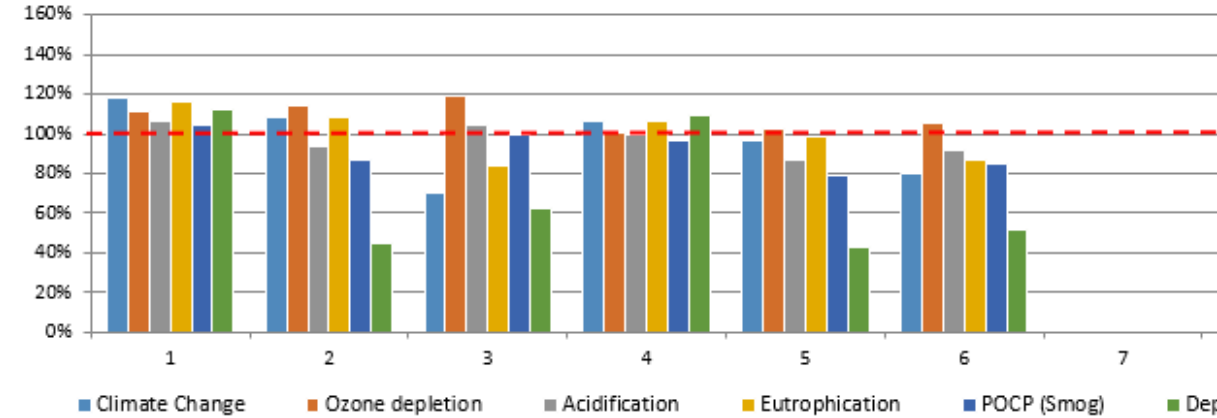
Additional Mix Options							
Crushed Demolition Concrete (lb)							
Crushed Returned Concrete (lb)							
Fly Ash (processed) (lb)							
Mineral Fillers (lb)							
Road Dust Control Chemicals (lb)							
Silica Fume (no processing) (lb)							
Steel Fibers (lb)							
Synthetic Fibers (lb)							
Accelerating Admixture-Non Chlorides (oz)							



# Using the SCA Calculator Review

- The **comparison to benchmark tab** will show the environmental impacts compared to the NRMCA Industry EPD.

Comparison of Entered Mixes to Strength Class Benchmarks



Mix in Graph	1	2	3	4	5	6
Mix ID	Mass OPC	Mass PLC	Mass slag	Floor OPC	Floor PLC	Floor slag
Strength (PSI) of Relevant Benchmark	3000	3000	3000	5000	5000	5000
Climate Change	118%	108%	71%	106%	97%	80%
Ozone depletion	112%	114%	119%	100%	103%	105%
Acidification	106%	93%	104%	100%	87%	92%
Eutrophication	116%	108%	84%	106%	99%	87%
POCP (Smog)	105%	87%	100%	96%	79%	85%
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources	112%	45%	63%	110%	43%	51%

### Life Cycle Assessment Results

Mix ID	Mass OPC	Mass PLC	Mass slag	Floor OPC	Floor PLC	Floor slag
Climate Change (kg CO2-eq)	230.37	210.33	137.63	295.05	269.00	221.67
Ozone depletion (kg CFC-11-eq)	6.21E-06	6.36E-06	6.60E-06	7.51E-06	7.70E-06	7.86E-06
Acidification (kg SO2-eq)	0.65	0.57	0.64	0.79	0.69	0.73
Eutrophication (kg N-eq)	0.30	0.28	0.22	0.37	0.35	0.31
Photochemical Ozone Creation/Smog (kg O3-eq)	12.71	10.57	12.11	15.18	12.40	13.40
Abiotic Depletion Potential ADPf (MJ)	373.25	319.85	333.96	514.94	445.52	454.71
Abiotic Depletion Potential ADPe (kg Sb eq.)	1.89E-04	1.88E-04	1.75E-04	3.37E-04	3.36E-04	3.28E-04
Use of renewable primary energy (MJ)	11.75	38.77	30.94	25.55	60.67	55.57
Use of non-renewable primary energy (MJ)	1,406.18	563.35	785.23	1,791.34	695.67	840.13
Fresh water consumption (m3)	0.42	0.41	0.33	0.51	0.91	0.83



