

Transforming Construction

Through Decarbonization, Circular Economy, and Material Innovation

Cesar A. Constantino, PhD, FACI, FASTM



June 18, 2025

Agenda



Presentation Overview

04 Sustainable Solutions

SCMs, Strength Enhancers & LC3 Cements

02 Returned Concrete Convert C

05 Conclusions

Paving the Way for Sustainable Construction

03 Challenging Materials Quad 06 Q&A How Can We Help?



2 Transforming Construction: Decarbonization, Circular Economy and Material Innovation

Sustainability at Chryso – Saint-Gobain





02

Returned Concrete Solutions



The pain points for the management of returned concrete are increasing.



Plant and Jobsites Space

Current "solutions" have limited space to store returned concrete and jobsites will not keep the concrete leftover



Environmental Regulations

Difficulty to adapt to growing environmental regulations and find cost effective solutions quickly



Complex RM Management

Scarcity of quality Raw Materials and complexity to manage quality x price and logistics



Practicality & Decision making

Making the optimal decision for your surplus concrete at the speed of business

Returned Concrete Management

Most used market solutions

Hauling Offsite

- High cost
- Regulations changing
- Not "sustainability friendly"
- Challenge managing space at the plants

Producing Blocks

- Cost beneficial producing and selling blocks
- Labor dependable
- Practice decreasing for use at concrete plants

Crushing Concrete

- Dependable on equipment, investment and space
- Cost beneficial if reselling crushed concrete

Reuse of Fresh Returned Concrete

- Increasing practice
- Cost beneficial
- Granulizing and reselling/reusing
- Stabilize and reusing
- More sustainable

*Additional solutions should be considered for different markets and customers.

The volume of returned concrete is typically between 2% to 5% of total production with a 3% in average



Case Study Circular Solutions: Convert C

Concrete Waste Reduction

COST SAVINGS: > \$1/cy from aggregate replacement

Circular economy in practice: waste reduction & recycled aggregate

Target: replacing aggregate using recycled aggregate treated with Convert C

- Replacing 5 % of total aggregate, equally distributed for gravel and sand (estimated materials costs)
- > **\$1 per cubic yard** in cost savings.
- If using in 20% of the volume in a plant producing 100k cy per year, total savings per year is ~\$30k.



COST COMPARISON



Quad and Challenging Materials



Aggregates material characteristics with negative impact in concrete performance: characteristics and challenges

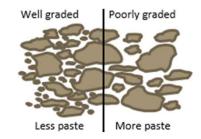
- Scarcity of good quality aggregates and the impact of transport on concrete embodied carbon make lower quality sands locally available of high value.
- However, the quality of sands has a direct impact on concrete performance, placeability and finishability.

Aggregates material characteristics with negative impact in concrete performance



Specific and shapes

- Increase friction between particles
- Reduces rheology and flow
- Affects pumpability and workability



Lack of fines

- Compactness porosity
- Slump retention bleeding, pumpability issues
- Reduces strength

DR Efficiency Improvement vs Clay Content

Swelling clay/Excess of fines

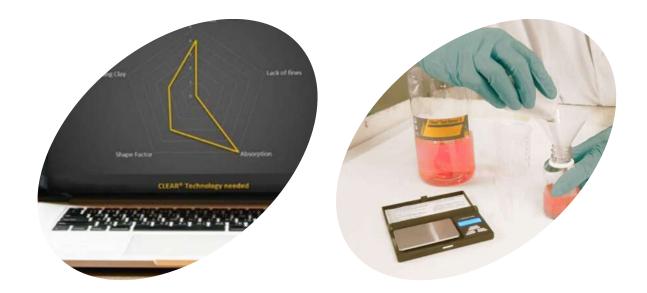
- Higher water and/or admixture consumption
- Slump retention pumpability and workability



Quad Lab and Clear Test

Chryso has developed an innovative and fast service to analyze sands and provide our customers with the right solution according to specific requirements.

Unique characterization method for swelling clay which is a real alternative to the methylene blue test with higher accuracy and reproducibility, and very easy-to-use testing in the lab and on site.



