

About our industry

The precast concrete industry produces over 35 million tonnes of products annually for the construction sector, worth an estimated £2 billion, which is roughly equivalent to the turnover of the cement and ready-mixed concrete industries combined.

Our products make a significant contribution to the built environment; they range from small hydraulically pressed items mass produced in highly automated factories, such as concrete bricks, paving and roof tiles, to larger mass produced items such as pipes, piles and floor beams, and individual structural units manufactured to specific engineering and architectural requirements.



Sustainability

Sustainability is about ensuring that development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It covers a wide range of issues, including:

- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- effective protection of the environment;
- prudent use of natural resources; and
- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Sustainability is also of increasing importance to businesses, because it provides a focussed way of addressing a range of economic, social and environmental issues that can help in the efficient, effective and responsible operation of those businesses.

A sustainability strategy

The precast industry acknowledges that it has a responsibility to improve its performance on sustainability. The British Precast Concrete Federation has therefore established a research programme with Loughborough University to develop and deliver a sustainability strategy for the industry.

The strategy will help us to make our products more competitive in the arena of sustainable construction, and make our businesses more efficient, effective and responsible in their operation.

Our progress

Making progress towards sustainability is about continuously improving economic, social and environmental performance. For the precast industry, this means looking at our products and the way we manufacture them. The examples below show that we are already making progress in both these areas.

Sustainable products

Economic

Our factory produced concrete has always been recognised to be of high quality, and our products offer a wide choice of construction solutions.



Social

Our products are contributing to a better built environment. They are widely used in urban regeneration schemes, from paving and landscaping to complete housing projects.



Environmental: resources

Using precast products results in less waste being generated from construction sites.



Environmental: energy

The thermal mass of concrete makes it ideally suited for use in low energy buildings.



Further information

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Sustainable manufacturing

Economic

We are investing in new factories and equipment, and using new technologies to make our production processes more efficient.



Social

We are committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for our employees, and looking after their welfare and training requirements.



Environmental: resources

We are reducing the consumption of natural resources by using waste materials in our products.



Environmental: protection

We are minimising the effects of our factories and manufacturing processes on the environment.

