

FHWA Policies on Recycling Construction Materials



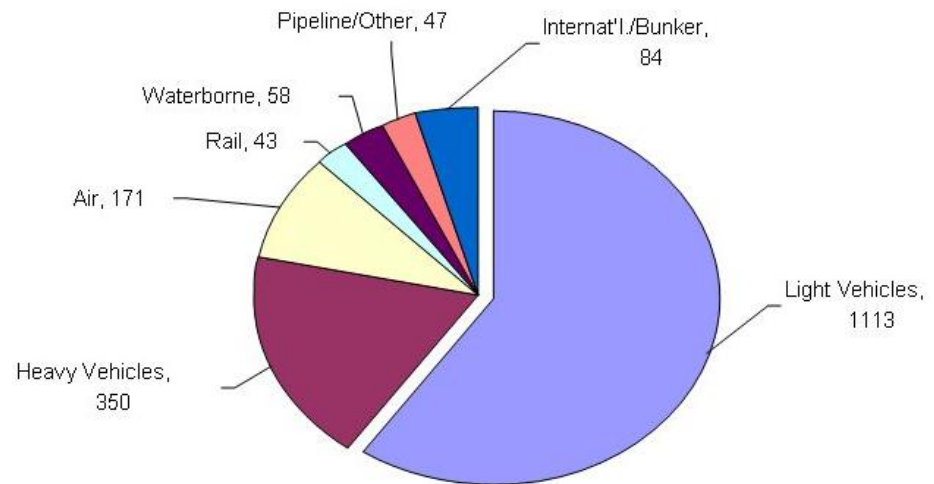
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Consider Transportation CO2 emissions

- The transportation sector is the largest end-use producer of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States.
- CO2 emissions from the transportation sector increased by 27 percent between 1990 and 2007, and will continue to increase, though at a declining rate.
- The current FHWA Strategic Plan includes a goal to find ways to reduce transportation carbon emissions.

U. S. Transportation Carbon Emissions by Mode, 2003
(Million metric tons CO2)



What can we do to improve environmental stewardship, reduce energy consumption and emissions?

- Consider these recycling strategies in your pavement preservation program
 - Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement/ Recycled Asphalt Shingles (RAP/RAS)
 - Recycled Concrete Aggregate (RAC)
 - In-Place Recycling Strategies
 - Cold In-Place Recycling
 - Hot In-Place Recycling

When appropriately used recycled materials can effectively and safely...

- Reduce cost
- Save time
- Offer equal (possibly improved) performance qualities
- Provide long-term environmental benefits

FHWA Policy * is ...

1. Recycling and reuse can offer engineering, economic and environmental benefits.
2. Recycled materials should get first consideration in materials selection.
3. Determination of the use of recycled materials should include an initial review of engineering and environmental suitability.
4. An assessment of economic benefits should follow in the selection process.
5. Restrictions that prohibit the use of recycled materials without technical basis should be removed from specifications.

*Underlying Principles

- Any material used in highway or bridge construction, be it virgin or recycled, shall not adversely affect the performance, safety or the environment of the highway system.
- We support research, field trials and demonstration projects to foster innovation.

Why bother to recycle?

- Reduce project costs;
- Conserve materials;
- In some areas the traditional sources of aggregate are tapped out or nearly so;
- Reduced capacity in landfills means higher solid waste disposal costs.



Conclusions

- As good stewards of the environment, businesses and government agencies can take significant steps to support environmentally-friendly technologies and policies.
- The FHWA will work with transportation agencies and industry to support construction and preservation techniques that make use of recycling
 - Saving time and money
 - Performance is possible!
- Network through your local Pavement Recycling and Reclaiming Center @ Cal Poly and the California Pavement Preservation Center @ CSU Chico.



Thank you



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