

World-first project to create net zero cement and lime cluster in the Peak District

- **Plans unveiled to cut over 3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year - reducing UK emissions from cement and lime manufacture by 40%**
- **A cluster of major industrial companies join forces to drive net zero transition across Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire.**
- **Peak Cluster will accelerate the region's journey to Net Zero, safeguarding jobs and protecting the wider supply chain.**

A world-first project has been launched to create a net zero future for the cement and lime industry. Located in the Peak District, the project will prevent over 3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year by 2030.

The project, named Peak Cluster has been initiated by five cement and lime plants in the Peak District and Staffordshire Moorlands, owned by Tarmac, Breedon, Lhoist and Aggregate Industries, together with the Lostock Sustainable Energy Plant in Cheshire.

Carbon dioxide emitted from the cement and concrete industry accounts for around a quarter of the total emissions in Derbyshire and Staffordshire. With 40% of all UK cement and lime manufactured in the Peak District and local area, the project has the potential to dramatically reduce the sector's emissions to ensure the sustainable, net zero future of this essential industry.

Cement is the main ingredient in concrete and therefore essential for the UK economy and the delivery of homes, schools, hospitals as well as clean water, sanitation and energy infrastructure.

Led by Progressive Energy, Peak Cluster aims to capture and transport carbon dioxide emissions from industrial plants in Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire before permanently locking away the carbon dioxide beneath the eastern Irish Sea in carbon storage facilities like the Liverpool Bay CCS or the recently announced MNZ Cluster."

John Egan of Progressive Energy, Peak Cluster Project Director, said: "Peak Cluster will make a crucial contribution towards the UK's drive to net zero, making a serious impact on local, regional and national climate change targets. The project will help industry to continue to thrive into the future – safeguarding jobs, maintaining a booming supply chain and allowing current and future generations to continue to work in, and enjoy, this beautiful region."

Dr Diana Casey of the Mineral Products Association, Director Energy and Climate Change, said: "The launch of the Peak Cluster is an exciting and vital step forward in the journey of the cement and lime sectors towards net zero. The region is a historic heartland for cement and lime production providing highly skilled jobs for local communities, and a secure supply of essential materials to the UK economy. The *UK Concrete and Cement Industry Roadmap to Beyond Net Zero* highlighted the importance of carbon capture for the decarbonisation of the cement and concrete supply chain and the Peak Cluster is an essential part of that transition. This launch demonstrates the commitment of cement and lime producers to transition to net zero to secure the future of these important industries, and the vital products they produce, in a net zero world."

The cement and lime sector is a key part of a combined mineral products industry, which contributes around £18bn to the UK's GDP and directly employs 81,000 people, supporting a further 3.5m jobs.

More information on Peak Cluster is available at <https://peakcluster.co.uk/>.

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Notes to Editors:

Progressive Energy

Progressive Energy are experts in project development and implementation with extensive experience of overcoming the technical and commercial challenges associated with bringing new technologies to market. The team are passionate about tackling climate change by creating meaningful and deliverable projects. Progressive Energy translate innovative technologies, such as hydrogen and carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS), into concepts and ideas all the way through to their deployment to make a material difference to climate change. Progressive Energy originated and leads the development of the HyNet decarbonisation cluster. For more information, visit <https://www.progressive-energy.com/>

Tarmac

Tarmac, a CRH company, is the UK's leading sustainable building materials and construction solutions business. Tarmac combines the knowledge and expertise of two of the construction industry's most iconic brands: Tarmac, the pioneers of the modern road and Blue Circle, the company that patented Portland Cement.

Its innovative products and solutions not only safely deliver the infrastructure needed to grow the UK economy today but also help to create a more sustainable built environment for the country's long-term future. The company has contributed to some of the UK's biggest construction projects, including The Sainsbury Laboratory, Wembley Stadium, Heathrow Terminal 5, Blackpool Sea Defences, The Shard and London 2012.

Tarmac has over 150 years of experience and directly employs around 7,000 people across a nationwide network of over 400 sites. Solutions span aggregates, asphalt, cement, lime, readymix concrete, offsite manufacture, road contracting, highways maintenance and infrastructure services, building products and recycling services. . www.tarmac.com

About CRH

CRH (LSE: CRH, ISE: CRG, NYSE: CRH) is the leading provider of building materials solutions that build, connect and improve our world. Employing c.75,800 people at c.3,160 operating locations in 29 countries, CRH has market leadership positions in both North America and in Europe. As the essential partner for road and critical utility infrastructure, commercial building projects and outdoor living solutions, CRH's unique offering of materials, products and value-added services helps to deliver a more resilient and sustainable built environment. A Fortune 500 company, CRH is a constituent member of the FTSE 100 Index, the EURO STOXX 50 Index, the ISEQ 20 and the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) Europe. The company is ranked among sector leaders by Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) rating agencies. CRH's American Depositary Shares are listed on the NYSE.

