FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Is it true that Irish Cement will burn 1 million tyres a month in its kiln?**

No, this is not true – tyres are one of the Alternative Fuels (AF) we are looking to permitted to use. Tyres will provide 10-15% of the total heat needed for our process which would be equivalent to approx. 10,000 tonnes of tyres per year or approx. 1 million tyres per year.

**Won’t burning tyres be harmful to public health and the local environment?**

Because of the extreme temperatures inside the cement kiln (known as complete combustion) – there will be no smoke, no fumes and no increase in emissions.

Using tyres as a fuel in cement kilns is known to be a safe and efficient solution for unwanted tyres.

**Is Irish Cement going to be operating an incinerator in Mungret?**

The Mungret cement factory will continue to make cement, we will simply be using these new fuels as an alternative to imported fossil fuel in the existing cement kiln on site. Under European Regulations this process is known as co-incineration.

Replacing fossil fuels will be achieved on a gradual basis, and the new fuels will be produced to an agreed specification before being delivered to site. No incinerator is being built at the cement factory.

**I heard that the kiln is not suitable?**

The kiln in Mungret is perfectly suited to using a range of fuels. It is part of a multi-stage dry process pre-heater production line that’s recognised as Best Available Technology under European Commission guidance for the sector. Many of the cement kilns throughout Europe already using alternative fuels are in fact older than kiln 6 in Mungret. This is more the only cement factory in Ireland that is totally dependent on fossil fuels. So this is an important project to ensure Mungret does not get left behind.

**Will this project reduce our recycling rates?**

No, using this residual waste in the cement kiln as fuel supports the recycling industry and in fact, Ireland’s Regional Waste Management Plans, recognise the increasing and important role that cement factories play in the efficient recovery of residual waste.

For more than 40 years cement kilns all over Europe have been using alternative fuels to replace fossil fuels. Many of our European neighbours, like Switzerland and Germany, have achieved high recycling rates, very low landfill rates with the help of their local cement industry using residual waste as fuel.

**Will this result in the emission of toxins and dioxins?**

Cement factories have very low dioxin emissions because of the extreme temperatures inside the cement kiln (known as complete combustion) and rapid cooling of the exhaust air before the filter.

The evidence from elsewhere in Europe, where this is a very well-established practice, confirms that the levels of dioxins will remain very low. Hundreds of cement kilns throughout Europe are licenced and monitored by independent environmental authorities and the data over decades confirms that there will be no increase in dioxins.

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**CEMENT FACTORY OR INCINERATOR?**

There is sometimes confusion over the difference between a cement factory and a waste incinerator. The key differences are listed below. The best way to think about it is to consider the following: the purpose of an incinerator is to destroy waste which is to close the loop, while the purpose of a cement factory to make cement using local raw materials which must be ‘melted’ inside the cement kiln at extreme temperatures, which why fuels are needed.

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**CEMENT FACTORY**

- **Purpose of the facility**: Cement Manufacture
- **Operating Temperatures**: >2,000°C
- **Materials used**: Raw materials and Prepared fuels
- **Relative sizes of individual facilities in Ireland**: Up to 2.8 million tonnes of cement produced per year
- **EPA Licence**: Industrial Emissions licence
- **Ash production**: No ash.

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**INCINERATOR**

- **Purpose of the facility**: Waste disposal (with energy recovery)
- **Operating Temperatures**: 900 – 1,200°C
- **Materials used**: Mixed waste
- **Relative sizes of individual facilities in Ireland**: Up to 600,000 tonnes of waste accepted per year
- **EPA Licence**: Waste licence
- **Ash production**: Bottom ash and fly ash requiring further treatment.

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**MUNGRET CEMENT FACTORY 2017**

**Product**

High quality cement for Irish and export markets.

**Employment**

195 full-time people

**Manufacturing Method**

Modern Multi-stage Dry Process technology

**Raw Materials**

Locally available in limestone, shale and clay

**Annual Raw Material Use**

Approx. 1 million tonnes

**Peats Used in Process**

Petrol – a by product of the oil industry

**Source of Petrol**

Imported from the Gulf of Mexico

**Annual Petrol Use**

Approx. 300,000 tonnes

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**MUNGRET CEMENT FACTORY 2021**

**Product**

High quality cement for Irish and export markets.

**Employment**

90 full-time people

**Manufacturing Method**

Modern Multi-stage Dry Process technology

**Raw Materials**

Locally available in limestone, shale and clay

**Annual Raw Material Use**

Approx. 1 million tonnes

**Peats Used in Process**

Petrol – a by product of the oil industry

**Source of Petrol**

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**QUESTION**

**THE FACTS**

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**FACTS ABOUT CEMENT PRODUCTION AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS**

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**Manufacturing Method**

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**Peats Used in Process**

Petrol – a by product of the oil industry

**Source of Petrol**

Imported from the Gulf of Mexico

**Annual Petrol Use**

Approx. 300,000 tonnes

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**IRISH CEMENT LIMERICK**

**FACTS ABOUT CEMENT PRODUCTION AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS**

**Product**

High quality cement for Irish and export markets.

**Employment**

90 full-time people

**Manufacturing Method**

Modern Multi-stage Dry Process technology

**Raw Materials**

Locally available in limestone, shale and clay

**Annual Raw Material Use**

Approx. 1 million tonnes

**Peats Used in Process**

Petrol – a by product of the oil industry

**Source of Petrol**

Imported from the Gulf of Mexico

**Annual Petrol Use**

Approx. 300,000 tonnes

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**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS ANY OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER MADE FROM 100% POST-CONSUMER WASTE.**
The plume is more visible when SRF (solid recovered fuel) is added. SRF is a form of fuel that is often used to replace some of the fossil fuels in cement kilns. SRFS is a great way to ensure the quality of the process.

This high tech, high temperature manufacturing process takes place in the kiln. 85% of the cement leaves the factory by tanker. 25kg bags or transferred to silos for loading into sealed road tankers. Around 90% of the cement goes to bagged, 10% to cement mills. The precise composition and carefully controlled temperature allow us to rearrange the natural chemistry of the rocks to form clinker inside the kiln. The clinker is transported to the cement mills where it is milled into a fine grey powder which is either packed into 25kg bags or transferred to silos for loading into sealed road tankers. The cement leaves the factory by tanker or transferred to silos for loading into sealed road tankers.

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The kiln is shut down on site to allow for maintenance. Number of filters on site: 41. Total length of production line: 3 kilometres from limestone quarry to bag of cement.

Cement production: Approx. 150,000 tonnes each year.

Diameter of the kiln: 4.65 metres.

Kiln flame temperature: >2,000°C.

Residence time inside the kiln: Approx. 20 minutes.

Total length of production line: 3 kilometres from limestone quarry to bag of cement.

Number of filters on site: 41.

Annual maintenance: The kilns is shut down for 4-6 weeks each year.

Cement production video can be found on our website. Around the clock testing and analysis are carried out to ensure the quality of the process. Around the clock testing and analysis are carried out to ensure the quality of the process.

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