

Documentation "Sustainability and the Cement Industry"

In order to prepare their initiative, both sides of industry have had examined the relationship between cement production and sustainability. The results are pointed out in the documentation "Sustainability and the Cement Industry". The documentation refers to the entire value chain: extraction of raw materials – cement production – concrete production – construction and use – recycling. Current contributions to sustainable development are presented and future options are defined.

Over the last few years, the cement industry has already made progress as far as sustainable development is concerned. Important examples are:

- nature conservation on over 50% of the former mining area,
- the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in cement production by 24% since 1990,
- a training quota of 8% that is far above the average of the entire German industry.

The options, which are identified in the documentation, present the basis for the activities of the Initiative for Sustainability in the German cement industry. Important topics are the extraction of raw materials and nature conservation, CO₂-reduction and climate protection, transport and logistics, as well as employees' qualification.

Agency for Sustainability in the German cement industry

In order to coordinate the initiative, both sides of industry have set up an Agency for Sustainability. It offers information and assists companies and organisations of the German cement industry in the development and realisation of projects.

For additional information and downloads:

www.initiative-nachhaltigkeit.de

The agency is run by:

sustain consult

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Initiative for Sustainability in the German cement industry



Sozialpolitische Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Deutschen Zementindustrie

Socio-political Working Group of the German Cement Industry

Bundesverband der Deutschen Zementindustrie

Federal German Association of the Cement Industry

Verein Deutscher Zementwerke

German Cement Works Association

Industriegewerkschaft Bauen-Agrar-Umwelt

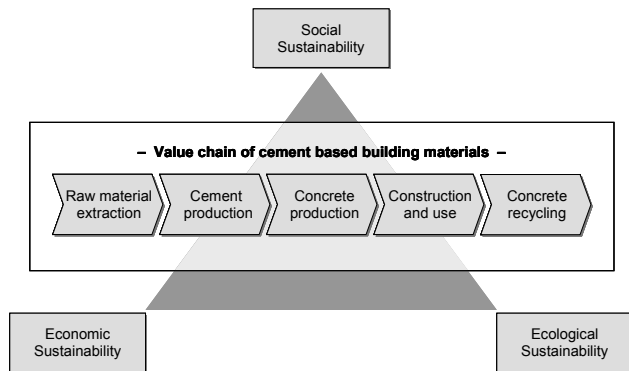
Trade Union for Building-Agriculture-Environment

Industriegewerkschaft Bergbau, Chemie, Energie

Trade Union for Mining, Chemical, Energy

Sustainable development – a vision for the German cement industry

Since the 1992 UN conference on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro, sustainable development has become a central vision. As defined in the Brundtland Report, a development is sustainable if it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This requires the coordination of social, ecological and economic aspects.



The trade unions and the German cement industry comprehend sustainable development as a continuous learning process in which companies and employees have an important role.

Initiative for Sustainability – a joint commitment of both sides of industry

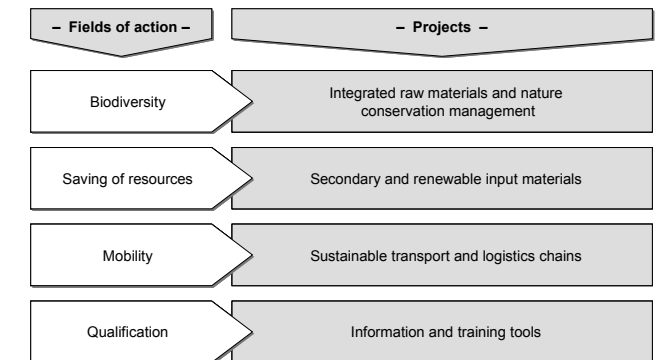
In December 2001 both sides of the German cement industry signed an agreement on sustainable development. This is the first industry agreement of its kind. Its partners from the employer's side are: the Socio-political Working Group of the German Cement Industry, the Federal German Association of the Cement Industry and the German Cement Works Association. From the employee's side the Trade Union for Building-Agriculture-Environment and the Trade Union for Mining, Chemical, Energy joined the agreement.

With this agreement, both sides of industry founded the Initiative for Sustainability in the German cement industry. This initiative pursues four goals:

- to inform employees in the German cement industry about sustainable development,
- to implement the vision of sustainable development in companies and organisations,
- to realise pilot projects that give off important impulses for sustainable development,
- to strengthen the dialogue with stakeholders outside the industry.

Projects and dialogue – sustainable development in practice

The Initiative for Sustainability in the German cement industry started in 2002. Both sides of industry have set up an agency to support companies and organisations of the German cement industry in the development and realisation of pilot projects.



Within the initiative, project topics are taken up that lie within the area of responsibility of the cement industry: biodiversity, saving of resources, mobility and qualification. At the same time these topics are also key issues for other stakeholders. Thus, the project work will be accompanied by an advisory council and enhanced by an intensive dialogue with politics, NGO's and science.

