

BRITISH PRECAST

Press release

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British Precast names BASF, Inditherm, Lafarge Cement and Lafarge Aggregates as inaugural Sustainability Champions 2008

Four Associate Members of British Precast have been awarded the title of Sustainability Champions 2008 after developing projects that reduce their industrial impact on the environment and the communities we live in, while enabling their precast manufacturing customers to become more sustainable.

Lafarge Cement UK, with two winning entries, BASF Construction Chemicals, Inditherm and Lafarge Aggregates UK each won the accolade in British Precast's Associate Member Sustainability Best Practice Awards 2008, which were started this year to reward excellence in projects that focus on social, economic and/or environmental benefits.

These five innovative projects tackled energy management, improving the efficiency of the supply chain, and reducing waste and pollution, with the potential to make a huge positive impact on the precast sectors environmental and sustainability targets.

Martin Clarke, Chief Executive of British Precast, said: "After five years of running a successful and unique sustainability award scheme for our manufacturing members, this year we decided to extend the programme into our supply chains both upstream and downstream. A new Sustainability Champion Award has therefore been launched for our Associate Members and we are thrilled to be able to announce these four winning champions.

"Our Associate members are playing a vital role in helping the precast industry achieve its sustainability goals and we hope to see many further advances in the next few years."

Awards to Lafarge Cement UK, Lafarge Aggregates UK and BASF were made at the British Precast office in Leicester in December 2008.

The winners

BASF Construction Chemicals – 'Energy Management'

BASF's 'Energy management' project demonstrates that the use of the company's products can save three times more greenhouse gas emissions than the entire amount caused by their production and disposal.

To achieve this and other ambitious environmental targets, BASF continues to develop innovative technologies and materials for sustainable climate protection, spending around €400 million of its

research and development budget in the areas of energy efficiency, climate protection, resource conservation and renewable raw materials.

In areas such as construction, automobiles and industrial production, BASF products help its customers to save more than 250 million tonnes of CO₂ worldwide.

BASF is making a special contribution to precast concrete product sustainability with its Zero Energy System and the FIT 4 VALUE concept.

Inditherm – ‘Accelerated concrete curing technology’

Inditherm has developed and patented a flexible carbon polymer technology that provides a highly efficient method of delivering heat with completely uniform temperature characteristics. It is used for applications as diverse as warming premature babies, patients undergoing surgery, chocolate manufacturing processes and football pitches.

The technology is based on a flexible polymer sheet which is impregnated with carbon in a manner which gives completely homogeneous electrical properties. This allows it to develop heat very efficiently when a low voltage is applied to it.

It maintains completely uniform heating over a large surface area, has high thermal transfer characteristics by conductive heating, is completely safe due to low voltage operation, and has environmental advantages due to low power consumption.

Precast concrete manufacturing process can benefit from this technology through faster curing times, reduced cement and additive content, and reduced energy costs, which can directly contribute to a reduction in environmental impact and improvements in sustainability in the precast industry.

Lafarge Aggregates UK – ‘Recycled glass sand’

Lafarge Aggregates have used their expertise in recycled aggregates to create Envirosand, made from locally sourced waste glass packaging. It outperforms regular quarried sand, has a lower bulk density and is free-draining so can be used in the rain.

The production of Envirosand helps meet the UK’s recycling targets by diverting glass from landfill and recycling it into a product that is clean, non-toxic and inert while preserving stocks of primary aggregate. Because it is sourced and produced locally, it minimises the amount of truck movements and road congestion.

It has been used successfully in several precast applications, and as the demand for sustainable construction solutions rises, this usage will almost certainly increase.

Following on from the development of Envirosand, Lafarge Aggregate’s team produced Equinesand, a recycled glass sand designed especially for use in equestrian ménages, which presents a cost-effective, sustainable alternative to the silica sand traditionally used. Based on the same principles of production as Envirosand, Equinesand undergoes further, rigorous testing to ensure it is shard free and safe for equestrian use.

Lafarge Cement - ‘Waste management and recycling’

‘Waste management and recycling’ is one of Lafarge Cement’s two projects which gained awards. Beneficial to the environment, community and customers, including the precast industry, it has a three-pronged approach: minimising the creation of waste as part of its process; utilising society’s waste and by-products material in its processes; and helping to reduce product wastage for customers.

By tackling one of its major wastes, cement kiln dust, by reusing it in the cement making process, the company reduced the amount of waste disposed of from 193,000 tonnes in 1993 to 14,000 tonnes in 2006. Meanwhile, investment in dust filtering and abatement equipment and better process management has led to Lafarge reducing dust emissions by over 70% at its seven UK

cement works, which has helped improve air quality at the sites. The company also reuses and recycles its defunct buildings and equipment where it can.

Lafarge is the largest user of waste, such as bone meal, used tyres and fuel ash, in the cement-making process, resulting in less fossil fuels being used, and now sells its cement products in plastic packaging, which is 39% more environmentally-friendly than traditional paper bags, with more options for storage and virtually no cement wasted.

Lafarge Cement - 'Sustainability approaches towards product supply chain'

The second of Lafarge Cement's projects to win is 'Sustainability approaches towards product supply chain', which focuses on maintaining robustness in its role as a supplier while minimising the environmental impact.

Again this takes a three-pronged approach: investment to ensure a reliable service to its customers; commitment to use sustainable methods to supply product; and mechanisms to ensure reliability of supply to customers.

A recent investment of £100 million purely on its supply chain has led to the development of a rail infrastructure which enables cement, fuel and materials to be transported in rail wagons rather than in lorries on the road. The company now moves around 27% of its total product volumes by rail to 12 of its 14 depots, which means a reduction in pollution of over 750,000 tonnes of CO₂ and, of course, less congestion on the roads.

As part of this project, Lafarge Cement has also installed mechanisms to ensure reliability of supply to its customers. These measures look at delivery times, order completion and correct paperwork, and has led to 94% of bulk orders being delivered on time this year.

Notes to editors

For high resolution images of the winning projects or the award presentations please contact Chrissie Walton on 0116 222 9849 or email chrissie.walton@britishprecast.org.

About British Precast

The [British Precast Concrete Federation](http://www.britishprecast.org) (British Precast) is the trade association of UK precast concrete manufacturers. Tracing its roots back to 1918, the federation aims to promote precast concrete in the construction market, and to disseminate information through a range of industry representation and by shared knowledge, to add value to its member companies. Members' interests are continually developed through our team of dedicated professionals who have extensive connections with organisations in the UK and worldwide.

Further information

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