



## ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

# MASONRY CEMENT

(per ASTM C219 and specified in ASTM C91 or  
CSA A3002)

*REVISED October 2023: GCCA Tool v4.1*

## ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION MASONRY CEMENT

### ASTM Certification page

This document is a Type III industry average Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) covering masonry cements produced in the United States (U.S.) by Portland Cement Association (PCA) members. The results of the underlying LCA are computed with the North American (N.A.) version of the Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) Industry EPD tool for cement and concrete [4]. This tool and the underlying LCA model and database have been previously verified to conform to the prevailing sub-product category rule (PCR) [11], ISO 21930:2017 (the core PCR) [10] as well as ISO 14025:2006 [7] and ISO 17040/44:2006 Amd: 2020 LCA standards [8], [9].

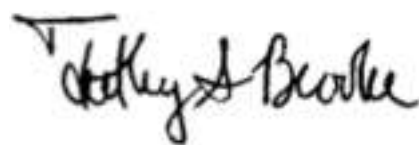
This EPD is certified by ASTM to conform to the Sub-Product Category Rule (PCR) referenced below, as well as to the requirements of ISO 14025 and ISO 21930.

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| DECLARATION HOLDER     | Portland Cement Association<br>5420 Old Orchard Road<br>Skokie, IL, USA<br>60077-1083<br><a href="http://www.cement.org">www.cement.org</a>  |
| DECLARATION NUMBER     | EPD 194  |
| PRODUCT GROUP AND NAME | Cement, UN CPC 3744  |
| DECLARED PRODUCT       | Masonry cement(s) as a category product  |
| REFERENCE PCR          | NSF Product Category Rule for <i>Preparing an Environmental Product Declaration for Portland, Blended Hydraulic, Masonry, Mortar, and Plastic (Stucco) Cements</i> , V3.1, September 2020. |
| PROGRAM OPERATOR       | ASTM International<br>100 Barr Harbor Drive<br>West Conshohocken, PA, USA<br>19428-2959<br><a href="http://www.astm.org">www.astm.org</a>  |
| DATE OF ISSUE          | 03-12-2021   |
| PERIOD OF VALIDITY     | 03-12-2021 - 03-12-2026  |
| NOTES                  | The EPD results are computed using the N.A. version of GCCA Industry EPD tool for Cement and Concrete ( <a href="https://concrete-epd-tool.org">https://concrete-epd-tool.org</a> ).       |

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### EPD VERIFICATION

This EPD has been certified by an independent, external verifier in accordance with ISO 14025.



Tim Brooke  
ASTM International

Date  
verified



Thomas P. Gloria, Ph. D.  
Industrial Ecology Consultants

Date  
verified

## Product description and applicable standards

The product under evaluation is masonry cement as defined by ASTM C219 and specified in ASTM C91 or CSA A3002.

A hydraulic cement manufactured for use in mortars for masonry construction or in plasters, or both, which contains a plasticizing material and, possibly, other performance-enhancing addition(s). (ASTM C219)

**Type N**—For use in preparation of Specification C270 Type N mortar without further addition of cements or hydrated lime, and for use in preparation of Specification C270 Type S or Type M mortar when cement is added in accordance with the requirements of C270.

**Type S**—For use in preparation of Specification C270 Type S mortar without further addition of cements or hydrated lime.

**Type M**—For use in preparation of Specification C270 Type M mortar without further addition of cements or hydrated lime.

All cement products are composed of specific combinations of calcium, silica, iron and alumina and small amounts of additives to achieve a desired profile of properties (e.g., strength, color). Clinker, the principle intermediate manufactured product within cement production, is typically produced from a combination of ingredients, including limestone (for calcium), coupled with smaller quantities of materials such as clay, iron ore, and sand (as sources of alumina, iron, and silica, respectively). So common are these building blocks that a wide variety of raw materials are suitable sources, and some sources, such clay and fly ash, may provide multiple chemical components. Cement plants are increasingly turning to industrial byproducts that otherwise would be discarded, once completing detailed analyses to determine the effects of using a byproduct on the manufacturing process, cement performance and facility emissions. The U.S. industry average masonry cement, as found by this study, is 55.2% clinker by weight. Table 1 describes the cement's composition by specific material resources.

