



News Release

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Innovative cement makes building green even greener

The Climate Trust's offset funds build on success of cement program that uses less carbon

PORTLAND, OR – The Climate Trust has committed \$1.85 million in offset funds to build on the success of Cool Climate Concrete, a program that provides incentives for concrete manufacturers to substitute industrial byproducts for part of the highly carbon-intensive portland cement used in construction and civil works projects.

“This program really illustrates how offset funding can drive innovation and unleash the creative forces of the market,” said Sean Clark, Director of Offset Programs for The Climate Trust. “In addition to having a much lower global warming impact, blended cement provides a positive use for byproducts of other industrial processes like fly ash from coal plants.”

The Climate Trust, a nonprofit offset provider based in Portland, first committed offset funds to the Cool Climate Concrete program in 2004. Recently the program was successfully completed, retiring nearly 250,000 metric tons of offsets, which is equivalent to removing about 46,000 vehicles from the road. The program was so successful that The Climate Trust has committed additional offset funds to West Main Consultants, LLC, to continue the program.

“West Main Consultants is very excited to launch its second phase of Cool Climate Concrete, continuing our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by advancing the use of blended cement in the concrete industry,” said Cris Argeles, Vice President of West Main Consultants. “We streamlined the program and hope to achieve more emission reductions than achieved in the first phase in less time.”

Cement production is a large emitter of the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. According to the EPA, cement production generated 44.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in the United States in 2007, which is equal to emissions from nine and a half coal-fired power plants. Portland cement, which makes up about 15 percent of concrete, is a high-carbon material, emitting nearly one metric ton of carbon dioxide for every metric ton of portland cement created. Substituting waste materials for portland cement in the production of concrete significantly reduces the climate impact of concrete.

“We look forward to capitalizing on the success of the Cool Climate Concrete program,” Clark said. “We believe that by continuing to educate the industry about this innovative green material and by providing financial incentives to use it, we are helping the building industry become more economically and environmentally sustainable.”

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Project Partners

About The Climate Trust

The Climate Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Portland, Oregon, whose mission is to promote climate change solutions by providing high-quality greenhouse gas offset projects and advancing sound offset policy. The Climate Trust specializes in climate solutions for governments, utilities, and large businesses by providing carbon offsets, customized voluntary offset and climate benefit programs, and climate consulting services. The Climate Trust applies this market experience to the development of sound climate policy. For more information, please visit www.climatetrust.org.

About West Main Consultants, LLC

West Main Consultants, LLC, is a leading sustainable materials firm that specializes in innovative environmental programs relating to materials technologies. In collaboration with The Climate Trust, West Main developed and is currently administering the second phase of the Cool Climate Concrete program, www.coolclimateconcrete.com.

West Main is a 7group company. 7group is a multi-service green building and integrative design consulting firm which is currently involved with over 100 registered or soon to be registered LEED projects. 7group is also one of the companies contracted to review LEED certifications. As a 7group company, West Main has 5 LEED accredited professionals on staff and focuses on LEED project management and LEED certification review. For more information, please visit www.sevengroup.com.

West Main also contracts to run Athena Institute International, the U.S. nonprofit affiliate of the Canadian Athena Sustainable Materials Institute. Through this work, West Main is involved with a broad range of work related to Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), including regional database development and LCA education. For more information, please visit www.athenasmi.org.