

BENEFICIAL USE OF COAL COMBUSTION PRODUCTS -

AN AMERICAN RECYCLING SUCCESS STORY



The American Coal Ash Association was established in 1968 as a trade organization devoted to recycling the materials created when we burn coal to generate electricity. Our members comprise the world's foremost experts on coal ash (fly ash and bottom ash), and boiler slag, flue gas desulfurization gypsum or "synthetic" gypsum, and other "FGD" materials captured by emissions controls. While other organizations focus on disposal issues, ACAA's mission is to advance the management and use of coal combustion products in ways that are: environmentally responsible; technically sound; commercially competitive; and supportive of a sustainable global community.

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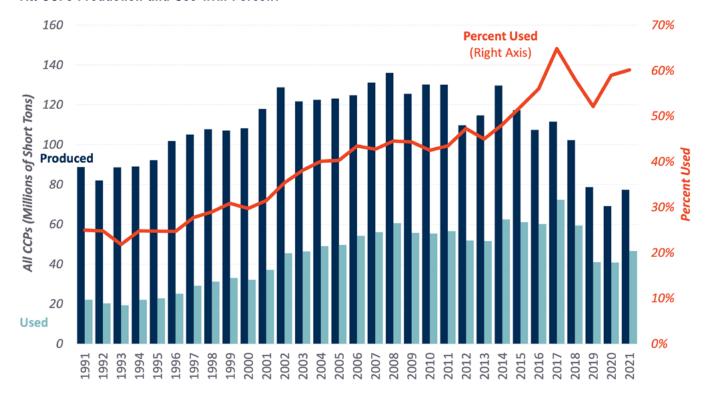
Coal combustion products – often referred to as "coal ash" – are solid materials produced when coal is burned to generate electricity. There are many good reasons to view coal ash as a resource, rather than a waste. Using it conserves natural resources and saves energy. In many cases, products made with coal ash perform better than products made without it.

As coal continues to produce approximately one-quarter of the electricity generation in the United States, significant volumes of coal ash are produced. Since 1968, the American Coal Ash Association has tracked the production and use of all types of coal ash. These surveys are intended to show broad utilization patterns and ACAA's data have been accepted by industry and numerous government agencies as the best available metrics of beneficial use practices.

Sixty percent of the coal ash produced during 2021 was recycled—increasing from 59 percent in 2020 and marking the seventh consecutive year that more than half of the coal ash produced in the United States was beneficially used rather than disposed.

American Coal Ash Association's 2021 "Production and Use Survey" also showed that use of harvested ash is continuing to grow. Nearly 4.5 million tons of previously disposed ash was utilized in a variety of applications in 2021, including coal ash pond closure activities, concrete products, cement kiln raw feed, and gypsum panel manufacturing. The volume of harvested ash that was utilized increased 12 percent, or more than 500,000 tons, over the previous year.

All CCPs Production and Use with Percent





Fly Ash

Fly ash is a powdery material that is captured by emissions control equipment before it can "fly" up the stack. Mostly comprised of silicas, aluminas and calcium compounds, fly ash has mechanical and chemical properties that make it a valuable ingredient in a wide range of concrete products. Roads, bridges, buildings, concrete blocks and other concrete products commonly contain fly ash.

Concrete made with coal fly ash is stronger and more durable than concrete made with cement alone. By reducing the amount of manufactured cement needed to produce concrete, fly ash accounts for approximately 12 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions reductions each year.

Other major uses for fly ash include constructing structural fills and embankments, waste stabilization and solidification, mine reclamation, and use as raw feed in cement manufacturing.

Fly Ash Production & Use 2000 - 2021





Fly ash ranges in color from gray to buff depending on the type of coal.



The American Road & Transportation Builders Association estimates coal fly ash use in roads and bridges saves \$5.2 billion per year in U.S. construction costs.

Bottom Ash

Bottom ash is a heavier, granular material that is collected from the "bottom" of coal-fueled boilers. Bottom ash is often used as an aggregate, replacing sand and gravel. Bottom ash is often used as an ingredient in manufacturing concrete blocks.

Other major uses for bottom ash include constructing structural fills and embankments, mine reclamation, and use as raw feed in cement manufacturing.



Bottom ash can be used in asphalt paving.

Bottom Ash Production & Use 2000 – 2021





Bottom ash is a granular material suitable for replacing gravel and sand.

Synthetic Gypsum

Power plants equipped with flue gas desulphurization ("FGD") emissions controls, also known as "scrubbers," create byproducts that include synthetic gypsum. Although this material is not technically "ash" because it is not present in the coal, it is managed and regulated as a coal combustion product.

Scrubbers utilize high-calcium sorbents, such as lime or limestone, to absorb sulfur and other elements from flue gases. Depending on the scrubber configuration, the byproducts vary in consistency from wet sludge to dry powdered material.

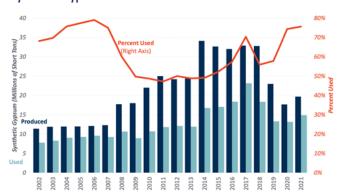
Synthetic gypsum is used extensively in the manufacturing of wallboard. A rapidly growing use of synthetic gypsum is in agriculture, where it is used to improve soil conditions and prevent runoff of fertilizers and pesticides.

Other major uses for synthetic gypsum include waste stabilization, mine reclamation, and cement manufacturing.