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Table 1. Material composition of the U.S. industry average masonry cement

| Cement ingredients <sup>a</sup>       | Portion of cement product (by weight) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Clinker                               | 55.2%                                 |
| Unclinked limestone or hydraulic lime | 34.9%                                 |
| Gypsum                                | 6.7%                                  |
| Slag                                  | 1.4%                                  |
| Other materials                       | <1.0% each                            |

<sup>a</sup>It should be noted that while all masonry cement products contain the ingredients listed above (except dust, which may or may not be used by a particular cement producer), the average cement production data compiled for this EPD represents the weighted average use of all materials by all participating plants. The data should not be interpreted to mean that the ingredient proportions presented in this table is the formulation for all masonry cement products.

## Declared unit

The declared unit for this study is the production of one metric ton (1 t) of masonry cement awaiting delivery to a customer. The cement is either packaged and stored on pallets or housed unpackaged in silos and ready for bulk transport.

## System boundary

### Life cycle stages

This EPD describes masonry cement production from cradle to gate, as depicted in Figure 1. This includes all modules (A1-A3) of the Production stage, as defined by the PCR. Specifically, Production stage modules capture the following aspects of the life cycle:

- Extraction and processing of raw materials and packaging used to produce cement (A1);
- Transportation of raw materials and packaging from source to cement production site (A2);
- Consumption of energy and water required to produce cement (A3);
- Emissions and wastes generated from producing cement (A3);
- Transportation of wastes from cement production to end of life (A3); and
- End of life of wastes generated during cement production (A3).

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The Construction, Use and End-of-life stages are excluded from the scope of the PCR and therefore from the impact data provided by this LPD.