Adjust Slag Cement %

Select Mix to Adjust

Select Region

# Using the SCA Calculator

## Review

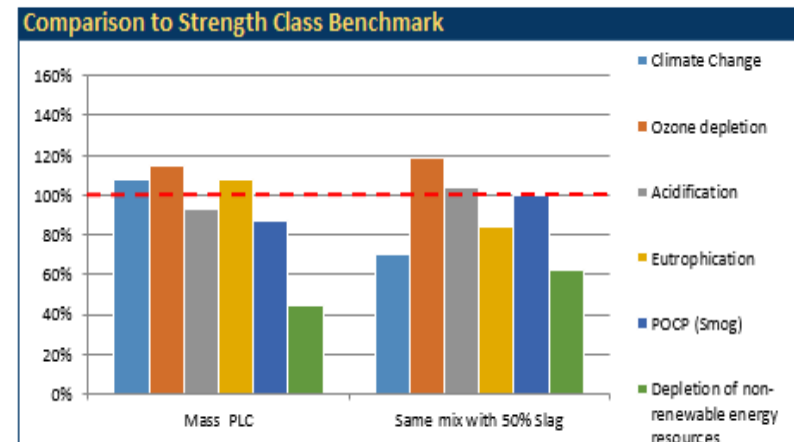
- ▶ The comparison to benchmark tab will show the environmental impacts compared to the NRMCA Industry EPD.
- ▶ On the Slag substitution tab select NRMCA region (column f, row 5). This will show the regional values for your area in this case the project is Michigan or Great Lakes.

Slag Cement %

Mix ID	Mass	PLC	Same mix with 50% Slag
Slag Cement (%)	#DIV/0!	50%	50%
Strength (psi)	3000	3000	3000
Portland Cement (lb)	0	0	0
Portland Limestone Cement (lb)	470	235	235
Masonry Cement (lb)	0	0	0
Slag Cement (lb)	0	235	235
Fly Ash (lb)	0	0	0
Crushed Coarse Aggregate (lb)	1750	1750	1750
Natural Coarse Aggregate (lb)	1540	1540	1540
Crushed Fine Aggregate (lb)	0	0	0
Natural Fine Aggregate (lb)	0	0	0
Manufactured Lightweight Aggregate (lb)	0	0	0
Accelerating Admixture-Chlorides (oz)	0	0	0
Air Entraining Admixture (oz)	0	0	0
Water Reducing Admixture - plasticizer (oz)	18	18	18
High Range Water Reducing Admixture - superplasticizer (oz)	0	0	0
Water (gal)	30	30	30

Mix ID	Mass	PLC	Same mix with 50% Slag
Crushed Demolition Concrete (lb)	0	0	0
Crushed Returned Concrete (lb)	0	0	0
Fly Ash (processed) (lb)	0	0	0
Mineral Fillers (lb)	0	0	0
Road Dust Control Chemicals (lb)	0	0	0
Silica Fume (no processing) (lb)	0	0	0
Steel Fibers (lb)	0	0	0
Synthetic Fibers (lb)	0	0	0
Accelerating Admixture-Non Chlorides (oz)	0	0	0
Corrosion Inhibiting Admixture (oz)	0	0	0
Shrinkage Reducing Admixture (oz)	0	0	0
Water Retarding Admixture (oz)	0	0	0
Waterproofing Admixture (oz)	0	0	0
Grease (lb)	0	0	0

Region



Mix ID	Mass	PLC	Same mix with 50% Slag
Strength (PSI) of Relevant Benchmark	3000	3000	3000
Climate Change	108%	71%	71%
Ozone depletion	114%	119%	119%
Acidification	93%	104%	104%
Eutrophication	108%	84%	84%
POCP (Smog)	87%	100%	100%
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources	45%	63%	63%

