

BRITISH PRECAST SIGNS UP FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

“A landmark day for the industry”, was how Ian Cox, Chief Executive of The Concrete Centre, described the signing of the Sustainable Concrete Declaration by eight major companies and their trade associations at the heart of the UK cement and concrete industry.

Aligned with the Government’s Sustainable Construction Strategy announced in June, the Sustainable Concrete Declaration is a commitment by the concrete industry to a common vision, and a set of strategic objectives and commitments which will benchmark industry performance and demonstrate continuous improvement for the future in delivering sustainable construction.

Jonathan Porritt, Founder Director of Forum for the Future, who hosted the workshop said “I am delighted to have worked with the cement and concrete industry over the last year and am pleased at the progress it has made. The industry is now entering an exciting phase in its history, as it moves towards becoming more sustainable”.

Martin Clarke of British Precast, mentor of the concrete industry’s Sustainable Construction Task Group commented, “I believe this is a very important step forward for the industry because we have collectively agreed to put sustainable construction at the heart of our businesses. The discipline of monitoring and reporting against our common sustainable construction goals will help ensure that we achieve real changes in the environmental, social and economic performance of concrete in construction which is what our markets want and our clients expect.”

In fulfilment of one of the industry’s eight new commitments, the first annual sustainable concrete performance report will be launched at an event at Lancaster House, London, on 19 March 2009.

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

1. The Sustainable Construction Strategy for the UK Concrete Industries Declaration was signed by Aggregate Industries, CEMEX, Hanson, Lafarge Cement, Lafarge Aggregates, Tarmac, Brett Group, Marshalls plc, and Trent Concrete. Trade associations signing up to the strategy on behalf of their members were the British Cement Association, Quarry Products Association, British Precast, British Ready-mix Concrete Association, Cementitious Slag Makers Association, Concrete Admixtures Association, and UK Quality Ash Association. The market development organisation for the sector, The Concrete Centre, was also a signatory.
2. The Concrete Centre is the market development organisation for the concrete industry in the UK. The UK Concrete Platform Sustainable Construction Task Group is the steering group for sustainable construction across the concrete sector.
3. The document included a vision to be recognised as leaders in sustainable construction by 2012; four strategic objectives and eight concrete commitments which included; gathering of data on key issues, annual performance indicators, targets and benchmarks, addressing skills gaps and research; communications and demonstration projects.

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