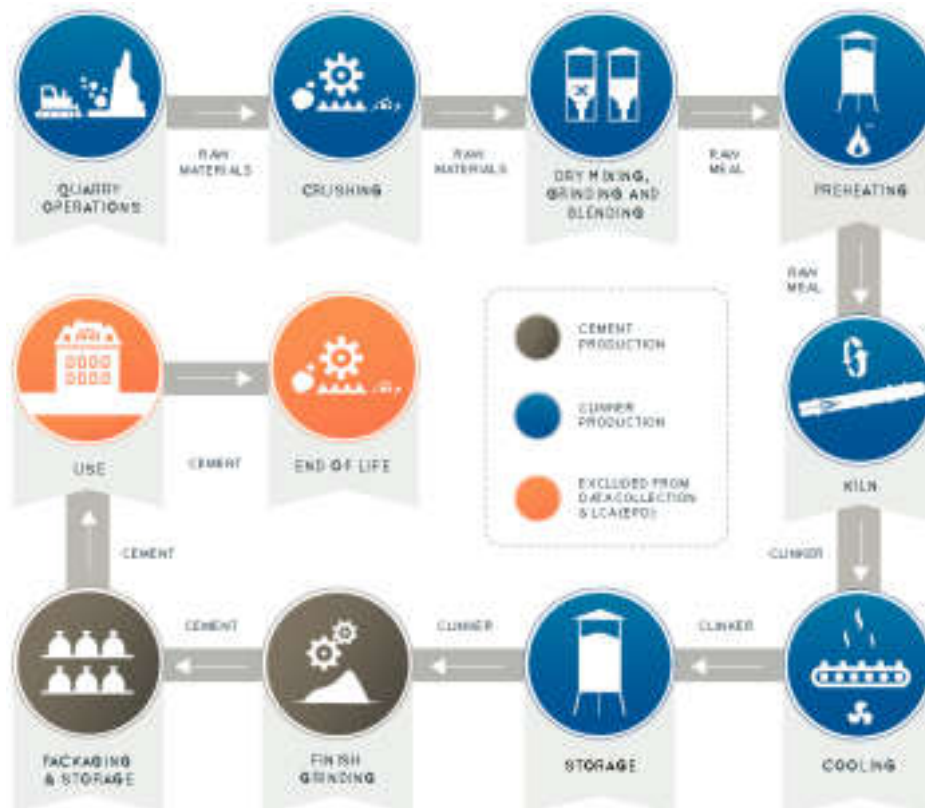


Figure 1. Boundary of the industry-average cement production processes..

## Exclusions and cut-off criteria

Several items are excluded from the foreground life cycle inventories (LCIs) used in the LCA. These relate specifically to operations at cement production plants:

*Capital equipment and infrastructure.* These are expected to contribute negligibly (<1%) to the total impact of cement production given the long lifetime of these items and high output of cement over this period.

*Personnel-related activities,* such as travel, furniture and office supplies. (Energy and water use related to on-site office operations, such as company management and sales activities, are included.)

These two categories of items are included in upstream processes (e.g., electricity generation) where they are captured in the background data used in the LCA underlying GCCA Industry EPD tool.

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### Allocation approach

Allocation of inventory flows and subsequently environmental impact is relevant when assets are shared between product systems. The allocation method prescribed by the PCR is applied in the underlying LCA. The sub-category PCR recognizes fly ash, furnace bottom ash, bypass dust, mill scale, polluted soils, spent catalyst, aluminum oxide waste, silica fume, granulated blast furnace slag, iron-rich waste, cement kiln dust (CKD), flue gas desulfurization (FGD) gypsum, calcium fluoride-rich waste and postconsumer gypsum as recovered materials and thus, the environmental impacts allocated to these materials are limited to the treatment and transportation required to use as a cement material input. Further, used tires, plastics, solvents, used oil and oily waste, coal/carbon waste, roofing asphalt, household refuse-derived waste, non-hazardous liquid waste, industrial sludge, and agricultural waste are considered non-renewable and/or renewable secondary fuels. Only the materials, water, energy, emissions, and other elemental flows associated with reprocessing, handling, sorting and transportation from the point of the generating industrial process to their use in the production process are considered. All emissions from combustion at the point of use are considered. For co-products, no credit is considered, and no allocation is applied. See the *LCA model and LCA database reports of the N.A. version of GCCA's Industry Tool for EPDs of cement and concrete* for more information [4], [5].

## Data Quality Requirements and Assessment

### Technology Coverage

The life cycle impact assessment (LCIA) results presented in this EPD are calculated using an industry-average LCI of US PCA members producing masonry cements. The LCI is assembled with data shared by PCA members through a survey process carried out in 2020 and represents 2019 operations. Primary (gate-to-gate activity) data were collected for limestone quarrying, clinker production and masonry cement manufacture. Data collection and aggregation methods are described in the *Portland Cement Association Life Cycle Inventory Summary Report*, February 2021 [3].

In 2019, the US cement industry generated 2,400,000 metric tons of masonry cements [13]. The LCI captures 1,109,471 metric tons of PCA member production (as reported by 32 plants) and therefore 46% of total industry production in 2019.

Clinker, the main ingredient in cement production, can be produced using one of a number of technologies, or a combination of these technologies. The masonry cement described by this EPD is produced under the profile of clinker production technologies shown in Table 2. A total of 53,141,130 metric tons of clinker are represented by the overall average industry dataset. It is estimated that in 2019 78,000,000 metric tons of clinker was produced in the US and hence, the plant sample represents about 68% of all US clinker production [13]. The plant average raw meal to clinker ratio is 1.59. The average total renewable and non-renewable primary energy required to produce a metric ton of clinker was calculated to be 3.88 GJ on a lower heating value basis.

<sup>1</sup> PCA members do not represent all cement companies operating in the U.S.