Step 1: Identification of swelling clay

A leading-edge tool for analyzing sand containing swelling clay

Step 2: Sand characterization data

Fineness modulus, type of sand, absorption rate, etc.

Step 3: data analysis

We use collected data to determine the best Quad solutions to meet specific requirements.

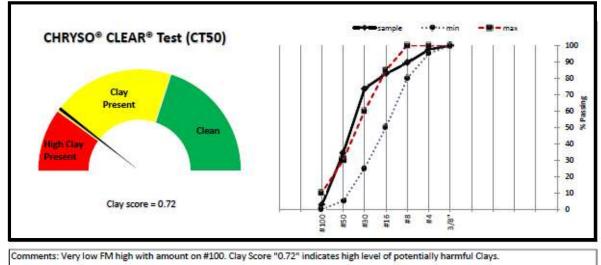


Case Study: Material Optimization, Quad 520 EMx

Low Quality Aggregate: Reduce CO₂ using available low-quality natural sand due to clay contamination **Initial objective**: solve clay contamination issues and reduce cost by using locally available natural sand. *Customer achieved its initial objective and reduced its concrete embodied carbon by 3.5%.*

Target: Maintain the use of poor-quality natural sand and find the best admix solution to achieve cost reduction and potential CO_2 reduction

- **Quad Clear Test** was a crucial tool to help identify the best product to use. High clay score of 0.72, failed gradation and low FM.
- **Targeted performance obtained** higher slump, better air control, good slump retention and higher compressive strengths compared to the competition product.
- Enhanced finishability noted by the finishing crew.
- Allowed to achieve significant **embodied carbon reduction**.





Case Study: Material Optimization SW USA, Quad series

Increase SCM use: Natural Pozzolan with potential for CO₂ reduction

Initial objective: increase SCM, maintain same or higher concrete performance and reduce cost. *Customer achieved the objective, reduced concrete embodied carbon by* **24%** *and* **~\$3 savings/cy** *from mix optimization.*

Target: Optimize concrete mixture to leverage availability of local natural pozzolan source to deliver cost savings and CO_2 reduction for the concrete.

Customer aimed to maximize use of internal natural pozzolan sources.

- Achieved comparable slump, air control, slump retention, and compressive strength to the control mix.
- Improved finishability with Quad[®].
- Supported potential carbon reduction by optimizing the mix design through increased SCM replacement.

C P	Control Mix	Quad (30% SCM)	Quad (40% SCM*)
CO₂ Impact kg CO _{2eq} /m³	342	293	259
Reduction vs Control	-	-14%	-24%

**Mix Optimization*: SCM usage increased maintaining same strength levels. Use of Natural pozzolan.



04

Building a Sustainable Portfolio of Solutions

Driving sustainable product ranges

Unique Water Reducers for Challenging Materials	EnviroMx Water Reducers & Strength Enhancers	EnviroMx Impact App	EnviroNx New Range for C-Clay	EnviroAdd Next Gen Activators
Circular Economy Solutions for Aggregates	Water Reducers Enabling SCM Use; Cement Reduction with Strength Gain	Proprietary Embodied Carbon App to Pre-quantify Mix GWP Results	Admix for Calcined Clay Cements	Customized Cement Additives
Circularity solutions Transparency – EPDs available	Decarbonizing construction Building resiliency Transparency – EPDs available	Decarbonizing construction	Decarbonizing construction Transparency – EPDs available	Decarbonizing construction Circularity solutions



Decarbonizing Construction



Circularity Solutions



Building Resiliency



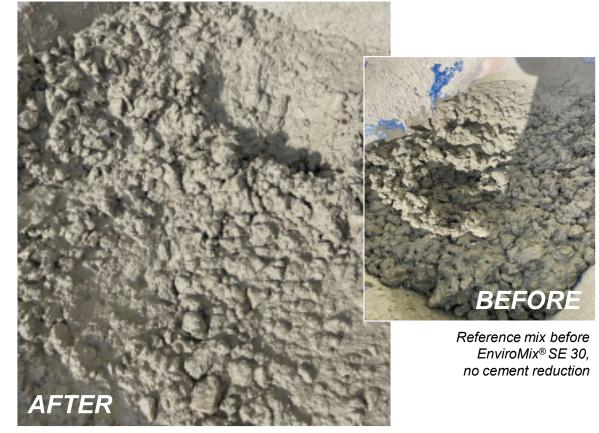
Transparency & Performance



Case Study: Decarbonization SEs, Midwest USA

EnviroMix[®] SE 30 in this region demonstrates its effectiveness in achieving cement reductions of 18 to 30 kg/m³ (30 to 50 pcy), while maintaining or exceeding strength requirements.