Mix ID	Mass	PLC	Same mix with 50% Slag
Climate Change (kg CO2-eq)	210.33	137.63	137.63
Ozone depletion (kg CFC-11-eq)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acidification (kg SO2-eq)	0.57	0.64	0.64
Eutrophication (kg N-eq)	0.28	0.22	0.22
Photochemical Ozone Creation/Smog (kg O3-eq)	10.57	12.11	12.11
Abiotic Depletion Potential ADPF (MJ)	319.85	333.96	333.96
Abiotic Depletion Potential ADPe (kg Sb eq.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Use of renewable primary energy (MJ)	38.77	30.94	30.94
Use of non-renewable primary energy (MJ)	563.35	785.23	785.23
Fresh water consumption (m3)	0.41	0.33	0.33

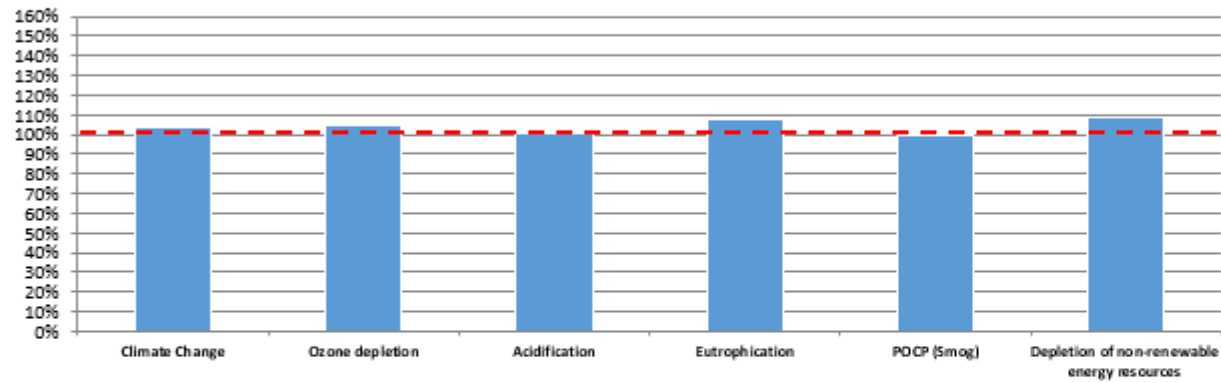


Enter amounts of custom mixes used in building

Mix ID	Mass OPC	Mass PLC	Mass slag	Floor OPC	Floor PLC	Floor slag
Amount in Building (yd3)	6000	0	0	7000	0	0

Using original 100% OPC mix val  
 OPC 470 lbs on mass  
 OPC 611 on floors

Comparison of Entered Mixes to Building Constructed with Benchmark Concrete



% of Impacts of Building with Default Concrete	
Climate Change	104%
Ozone depletion	104%
Acidification	101%
Eutrophication	108%
POCP (Smog)	100%
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources	108%

Life Cycle Assessment Results	Total Impacts		Impacts of Individual Mixes						
	Mix ID	Benchmark Building	Custom Building	Mass OPC	Mass PLC	Mass slag	Floor OPC	Floor PLC	Floor slag
Climate Change (kg CO2-eq)		8,264,168.39	8,599,736.84	1,382,218.64			2,065,345.41		
Ozone depletion (kg CFC-11-eq)		9.35E-02	9.76E-02	3.72E-02			5.26E-02		
Acidification (kg SO2-eq)		38,915.95	39,136.94	3,914.53			5,543.36		
Eutrophication (kg N-eq)		5,318.12	5,717.31	1,829.87			2,617.88		
Photochemical Ozone Creation/Smog (kg O3-eq)		704,534.81	703,914.11	76,262.78			106,235.38		
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources (MJ)		69,356,415.02	75,200,542.96	2,239,517.25			3,604,610.69		

ilding

Floor slag
0

% of Impacts of Building with Default Concrete	
Climate Change	99%
Ozone depletion	95%
Acidification	99%
Eutrophication	100%
POCP (Smog)	98%
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources	108%

Introduction | Slag Substitution | Custom Mixes | Comparison to Benchmark | **Impacts in Whole Building**