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Table 2. Clinker production technologies applied in the making of the masonry cement described by this EPD.

| Clinker production technology  | Percent of cement produced by clinker technology |
|--|--|
| Dry with preheater and precalciner <sup>1</sup>                        | 88.5%  |
| Dry with preheater   | 3.1%   |
| Long dry   | 5.3%   |
| Wet  | 0.6%   |
| Other (other technology or a combination of technologies) <sup>1</sup> | 2.4%   |

<sup>1</sup> Reported as long semi-wet/semi-dry technology.

## Geographic and Temporal Coverage

The masonry cement production impacts estimated by the LCA represent cement produced in the U.S in 2019.

Foreground data and assumptions reflect equipment, processes, and market conditions for this year. Background processes, such as some raw material operations and electricity generation (see below), are characterized by data that represent US processes where information is available. In cases where US specific information is not available, the best available alternative information is used. Additional details describing the background data are provided in the LCA model and LCA database reports of the *N.A. version of GCCA Industry Tool for LPDs of cement and concrete* [2].

Foreground gate-to-gate data were collected for limestone quarrying, clinker production and masonry cement manufacture. These data are summarized in the report *Portland Cement Association Life Cycle Inventory Summary Report*, February 2021 [3].

## Electricity grid mix

For electricity use modeling, the PCR requires the use of subnational electricity consumption LCs that consider power trading between regions. To do this, the US EPA's *eGrid* 2018 data are used, which identify grid mixes for ten US regions (NERC regions) and considers regional trading [14]. A weighted average of the NERC regional mixes is applied in the LCA, where the weighting reflects the portion of masonry cement produced in each region. The resulting grid mix used in the LCA is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Grid mix for masonry cement production described by this EPD.

| Energy source | Portion of representative grid mix |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Gas           | 43.62%                             |

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|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Coal and peat | 24.97% |
| Nuclear       | 20.13% |
| Hydro         | 3.61%  |
| Wind          | 3.53%  |
| Bio-mass      | 1.82%  |
| Solar         | 1.13%  |
| Oil           | 0.81%  |
| Waste         | 0.21%  |
| Geothermal    | 0.16%  |
| TOTAL         | 100%   |

## Data Completeness, Consistency, Reproducibility and Transparency

All inputs (raw materials, ancillary and packaging materials, energy, and water) and outputs (emissions to air, water and soil, solid and liquid waste, products, co-products, and by-products) were collected, reviewed, benchmarked, and modeled to complete LCI production profile for masonry cements. The completeness of the cradle-to-gate process chain in terms of process steps is rigorously assessed for all cement facilities.

A review of the source of individual input and output data (direct, indirect, estimate, other) shared by participating producers was conducted and summarized in Appendix A, *Portland Cement Association Life Cycle Inventory Summary Report*, February 2021 [3].

To ensure consistency, cross checks of the energy demand and the calculated raw meal to clinker ratio against ranges reported in the WBCSD Cement Sustainability Initiative, Cement CO<sub>2</sub> and Energy Protocol, v3.1 December, 2013 were conducted per each cement facility [15]. A full description of the foreground data quality assessment is provided in the *Portland Cement Association Life Cycle Inventory Summary Report*, February 2021 [3]. Activity LCI data are transparently disclosed in the LCI report, including all data sources, and this way external reproducibility of the EPD results with the GCCA Industry EPD Tool for cement and concrete is possible [3], [4].

The majority of data describing cement manufacture (including limestone quarrying and clinker production) is based on direct measurements and engineering calculations, as opposed to approximations. This is particularly true for flows that are the major contributors to impact for cement production, namely clinker production.

It should be noted that the data quality assessment herein covers only limestone, clinker and cement production inventories (i.e., activity data). An evaluation of the quality of data used to model background processes (e.g., electricity



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generation) has also been carried out, and the results are presented in the LCA model and LCA database reports for the *N.A. version of GCCA's Industry EPD Tool for Cement and Concrete* [4], [5].