 Concrete mixes incorporating EnviroMix[®] SE 30 have shown superior workability and finishability as noted in direct contractor feedback.



Reference after EnviroMix[®] SE 30, minus 22.7kg (50lb) of cement



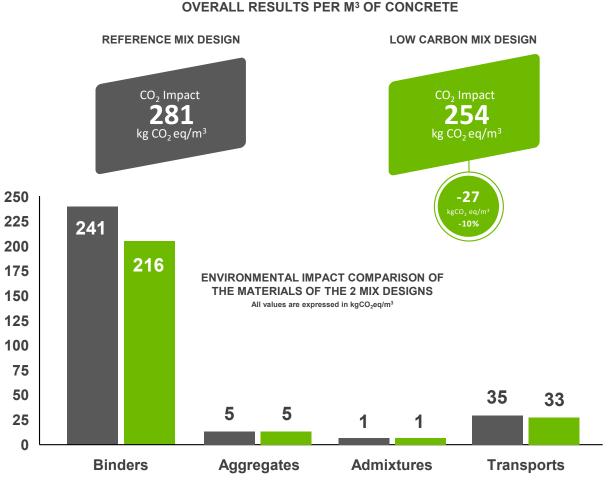
Case Study: Midwest USA, CO₂ and strength impact

ENVIROMIX IMPACT APP RESULTS

EMx SE 30: 10% enhanced strength with Type IL cement

EMx SE 30: Up to 50lb cement reduction in mix design

Customer	Mix Design	Cementitious lb/y³ Reference Mix	Cementitious Ib/y³ EMX SE 30	Cement Reduction lb/y ³
A	4000 psi (Type 1L + Fly Ash)	560	510	50 (Cement)
В	3500 psi (Type 1L + Fly Ash)	440	390	50 (Cement)
С	4000 psi (Avg Portland Cement)	500	470	30 (Cement)
D	4000 psi (Type 1L + Fly Ash	564	514	50 (Cement + Fly Ash)



Admixtures for calcined clay-based cement

Cement expertise and anticipated work on the topic for industrial scale since 2019 with various codevelopment projects on concrete and cement side.

Characterization of numerous calcined clays from worldwide origins with in-house and patented methodologies to determine the optimal formulation for each potential configuration.

Optimization of our solutions, building of a large Calcined Clay database to be able to provide tailor-made solutions.





Creation of EnviroMix C-clay range

Admixtures and Additives for Use with Calcined Clay Cements



 $\rm CO_2$ of calcined clay is ~60% that of portland cement; 490 kgCO_{2eq}/ton vs 810 kgCO_{2eq}/ton, respectively

)1

↑ SCM USE WITH **↓** AVAILABILITY

Need for SCMs with high availability to pursue global decrease of CO_2

02 HIGH AVAILABILITY OF CLAYS

Wide availability of suitable clays throughout the world; cement focused on the subject

