

Waste and recycling

Cement manufacture is a resource-based industry; we must use those resources carefully, recycle them where possible and maximize our opportunities to recycle the products of other industries.

Waste principles and hierarchy

Our approach is based on the waste hierarchy: minimize, reuse, recycle and recover energy, and finally dispose to landfill.

Waste management in practice

In 2010 we introduced facilities for the segregation of waste for recycling at our distribution centers; there are now such facilities at all our plants, all our distribution centers, all the quarries that are in active use and our head office. Segregated materials are collected and handled by certified contractors, as is the small amount of residual waste requiring disposal at landfills.

Another focus of activity in 2010 was the waste management practices of those who work with us. Our Volos and Halkis plants have organized employee awareness campaigns for the proper handling of waste. We wanted to make significant improvements, not just in legal compliance but in behavior adopted in the daily lives of employees, contractors and others.

We began to audit contractors for “duty of care” – their responsibility to ensure that waste is collected, transported and transferred to the next person in the chain of custody with appropriate controls at every step.

We also carried out housekeeping audits at all distribution centers; these audits ensure that materials and waste are being stored appropriately, that sources of dust and nuisance are controlled, and help to improve site appearance to the benefit of the local community.

“Industrial Ecology”

The sustainability of ecosystems comes from their equilibrium; materials and resources are constantly recycled. Industrial ecology applies this principle to human activity, making the most efficient use possible of by-products and waste. Much of the work that we are doing to develop innovative new products for our customers (see pages 34 and 35), involves the principles of industrial ecology.

At our cement plants we recycle the by-products of other industries as raw materials, for instance fly ash derived from power stations can substitute for clinker in certain types of cement. Using wastes from other industries as a source of fuel (see page 26) is another form of industrial ecology.

96%
OF ALL WASTE PRODUCED
IS RECYCLED

Waste recycling and disposal

(tons per year)

	2009	2010
Hazardous (oils, grease) - recycled	123	156
Hazardous (rugs contaminated with oils, greases etc.) - disposed	150	123
Non hazardous - recycled	3,359	2,692
Non hazardous - disposed	0	0
Total	3632	2971

Hazardous waste is recycled at specialized treatment facilities. No waste is incinerated.