### Limitations

This EPD represents average industry performance for PCA Member producing masonry cements. It considers only cement plants located in the US. Results may not adequately represent cement production systems that differ greatly from those captured by the data used in the underlying LCA.

This EPD is a declaration of potential environmental impact and does not support or provide definitive comparisons of the environmental performance of specific products. Only EPDs prepared from cradle-to-grave life cycle results and based on the same function and reference service life and quantified by the same functional unit can be used to assist purchasers and users in making informed comparisons between products.

The EPD provided here in and the underlying LCA conform to the NSF Product Category Rule for Preparing an Environmental Product Declaration for Portland, Blended Hydraulic, Masonry, Mortar, and Plastic (Stucco) Cements. EPDs of masonry cements that follow a different PCR may not be comparable.

LCA results are relative expressions and do not predict impacts on category endpoints, the exceeding of thresholds, safety margins or risks. Further, LCA offers a wide array of environmental impact indicators, and this EPD reports a collection of those, as specified by the PCR.

In addition to the impact indicator results, this EPD provides several metrics related to resource consumption and waste generation. These data are informational as they do not provide a measure of impact on the environment. Further, a number of LCA impact categories and inventory items are still emerging or under development and can have high levels of uncertainty that preclude international acceptance pending further development. Use caution when interpreting results for these categories – identified with an “\*” in Table 4.

### Supplementary information regarding LCA methodology

Additional information regarding databases and impact methodologies used for conducting the LCA for this EPD can be found in the *LCA core model and LCA database reports of the N.A. version of GCCA's Industry EPD Tool for Cement and Concrete* [4], [5].

## Life cycle assessment results

The cradle-to-gate impacts of producing masonry cement are presented in Table 4.

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Table 4. Production stage LPD results for masonry cements.

| Impact category and inventory indicators   | Unit                  | Masonry Cements<br>1 metric ton |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Global warming potential, GWP <sup>1</sup> 100, IPCC 2013  | kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq | <b>587</b>                      |
| Ozone depletion potential, ODP <sup>1</sup>  | kg CFC-11 eq          | <b>1.73E-05</b>                 |
| Acidification potential, AP <sup>1</sup>   | kg SO <sub>2</sub> eq | <b>1.23</b>                     |
| Eutrophication potential, EP <sup>1</sup>  | kg N eq               | <b>0.8</b>                      |
| Smog formation potential, SFP <sup>1</sup>   | kg O <sub>3</sub> eq  | <b>22.4</b>                     |
| Abiotic depletion potential for non-fossil mineral resources, ADP elements <sup>*</sup>              | kg Sb eq              | <b>1.48E-04</b>                 |
| Abiotic depletion potential for fossil resources, ADP fossil <sup>*</sup>                            | MJ LHV                | <b>3223</b>                     |
| Renewable primary resources used as an energy carrier (fuel), RPR <sub>E</sub> <sup>*</sup>          | MJ LHV                | <b>140</b>                      |
| Renewable primary resources with energy content used as material, RPR <sub>M</sub> <sup>*</sup>      | MJ LHV                | <b>75</b>                       |
| Non-renewable primary resources used as an energy carrier (fuel), NRPR <sub>E</sub> <sup>*</sup>     | MJ LHV                | <b>3216</b>                     |
| Non-renewable primary resources with energy content used as material, NRPR <sub>M</sub> <sup>*</sup> | MJ LHV                | <b>7.0</b>                      |
| Secondary materials, SM <sup>*</sup>   | kg                    | <b>91.1</b>                     |
| Renewable secondary fuels, RSF <sup>*</sup>  | MJ LHV                | <b>32.8</b>                     |
| Non-renewable secondary fuels, NRSF <sup>*</sup>   | MJ LHV                | <b>316</b>                      |
| Net use of freshwater, NFW <sup>*</sup>  | m <sup>3</sup>        | <b>0.97</b>                     |
| Hazardous waste disposed, HWD <sup>*</sup>   | kg                    | <b>7.59E-03</b>                 |
| Non-hazardous waste disposed, NHWD <sup>*</sup>  | kg                    | <b>3.2</b>                      |
| High-level radioactive waste, conditioned, to final repository, HLRW <sup>*</sup>                    | kg                    | <b>x<sup>1</sup></b>            |
| Intermediate- and low-level radioactive waste, conditioned, to final repository, ILLRW <sup>*</sup>  | kg                    | <b>x<sup>1</sup></b>            |
| Components for re-use, CRU <sup>*</sup>  | kg                    | <b>0</b>                        |
| Materials for recycling, MFR <sup>*</sup>  | kg                    | <b>0.31</b>                     |
| Materials for energy recovery, MER <sup>*</sup>  | kg                    | <b>0</b>                        |
| Recovered energy exported from the produc. system, EE <sup>*</sup>                                   | MJ LHV                | <b>1.2</b>                      |
| <b>Additional Inventory Parameters for Transparency</b>  |                       |                                 |
| Global warming potential - biogenic, GWP <sub>bio</sub> <sup>*</sup>                                 | kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq | <b>0.7</b>                      |
| Emissions from calcination <sup>*</sup>  | kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq | <b>290</b>                      |
| Emissions from combustion of waste from renewable sources <sup>*</sup>                               | kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq | <b>0.02</b>                     |
| Emissions from combustion of waste from non-renewable sources <sup>*</sup>                           | kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq | <b>30.8</b>                     |
| Removals and emissions associated with biogenic content of bio-packaging                             | kg CO <sub>2</sub>    | <b>-8.1</b>                     |