Using prescriptive values  
 OPC 410 lbs on mass  
 OPC 531 lbs on floors, columns

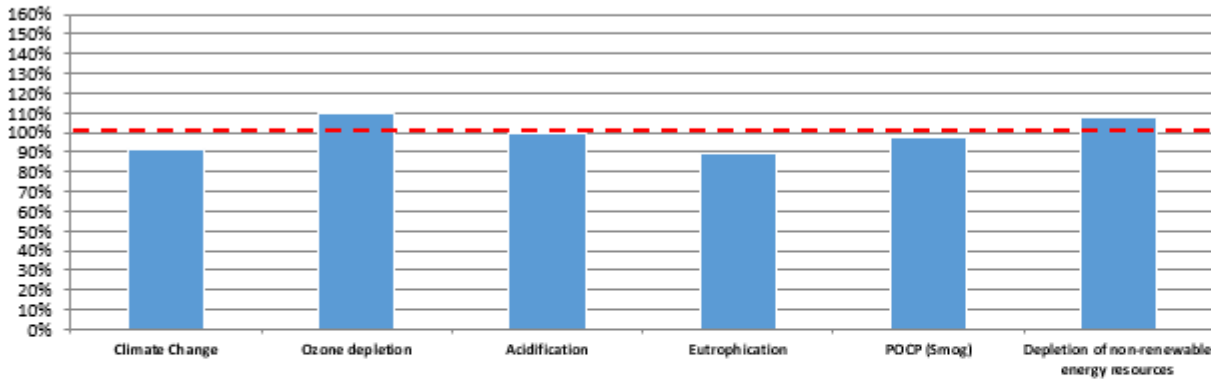
Life Cycle Assessment Results	Total Impacts		Impacts of Individual Mixes						
	Mix ID	Benchmark Building	Custom Building	Mass OPC	Mass PLC	Mass slag	Floor OPC	Floor PLC	Floor slag
Climate Change (kg CO2-eq)		8,264,168.39	8,211,776.50	1,230,073.62			1,829,530.08		
Ozone depletion (kg CFC-11-eq)		9.35E-02	8.91E-02	3.39E-02			4.74E-02		
Acidification (kg SO2-eq)		38,915.95	38,337.72	3,598.68			5,059.99		
Eutrophication (kg N-eq)		5,318.12	5,296.60	1,664.40			2,362.65		
Photochemical Ozone Creation/Smog (kg O3-eq)		704,534.81	688,109.96	70,006.43			96,687.58		
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources (MJ)		69,356,415.02	74,997,194.55	2,156,228.66			3,484,550.87		

Introduction | Slag Substitution | Custom Mixes | Comparison to Benchmark | **Impacts in Whole Building**

Enter amounts of custom mixes used in building

Mix ID	Mass OPC	Mass PLC	Mass slag	Floor OPC	Floor PLC	Floor slag				
Amount in Building (yd3)	0	0	6000	0	0	7000				

Comparison of Entered Mixes to Building Constructed with Benchmark Concrete



% of Impacts of Building with Default Concrete

Climate Change	91%
Ozone depletion	110%
Acidification	99%
Eutrophication	89%
POCP (Smog)	98%
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources	107%

Using original PLC& Slag mix values  
 PLC 235 lbs/ slg 235 lbs on mass  
 PLC 458 lbs / slg 153 lbs on floors

Life Cycle Assessment Results	Total Impacts		Impacts of Individual Mixes								
	Mix ID	Benchmark Building	Custom Building	Mass OPC	Mass PLC	Mass slag	Floor OPC	Floor PLC	Floor slag		
Climate Change (kg CO2-eq)		8,264,168.39	7,529,645.22			825,793.49			1,551,678.94		
Ozone depletion (kg CFC-11-eq)		9.35E-02	1.02E-01			3.96E-02			5.50E-02		
Acidification (kg SO2-eq)		38,915.95	38,619.09			3,827.33			5,112.71		
Eutrophication (kg N-eq)		5,318.12	4,739.95			1,326.89			2,143.51		
Photochemical Ozone Creation/Smog (kg O3-eq)		704,534.81	687,858.59			72,654.52			93,788.12		
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources (MJ)		69,356,415.02	74,543,085.20			2,003,732.70			3,182,937.47		

