

Acting on Climate

#LHLowCarbonTransition

RCR: Recycling Construction & Demolition Waste to Mitigate Climate Impact

What is the challenge?

Waste generated by construction and demolition is one of the heaviest and most voluminous waste stream. It is composed by numerous materials, including concrete, bricks, gypsum, etc., many of which can be recycled. In the EU for instance, it represents approximately 25% to 30% of all waste generated.

How can construction and demolition waste be reused and reduce climate impact?

Key figures

In our Recycling Center in Retznei (RCR) in Austria:

- 130,000 tons per year of construction and demolition waste processed
- 70% of material is recycled in cement manufacturing or re-used as aggregates in roads or concrete production

Our solution

In our Retznei cement plant in Austria, waste from construction and demolition are pre-treated and re-used for construction purposes. 35% is recycled in our cement while another 35% is treated and used as recycled aggregates in roads and concrete production. The remaining 30% is unrecyclable, as it is too heterogeneous, and is used as backfilling material for the quarry.

Promoting circularity in construction materials is an effective way to reduce global GHG emissions and to mitigate the impact of construction on climate change. By using the waste in the cement manufacturing process, we reduce our indirect emissions by substituting the use of conventional fossil fuels while avoiding landfilling or incineration. Using recycled aggregates also enables to mitigate the impact of using primary resources on the carbon footprint of construction.



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