<sup>1</sup>x – Not all LCA datasets for upstream materials include these impact categories and thus results may be incomplete.

<sup>\*</sup> Use caution when interpreting results for these categories

## Interpretation

Based on the masonry cements EPD results calculated with the GCCA Industry EPD Tool for cement and concrete, the following conclusions could be reached [4]. The Manufacturing module (A3) drives most of the potential environmental impacts. Manufacturing impacts are primarily driven by energy use (electricity and thermal fuels) used during the pyroprocessing of limestone in the production of clinker. Clinker content in cement similarly defines the relative

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environmental profile of the final cement product. Raw material extraction (A1) is the second largest contributor to the Production stage LPD results, followed by the transportation (A2).

### Additional environmental information

Of the responding plants, around 15% of the facilities are ISO 9001 certified and another 29% are ISO 14001 certified or both. The rest of the plants adhere to different types of corporate or company specific internal environmental management systems, e.g., Spectra QEST ([www.spectraquest.com/](http://www.spectraquest.com/)) which is designed to assist responsible plant personnel by tracking and notifying them of major reporting, monitoring and recordkeeping requirements, Envirologix, a database management system to track permits and permit conditions and all environmental related tasks or maintain a similar ISO 14001 environmental management system without certification.

Air pollution abatement equipment used at PCA members cement facilities may consist of any mix of the following technologies: high and low temperature baghouses, bin vents, drum filters, dry filters, cartridge filters, precipitators, water sprinklers for dust control, Selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR), Selective catalytic reduction (SCR), wet scrubbers, dry scrubbers (dry sorbent injection, DSI), Activated Carbon Injection (ACI), and Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer (RTO).

It is also noted that about a third of the plants package some of their cements, the majority bulk load their cements for sale.

