

# UKCSA SUSTAINABILITY & ETHICAL TRADING STATEMENT :



In terms of sustainability, cast stone performs well in both production and within its life cycles. The material is highly durable, non-toxic, re-usable and requires virtually no maintenance or repair over its long lifespan. It can also contribute to thermal mass. The scale of its demands on raw materials will never compete with conventional building materials. The base materials are essentially the by-products of industrial processes or are readily available.

All members of the UK Cast Stone Association (UKCSA) have an environmental management system in place and several are certified to ISO 14001. One member is the first company in the world to achieve BES 6001 for responsible sourcing.

UKCSA members are strongly committed to environmentally responsible sourcing, primarily through the use of alternative recycled and secondary materials. A range of cementitious solutions are used to minimise the carbon footprint of products while enhancing their performance and durability. Some UKCSA members are actively pursuing recycled aggregates including crushed glass. Alongside this, less than perfect cast stone is crushed and re-used as aggregate.

UKCSA members are also committed to improving energy efficiency in the production of cast stone, minimising waste, and preventing and reducing accidents. Between 2006 and 2008 members' collective waste was reduced by 10% and the accident frequency ratio fell by 31%. Energy data covering electricity, gas and oil are also monitored to enable continuous improvement measures for the future.

In terms of whole life energy consumption, cast stone costs very little to look after once it becomes part of a building. Its embodied energy becomes insignificant over time. Furthermore the carbonisation of cast stone captures carbon dioxide from the air. Concerns about carbon miles dog many natural materials such as stone and timber, which are sourced from all over the world. In contrast, cast stone is made and distributed within the UK, often in localised markets. This provides a minimal carbon footprint and maintains UK employment.

UKCSA members are committed to ethical trading and as an Association, we support the principles of the UN Global Compact and ETI Base Code.

UKCSA recognises that its members' operations have impacts on their stakeholders. As an ethically, socially and environmentally responsible trade association we believe that our members' stakeholders have a right to expect that:

- Products manufactured by UKCSA members are produced under working conditions that are safe. Employees are safe, rewarded and valued.
- All workers involved in the production and supply of members' products are treated with full consideration to their basic human rights and no discrimination is practised.
- UKCSA members act in an ethical manner above that required by basic legal requirements and are committed to operating in a free and open market and to responsible sourcing.
- UKCSA members undertake continuous initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.
- UKCSA encourages active involvement by its members in local community endeavours.

Direct suppliers are encouraged to operate to the same ethical and environmental standards and to drive Ethical Trading requirements along their own supply chains.