



Together with Nature Blog

BUILDING TOGETHER WITH NATURE

- By LafargeHolcim -

As a global leader in building materials and solutions, we are proud to support the Together With Nature principles and we fully agree that, as our economies come out of the COVID-19 crisis, we must take the opportunity to #BuildBackBetter.

Priority number one for us is to **cut emissions**. The buildings and construction sector accounts for a significant portion of carbon emissions. It is our responsibility to offer more sustainable products and solutions to enable sustainable living worldwide.

We are working on a number of critical areas along the entire value chain of the building material industry and are taking a science-based approach to our low-carbon journey. We worked with The Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) to validate our ambitious 2030 CO₂ targets and have pledged to continue leading our industry towards low-carbon construction. By 2019 our net carbon emissions per ton of cementitious material were 27% lower than in 1990.

This priority drives our innovation agenda, with half our R&D resources and 40% of our patents aimed at finding sustainable solutions. A recent example is our low-carbon ECOPact, the green concrete we just rolled out globally that enables sustainable and circular construction.

Buildings and the building industry can also do more to **protect ecosystems**, for instance by embracing circularity to minimize the use of virgin resources. We are one of the world's leading waste disposal companies simply by virtue of the amount of non-recyclable waste we return to the economy as a resource, safely and cleanly.

We upcycle a hundred times more waste than we produce. Waste products supply some or even all of the thermal energy requirements of our plants. We buy clean energy for our electricity where possible, and we have even built dedicated wind and solar generation facilities where it was not.

We have forged a business model that is not only circular but regenerative, with investments promoting biodiversity at quarries around the world.

At LafargeHolcim we also focus on minimizing our impact on water resources, particularly in water-scarce areas. We optimize and prevent the use of freshwater as well as reduce the risk of depletion and pollution. We engage with stakeholders on sharing water and providing water to the communities. For us it is clear that we need to take a holistic view of our impact on nature in order to succeed, thereby fully embracing **ecological responsibility**.

Finally, **social responsibility** and working with our communities are at the core of our business model. In many places we have been present in our communities for decades. Global players such as LafargeHolcim can promote positive change in human rights and support community development, for example by providing education and medical care. Our CEO Jan Jenisch just gave this ambition his personal stamp of approval when he signed the WBCSD's Call to Action for Business Leadership on Human Rights, thereby giving his personal commitment to actively promote human rights as part of our company's commitment to social responsibility.

Be it for the environment, our social engagements or our governance, we aspire to keep raising the bar. That's why we are so proud that in the first half of 2020 LafargeHolcim achieved a number-one ESG ranking in the construction materials sector out of more than one-hundred peer companies, according to ESG research and ratings agency Sustainalytics. This recognition is a huge motivation for us to continue our progress.

COVID-19 has raised awareness about the ecological challenges we face as a society. Let's use that awareness -- and apply The Together with Nature principles -- to build a healthier, greener world.