For more information, visit: www.crh.com

Breedon Group plc

Breedon Group plc, a leading vertically-integrated construction materials group in Great Britain and Ireland, delivers essential products to the construction sector. Breedon holds 1bn tonnes of mineral reserves and resources with long reserve life, supplying value-added products and services, including specialty materials, surfacing and highway maintenance operations, to a broad range of customers through its extensive local network of quarries, ready-mixed concrete and asphalt plants.

The Group's two well-invested cement plants are actively engaged in a number of carbon reduction practices, which include utilising alternative raw materials and lower carbon fuels. Breedon's 3,700 colleagues embody our commitment to 'Make a Material Difference' as the Group continues to execute its strategy to create sustainable value for all stakeholders, delivering growth through organic improvement and acquisition in the heavyside construction materials market.

Lhoist

Since 1889, the Lhoist Group has been a world leader in lime (including dolomitic lime), limestone and mineral solutions for an ever-growing range of applications. As a family-owned business, it combines a traditional industrial culture with a dynamic and entrepreneurial approach. With roots and a head office in Belgium, the Lhoist group has grown from generation to generation and is now present in more than 25 countries with more than 165 sites around the world, delivering to more than 80 countries from sites in Europe, North America, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific.

Lhoist's solutions are used in a wide variety of traditional and emerging applications due to their unique chemical and physical properties. Lime is a critical and necessary product for the development of the energy transition. Lhoist's 6,600 employees focus their activities on manufacturing high quality products to meet current and future market needs. The Lhoist Group has continuously placed Sustainable Development at the heart of its actions and within its long-term vision. Reducing its carbon footprint is part of an overall commitment to position Lhoist as a sustainable business. The group recognizes its responsibility to anticipate and be a player in the global transition towards a low carbon economy.

Lostock Sustainable Energy Plant

The Lostock Sustainable Energy Plant (LSEP) is a £480m Energy from Waste facility located at the Lostock Works site near Northwich in Cheshire. The nationally significant project is currently under construction following consent being granted in 2012 under Section 36 of the Electricity Act. LSEP Ltd is a joint venture between Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and FCC Environment. Connecting into the Peak Cluster pipeline allows Lostock to continue to further decarbonise the waste sector.

About Aggregate Industries

[Aggregate Industries](#), part of Holcim, is delivering growth through sustainable thinking. Committed to playing a significant role in enabling the UK to transition to net zero, Aggregate Industries is driving decarbonisation across the construction materials sector. With a broad, established range of low carbon solutions and a focus on the circular economy, Aggregate Industries continues to invest in R&D and innovation, working in partnership with sustainability-focused stakeholders, with the goal of becoming the UK's leading supplier of sustainable construction materials. It is the first company to be certificated to BES 6001, The Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products, developed by the BRE (Building Research Establishment).

About Holcim

Holcim builds progress for people and the planet. As a global leader in innovative and sustainable building solutions, Holcim is enabling greener cities, smarter infrastructure and improving living standards around the world. With sustainability at the core of its strategy Holcim is becoming a net zero company, with its people and communities at the heart of its success. The company is driving circular construction as a world leader in recycling to build more with less. Holcim is 70,000 people around the world who are passionate about building progress for people and the planet through four business segments: Cement, Ready-Mix Concrete, Aggregates and Solutions & Products.

About the Mineral Products Association:

The Mineral Products Association (MPA) is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries. With the merger of British Precast, and affiliation of the British Association of Reinforcement (BAR), the British Calcium Carbonate Federation, the Cement Admixtures Association (CAA), CONSTRUCT, Eurobitume, MPA Northern Ireland, MPA Scotland and the UK Quality Ash Association (UKQAA), it has a growing membership of 520 companies and is the sectoral voice for mineral products. MPA membership is made up of the vast majority of independent SME quarrying companies throughout the UK, as well as the 9 major international and global companies. It covers 100% of UK cement and lime production, 90% of GB aggregates production, 95% of asphalt and over 70% of ready-mixed concrete and precast concrete production. In 2018, the industry supplied £16 billion worth of materials and services to the Economy. It is also the largest supplier to the construction industry, which had annual output valued at £172 billion in 2018. Industry production represents the largest materials flow in the UK economy and is also one of the largest manufacturing sectors.
www.mineralproducts.org.

In 2020 MPA published the UK Concrete and Cement Industry Roadmap to Beyond Net Zero which demonstrated how it is feasible for the sector to not only reach net zero but remove more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than is emitted, when the downstream benefits of concrete in use are taken into consideration. More information is available here: <https://cement.mineralproducts.org/Climate-Change.aspx>

