

CEMEX - Brief

Sustainable performance in the construction industry

Introduction

CEMEX supplies building materials, including cement. It is one of the world's largest companies in this field. It works in over 50 countries and employs more than 60,000 people. Cement is used to make concrete. Concrete is the most used substance in the world after water. Concrete can be made on site or supplied ready-mixed. The first company to supply this service was Ready Mixed Concrete (RMC). CEMEX bought RMC in 2005. CEMEX locates and carries out its operations in a sustainable way.

Sectors

CEMEX's business covers all three sectors of industry:

- Primary - CEMEX quarries materials. This process has to fit in with the government's Regional Minerals Plan. This ensures a fair balance of extraction across regions. CEMEX also dredges material from the seabed.
- Secondary - CEMEX prepares aggregates and makes cement and ready mixed products. Cement plants need planning permission. They are regulated by the Environment Agency.
- Tertiary - CEMEX transports products and sells to other businesses. It makes more than four million deliveries a year in the UK. This makes it one of the countries biggest transport operators.



Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Extraction of raw materials, e.g. sand, gravel, crushed rock, limestone and clay	Manufacturing of construction products from the raw materials for customers.	Selling and distributing end products to construction customers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarrying – drilling or blasting a rock face to extract the raw materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing, grading and crushing of aggregates • Making cement, readymixed concrete, asphalt and concrete products in dedicated plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business to business sales • Transportation via road, rail, sea and river

Location

Businesses need to locate in places where both costs and impact on the environment can be kept low. This may mean closer to customers or closer to raw materials. CEMEX locates plants near raw materials. This reduces transport costs and impact. When there is a large project, CEMEX may take a different line. For example, the plant for the Wembley Stadium project was based at Wembley itself.

Sustainable location

CEMEX can only site quarries where material naturally occurs. It can, however, choose to make other activities more sustainable. CEMEX invests more than £60 million a year in the business. For example, to reduce its carbon footprint it uses:

- rail for many journeys
- water (sea, rivers and pipelines) where possible
- alternative fuels such as old tyres and household waste to heat its kilns
- waste from other industries as fuel.

Impacts

Much of CEMEX's investment is aimed at reducing environmental impact. CEMEX looks at seven key areas to see how it can:

- reduce emissions
- use less energy
- develop new and better products
- improve efficiency at plants and quarries
- contribute to the community
- engage its staff to support communities
- communicate better with stakeholders.

CEMEX is careful about how sites are restored once they are worked out. CEMEX Angling consists of restored sand and gravel pits where people can go fishing. Eversley Quarry in Hampshire has been restored to provide a nature reserve, golf course and other sports activities. At Barrington, the entire quarry is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.



Conclusion

CEMEX provides essential building materials. It reduces its impact on the environment in many ways. It focuses on seven key factors to achieve this. It looks at where it can make changes to achieve a balance between the needs of the business and the environment.