### References

1. ASTM C91 / C91M – 18 Standard Specification for Masonry Cement.
2. ASTM International, Program Operator Rules, version:8.0, 04/29/20.
3. Athena Sustainable Materials Institute 2021, Portland Cement Association (PCA) – Life Cycle Inventory Summary Report, Prepared by: Mr. Jamie Meil, Mr. Grant Finlayson and Hindita Bush, PhD, Prepared for: PCA, February 2021.
4. Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) 2023, *N.A. version of Industry LPD tool for Cement and Concrete*, <https://concrete-epc-tool.org/>.
5. GCCA and PCA, *GCCA Industry EPD Tool for Cement and Concrete (V4.10), LCA Model, North American version*, Prepared by Quanta, 2023.
6. ISO 14021:2016 Environmental labels and declarations - Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling).
7. ISO 14025:2006 Environmental labeling and declarations - Type III environmental declarations - Principles and procedures.
8. ISO 14040:2006/Am1:2020 Environmental management - Life cycle assessment - Principles and framework.
9. ISO 14044:2006/Am1:2017/Am2:2020 Environmental management - Life cycle assessment - Requirements and guidelines.
10. ISO 21930:2017 Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works - Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services.

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11. NSF International, Product Category Rule Environmental Product Declarations, PCR for Portland, Blended, Masonry, Mortar, and Plastic (Stucco) Cements, v3.1, Sept. 2020.
12. NSF International, Product Category Rule Environmental Product Declarations, PCR for Concrete, February 2020.
13. US EPA (2020) eGRID 2018. The Emissions and Generation Resource Integrated Database.  
<http://www.epa.gov/energy/egrid>.
14. US Geological Survey (USGS), National Minerals Information Center, Cement Statistics and Information, RY 2019, <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nmic/cement-statistics-and-information>.
15. WBCSD CSI 2013: CO<sub>2</sub> and Energy Protocol Version 3.1 of 9 December 2013. <https://www.cement-co2-protocol.org/en/>

### Participating PCA members

| Member                          | Corporate headquarters | Website  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Argos USA Corp.                 | Alpharetta, GA         | <a href="http://argos.co/usa">argos.co/usa</a>                     |
| Ash Grove Cement                | Overland Park, KS      | <a href="http://ashgrove.com">ashgrove.com</a>                     |
| Buzzi Unicem USA, Inc.          | Bethlehem, PA          | <a href="http://buzziunicemusa.com">buzziunicemusa.com</a>         |
| Cal Portland Company            | Glendora, CA           | <a href="http://calportland.com">calportland.com</a>               |
| CEMEX USA                       | Houston, TX            | <a href="http://cemexusa.com">cemexusa.com</a>                     |
| Continental Cement              | Chesterfield, MO       | <a href="http://continentalcement.com">continentalcement.com</a>   |
| Drake Cement                    | Scottsdale, AZ         | <a href="http://drakecement.com">drakecement.com</a>               |
| Federal White Cement            | Woodstock, ON          | <a href="http://federalwhitecement.com">federalwhitecement.com</a> |
| GCC of America                  | Glendale, CO           | <a href="http://gccusa.com">gccusa.com</a>                         |
| Lafarge-Holcim                  | Rosemont, IL           | <a href="http://lafarge-na.com">lafarge-na.com</a>                 |
| Lehigh Hanson                   | Irving, TX             | <a href="http://lehighhanson.com">lehighhanson.com</a>             |
| Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. | Dallas, TX             | <a href="http://martinmarietta.com">martinmarietta.com</a>         |
| Mitsubishi Cement Corporation   | Henderson, NV          | <a href="http://mitsubishicement.com">mitsubishicement.com</a>     |
| Monarch Cement Company          | Humboldt, KS           | <a href="http://monarchcement.com">monarchcement.com</a>           |
| National Cement Group           | Encino, CA             | <a href="http://nationalcement.com">nationalcement.com</a>         |
| Salt River Materials Group      | Scottsdale, AZ         | <a href="http://srmaterials.com">srmaterials.com</a>               |
| St. Marys Cement                | Toronto, ON            | <a href="http://stmaryscement.com">stmaryscement.com</a>           |
| Suwannee American Cement        | Branford, FL           | <a href="http://suwanneecement.com">suwanneecement.com</a>         |
| Titan America LLC               | Norfolk, VA            | <a href="http://tlamerica.com">tlamerica.com</a>                   |