% of Impacts of Building with Default Concrete

Climate Change	99%
Ozone depletion	95%
Acidification	99%
Eutrophication	100%
POCP (Smog)	98%
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources	108%

Mass concrete 33% GWP reduction using PLC and Slag  
 Floor and Columns 15% GWP reduction

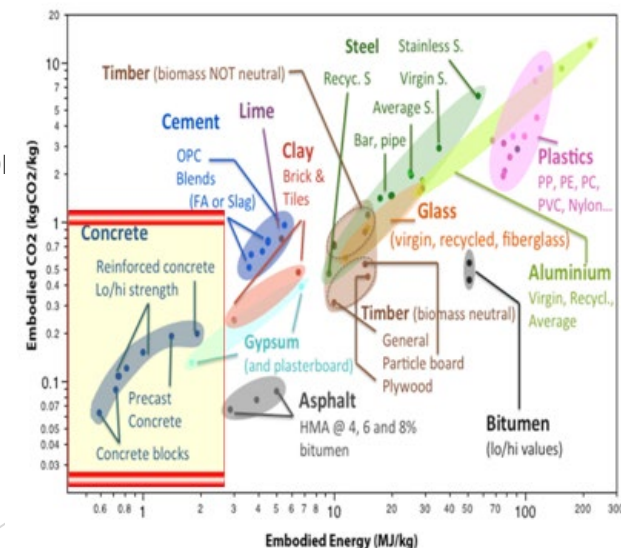
Using prescriptive values  
 OPC 410 lbs on mass  
 OPC 531 lbs on floors, columns

Life Cycle Assessment Results	Total Impacts		Impacts of Individual Mixes								
	Mix ID	Benchmark Building	Custom Building	Mass OPC	Mass PLC	Mass slag	Floor OPC	Floor PLC	Floor slag		
Climate Change (kg CO2-eq)		8,264,168.39	8,211,776.50	1,230,073.62					1,829,530.08		
Ozone depletion (kg CFC-11-eq)		9.35E-02	8.91E-02	3.39E-02					4.74E-02		
Acidification (kg SO2-eq)		38,915.95	38,337.72	3,598.68					5,059.99		
Eutrophication (kg N-eq)		5,318.12	5,296.60	1,664.40					2,362.65		
Photochemical Ozone Creation/Smog (kg O3-eq)		704,534.81	688,109.96	70,006.43					96,687.58		
Depletion of non-renewable energy resources (MJ)		69,356,415.02	74,997,194.55	2,156,228.66					3,484,550.87		

# Sustainable Benefits

## “the Roadmap wrap up”

- ▶ Concrete is a lower carbon material
  - ▶ When working together designers, contractors and concrete suppliers can improve the full LCA of a project
  - ▶ Support the use of industry EPD's and performance mixes for continuous improvement
- ▶ To get to zero emissions we need your help
  - ▶ Use of PLC and SCM like slag cement
  - ▶ Circular economy cradle to end of life solutions
  - ▶ Supporting the use of alternative fuels in clinker production to replace traditional fuels
  - ▶ Continuous use of EPD tools like
    - ▶ SCA LCA tool [www.slagcement.org](http://www.slagcement.org)
    - ▶ PLC vs OPC tool [www.greencement.com](http://www.greencement.com)
    - ▶ Adaptation use of GCCA tool [www.gcca.org](http://www.gcca.org)



# Using and Improving Concrete by through the use of Slag Cement

## In Summary...

Using slag cement at various replacement levels for portland cement improves:

- Consistency, workability and finishability of concrete
- Increases durability by
  - ❑ Long-term compressive and flexural strengths
  - ❑ Lowering permeability
  - ❑ Higher resistance to aggressive chemicals
- Environmental benefits
  - ❑ Recycled material
  - ❑ Less energy consumption, life cycle cost efficient
  - ❑ Pavements have greater reflectivity from lighter color

# Thank You

## QUESTIONS?