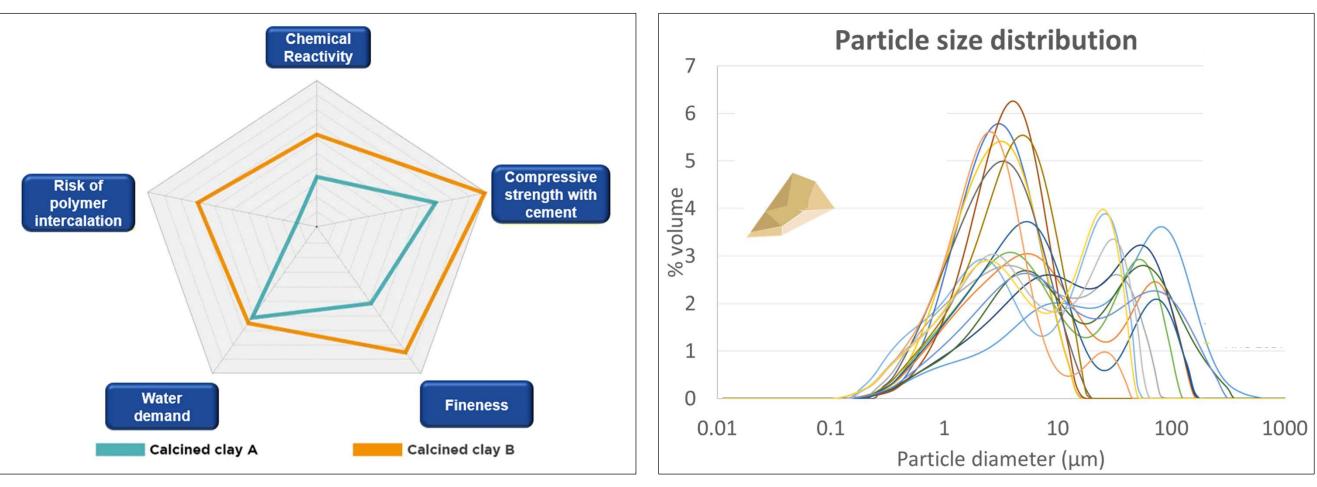
03 CONCRETE PERFORMANCE

Depends on quality and quantity of calcined clay used in cement



Concrete performances challenges

Wide variety of calcined clays



Necessity to develop specific admixture solutions



Case Study: EnviroAdd LC3 Activator

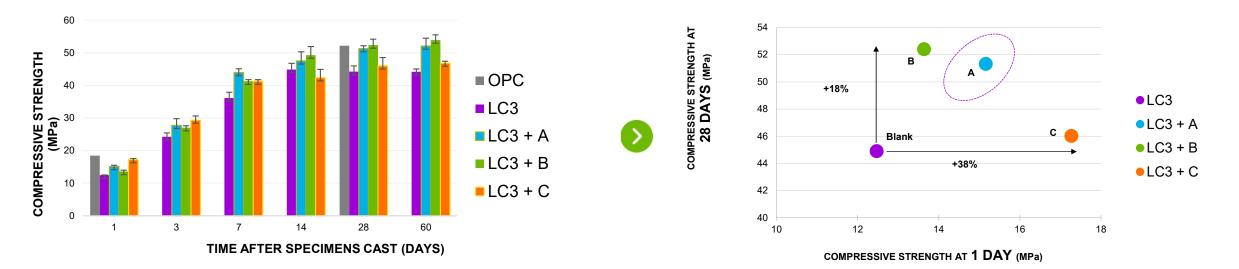


Industrial trial with LC3-50 Cement (30% calcined clay, 15% limestone)



Achieved robust increase of compressive strengths

- 1 day (+38%) with EnviroAdd[®] "C"
- 28 days (+18%) with EnviroAdd[®] "B".
- Customized Additive EnviroAdd[®] "A" met cement plant's target performance at all ages.



CUSTOMIZED EnviroAdd[®] ACTIVATORS ALLOW TO MEET THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF LOW-CLINKER CEMENTS



 $\mathbf{05}$ Paving the Way for a Sustainable Future



Key Takeaways







Crossroads

Pioneer advancements in sustainable construction by addressing the crossroads of material innovation, circularity, resiliency and environmental responsibility

Circular Economy

Drive the transformation of construction through the adoption of circular economy practices, setting new standards for sustainability

Collaboration

Foster teamwork and shared knowledge to overcome industry challenges and drive progress

Unite diverse expertise and perspectives to create a collaborative environment that fuels innovation and growth



Innovation

Utilize advanced tools to accelerate analysis and quantify goals, paving the path for a sustainable future

Innovate continuously to push the boundaries of construction, embracing cutting-edge solutions for a greener tomorrow





Thank you!

Cesar A. Constantino, PhD, FACI, FASTM cesar.a.constantino@saint-gobain.com

