

Docket #: S19-518

High quality, low carbon cement

Stanford researchers have developed a high-quality cement with a 70% reduction in CO₂ emissions with no upcycling. Cement is the second most consumed resource in the world, accounts for 8% of the world's CO₂ emissions, is tough to recycle, and has a lifetime of about 50-100 years or less. In response, the Rocks and Geomaterials Laboratory at Stanford has engineered a low to near-to-zero carbon footprint cement clinker through a cement-processing technique that replaces limestone with carbon-free volcanic rocks and mimics how fibrous microstructures effectively reinforce rocks. The new process significantly slashes carbon dioxide emissions during manufacturing allowing for reductions of 70% of CO₂ emissions, and can potentially increase durability.

Stage of Research

Researchers are in the prototype phase and testing the properties.

Applications

- Hydraulic **cement** construction particularly suited to **harsh environments**:
 - Areas that experience **seismic ground shaking**
 - Wellbore casings subject to injection of CO₂, **acid fluids**, or re-injection of wastewater fracking
 - Planetary shelters and habitats of tomorrow

Advantages

- **70% reduction in CO₂ emissions** without relying on carbon upcycling:
 - Pyroprocessing of this alternative raw material leads to no carbon footprint
 - No need to build new cement plants for carbon capture and sequestration

- **Exceptional physico-chemical properties** making it suited to harsh environments:
 - High compressive strength
 - Expanded durability - naturally reinforced, binds well, and absorbs strain energy (seismic shaking)
 - High thermal stability
 - High chemical resilience and resistant to acid fluids - minimal alkali-silica reaction (ASR) expected due of the lack of silica in the clinker

Publications

- Jackson MacFarlane, Tiziana Vanorio, John Oleson, Gordon Williams, Dante Zakhidov, Anthony Clark, and Alberto Salleo. "The Source for Lime in Roman Concrete: Igneous or Sedimentary Rock? A Path Toward Sustainable Cements," forthcoming.

Innovators

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