

ACC releases India's first, externally assured Sustainable Development Report in accordance with latest G4 guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

ACC Limited has launched India's first externally assured Sustainable Development report that is prepared and published in accordance with the **latest G4 guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)**. ACC's Sustainability Development Report for the year 2013, gives an overview of the company's consistent efforts and achievements in promoting sustainable development. It encapsulates ACC's pan India endeavours to pursue good corporate citizenship practices and energy efficiency initiatives while demonstrating the dedication and research to adopt more environment friendly processes of cement and concrete manufacturing.

It is significant to note that ACC released the country's first Sustainable Development Report based on GRI's latest guidelines in a year when it also **received one of the country's top honours for sustainability**, namely the prestigious CII – ITC Sustainability Prize 2013 for large companies. Also worth a mention is that ACC was ranked as being The Most Admired Company in Cement Sector in 2013 by Fortune India magazine.

In addition to conforming to the new reporting guidelines, the company rendered the report more meaningful by first reviewing and updating its understanding of stakeholder perceptions. Called materiality matrix, the exercise helped the company to prioritize key concerns of stakeholders in respect of sustainability. It has also enabled the company to develop a more meaningful road map for the near term.

Key Highlights

- Community development initiatives reached more than half a million people in 132 villages
- ACC's overall carbon intensity has been cut by 32% since 1990
- Commissioned ACC's 1st waste heat recovery power generation unit of 7.5MW which can potentially reduce 44,180 tonnes of CO₂ per year and provide 7.5% green energy for the plants
- More than 5 Lakh tonnes of alternative raw materials and fuels was used in the cement manufacturing process, raising the thermal substitution rate (TSR) to 4.36% during the year
- ACC has received clearances for co-processing the highest number (127) of waste streams across various stages in the country

ACC's community development initiatives were spread over a wide canvas – reaching more **than half a million people in 132 villages in the country** with valuable engagement in education, health, creating livelihoods and building village infrastructure among other schemes. Timely assistance was provided to the victims and other people affected by disasters that struck the nation, namely the landslide and flash floods in Uttarakhand and severe drought in central Maharashtra.

On the environment excellence journey, the company's **overall carbon intensity has been cut by 32% since 1990**, due to proactive and consistent attention. Despite an increase in demand for more 'carbon-intensive' products like Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC), ACC was able to reduce its overall specific CO₂ emissions to 528 kg CO₂ /Tonne of cement through various CO₂ reduction initiatives in the entire business operations. Another area of improvement is the reduction of specific kiln dust emissions by as much as 18%. Demonstrating greater

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transparency, ACC has started online reporting of kiln stack dust emission from various plants to the pollution control boards.

This year saw the commissioning of ACC's first waste heat recovery power generation unit of 7.5MW which has a potential to reduce approximately 44,180 tonnes of CO₂ per year while providing 7.5% green energy for the plants. The set up will soon be replicated in other ACC plants across the country. In 2013, ACC realized 94,459 Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) from their Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects registered with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and submitted verification reports recommending for issuance of 846,313 CERs.

As part of ACC's Alternative Fuel and Raw materials (AFR) programme implemented under Holcim's Geocycle banner, the company was able to raise the thermal substitution rate (TSR) to 4.36% during the year. This resulted in **usage of more than 5 Lakh tonnes of alternative raw materials and fuels in the cement manufacturing process**. ACC has also received clearances for co-processing the highest number (127) of waste streams across various stages in the country. ACC's pre-processing facilities for processing waste streams at Wadi and Kymore are progressing satisfactorily and expected to be commissioned in 2014; this will enhance its co-processing capability in these plants manifold.

Expressing his satisfaction with the company's progress in the area of sustainable development, Mr. Kuldip Kaura, CEO and Managing Director, ACC Limited said, "Our approach to sustainability has been holistic and we are proud of what we have been able to achieve in this field. I share with satisfaction that we have successfully brought down our carbon footprint by almost one third in the last two decades which is a global industry benchmark; and in the next two decades we are committed to reduce it even further by another 20%."

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ACC Limited is India's largest manufacturer of cement. Formerly called "The Associated Cement Companies Limited", ACC has a countrywide network of modern cement plants, sales offices, dealers and retailers. In the 75 years of its existence, ACC has been a pioneer and trend-setter in cement and sustainable development. ACC is now part of the worldwide Holcim group.

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