More than half of the gypsum wallboard manufactured in the United States utilizes synthetic gypsum from coal-fueled power plants.

Synthetic Gypsum Production & Use 2002 - 2021





Synthetic gypsum is often more pure than naturally mined gypsum.



Synthetic gypsum applied to farm fields improves soil quality and performance.



Other Products and Uses

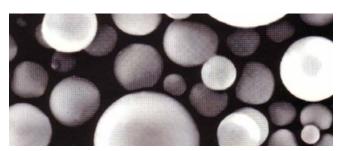
Boiler Slag – is a molten ash collected at the base of older generation boilers that is quenched with water and shatters into black, angular particles having a smooth, glassy appearance. Boiler slag is in high demand for beneficial use as blasting grit and roofing granules, but supplies are decreasing because of the retirement from service of older power plants that produce boiler slag.

Cenospheres – are harvested from fly ash and are comprised of microscopic hollow spheres. Cenospheres are strong and lightweight, making them useful as fillers in a wide variety of materials including concrete, paint, plastics and metal composites.

FBC Ash – is a category of ash from Fluidized Bed Combustion power plants. These plants reclaim waste coal for fuel and create an ash by-product that is most commonly used to reclaim abandoned surface mines and abate acid mine drainage. Ash from FBC power plants can also be used for waste and soil stabilization.



Nearly 90 percent of all boiler slag is beneficially used.



Because of their high value, cenospheres – seen here in a microscopic view – are measured by the pound rather than by the ton.



This regional park was constructed with FBC ash on the site of a former waste coal pile.

New Uses on Horizon

New beneficial uses for coal ash are continually under development. Researchers and ash marketers are currently focusing heavily on the potential for harvesting ash that has already been disposed for potential beneficial use. There is also renewed interest in the potential for extracting strategic rare earth minerals from ash for use in electronics manufacturing.





	tric Power Monthly.	on EIA's July 2021 Elec	ate 210.141 GW capacity based on EIA's July 2021 Electric Power Monthly.	107 835. Data in this survey represents 115.36786 GWs of Name Plate rating of the total industry wide approxima	Name Plate rating of the	ents 115.36786 GWs of	Data in this survey repres	107 835	2021 Cenospheres Sold (Pounds)
60.16%	100.00%	0.00%	5.28%	0.00%	75.63%	61.46%	40.89%	67.08%	Category Use to Production Rate (%)
46,540,576	8,310,124	0	226,109	0	14,890,701	734,652	3,591,948	18,787,042	Totals by CCP Type/Application
CCP Utilization Total	FBC Ash	FGD Other	FGD Material Dry Scrubbers	FGD Material Wet Scrubbers	FGD Gypsum	Boiler Slag	Bottom Ash	Fly Ash	CCP Categories
				tion Rate	Summary Utilization to Production Rate				
378,462	0	0	50,339	0	41,520	0	90,226	196,378	17. Miscellaneous/Other
2,952,301	0	0	0	0	449,700	0	150,696	2,351,905	16. CCR Pond Closure Activities
71,373	0	0	15,696	0	0	0	0	55,677	15. Oil/Gas Field Services
455,000	0	0	0	0	453,114	0	43	1,843	14. Aggregate
822,902	0	0	76,839	0	742,546	0	3,516	0	13. Agriculture
501,263	0	0	13,587	0	977	0	53,243	433,456	12. Waste Stabilization/Solidification
11,740,314	0	0	0	0	11,740,314	0	0	0	 Gypsum Panel Products (formerly Wallboard)
8,429,225	8,310,124	0	31,465	0	0	0	0	87,636	10. Mining Applications
533,697	0	0	0	0	0	481,245	52,452	0	Blasting Grit/Roofing Granules
59,965	0	0	0	0	0	3,655	56,311	0	8. Snow and Ice Control
7,544	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,544	7. Mineral Filler in Asphalt
103,207	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	103,207	6. Soil Modification/Stabilization
170,309	0	0	0	0	0	0	95,608	74,702	5. Road Base/Sub-base
2,043,469	0	0	0	0	0	145,869	1,698,855	198,746	4. Structural Fills/Embankments
48,687	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48,687	3. Flowable Fill
5,599,124	0	0	0	0	1,430,135	103,884	773,999	3,291,107	2. Blended Cement/ Feed for Clinker
12,623,732	0	0	38,183	0	32,395	0	617,000	11,936,154	Concrete/Concrete Products /Grout
46,540,576	8,310,124	0	226,109	0	14,890,701	734,652	3,591,948	18,787,042	Total CCPs Used by Category
77,363,050	8,310,124	63,578	4,284,941	7,032,003	19,688,381	1,195,311	8,783,796	28,004,916	Total CCPs Produced by Category
CCP Production / Utilization Totals	FBC Ash	FGD Other	FGD Material Dry Scrubbers	FGD Material Wet Scrubbers	FGD Gypsum	Boiler Slag	Bottom Ash	Fly Ash	2021 CCP Categories
				otals (Short Tons)	Beneficial Utilization versus Production Totals (Short Tons	Beneficial Utilizatio			
	rvey Report	ction & Use Su	2021 Coal Combustion Product (CCP) Production & Use Survey Report	Coal Combustion Pr	2021 (16.16 17th Street Suite #2.66 Denver, CO 80202 www.ACAA-USA.org Email: info@acaa-usa.org