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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION REDUCTION OPPORTUNITIES IN CALIFORNIA'S CEMENT INDUSTRY

There are numerous opportunities to reduce emissions from California's cement industry. However, the vast majority of California's global warming pollution comes from burning fossil fuels (oil used in our cars and trucks, coal and natural gas burned to produce electricity, and natural gas used in our homes and businesses); so the primary focus of the state's effort to reduce global warming pollution should be on those sources, even while pursuing opportunities in the cement industry.

California's Cement Industry Can Cut Pollution

California's cement industry is a small but still significant emitter of global warming pollution; the state's eleven cement plants employ less than 2,000 people but account for about 2% of emissions. Approximately half of those emissions come from burning fossil fuels and about half come from the process of making cement itself. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California's cement industry is more carbon-intensive than the national average, and as a state we rank in the bottom half on this measure. To reduce emissions, there are opportunities to:

- use energy more efficiently (a recent study by Kema and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory estimated potential savings of up to 20% of current energy use);
- use lower-carbon fuels (most cement plants currently use coal, the most carbon-intensive fuel available);
- produce cleaner blends of cement that are less carbon-intensive. The Center for Clean Air Policy found that these blends would both save money and reduce emissions.

While some pollution reductions can be made in the cement industry, they are relatively small in the context of *all* the strategies available to meet the 2020 limit on statewide emissions. In the Governor's Climate Action Team's report, less than 1% of the pollution savings needed to meet the 2020 limit would come from the cement industry.

AB 32 Will Reduce Pollution, Not Shift Emissions

AB 32 will ensure that emission reductions from the cement industry are real, and not just shifted out of the state. Preventing "leakage" of emissions is crucial in designing a program to reduce pollution from the cement industry, because California currently imports about one-quarter of the cement used in the state. AB 32 clearly requires the Air Resources Board to design the program to minimize the leakage of emissions. To ensure that cuts in emissions are real, the ARB could, for example, focus on reducing the emissions associated with the cement used in California and encourage low-carbon blends. California can meet its needs for cement while cutting global warming pollution at the same time.

For more information visit: www.SolutionsforGlobalWarming.org

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