

Coal Combustion Products: Safe and Valuable Resources



Coal combustion products are not hazardous and are safe for human health when managed properly

- Coal ash has been studied extensively for decades by universities and government regulatory agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other government bodies have determined that it is non-hazardous.
- Designating coal ash as hazardous or toxic is counter to scientific evidence and would seriously limit the current widespread uses of these materials today.
- The chemical constituents of coal ash are commonly found in many everyday products and natural materials, including soil.



Beneficial use of coal combustion products can result in significant societal and environmental benefits

- Coal ash use is supported by the Federal government and many states as a way to reduce the impact of our industrial practices on the environment.
- Coal ash can be used beneficially in a variety of applications – many which are sustainable construction practices, as in materials such as concrete. Each ton of fly ash used in the production of concrete can offset the production and use of up to a ton of cement. That, in turn, could eliminate almost a ton of carbon dioxide emissions from cement production.
- Beneficial use of fly ash in concrete production reduced U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 15 million tons in 2007 alone. Furthermore, using CCPs saves the energy needed to extract and process other materials for these same uses.
- Fly ash in concrete reduces water requirements for mix designs, reduces the energy needed to produce concrete, and creates longer-lasting, more durable products that do not have to be replaced as frequently.
- Coal ash that is beneficially used does not need to be disposed in landfills thus reducing the need for new or expanded disposal facilities while at the same time conserving natural resources for other uses.



Beneficial use of coal combustion products has increased steadily since the 1960s and contributes to economic growth

- The U.S. utility and construction materials industries have nearly doubled beneficial use of coal ash from 22 percent in 1989 to 43 percent in 2007.
- Annually the production and use of CCPs contribute more than \$4 billion to the U.S. economy and provide jobs for thousands of workers.

Significant environmental and social benefits would be lost and volumes of material being disposed of would increase substantially if they were classified as hazardous.

For more information please visit www.coalashfacts.org

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