



## Low-carbon concrete beyond the use of SCMs

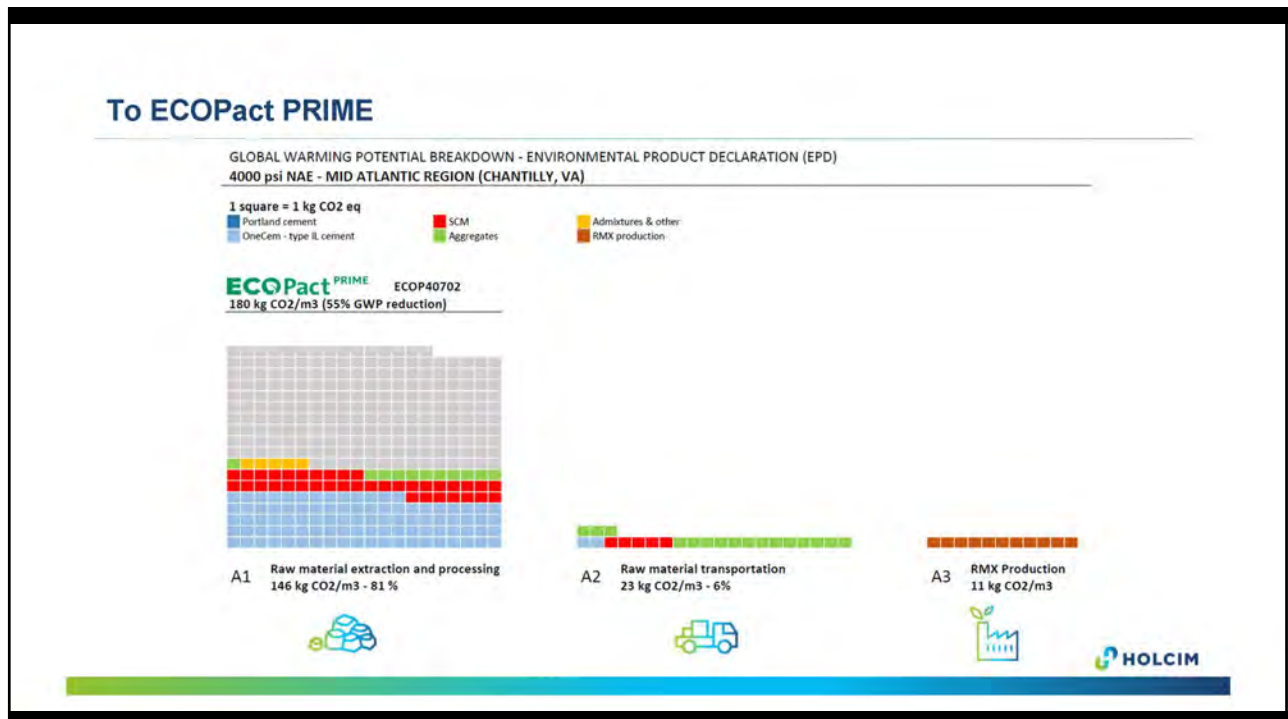
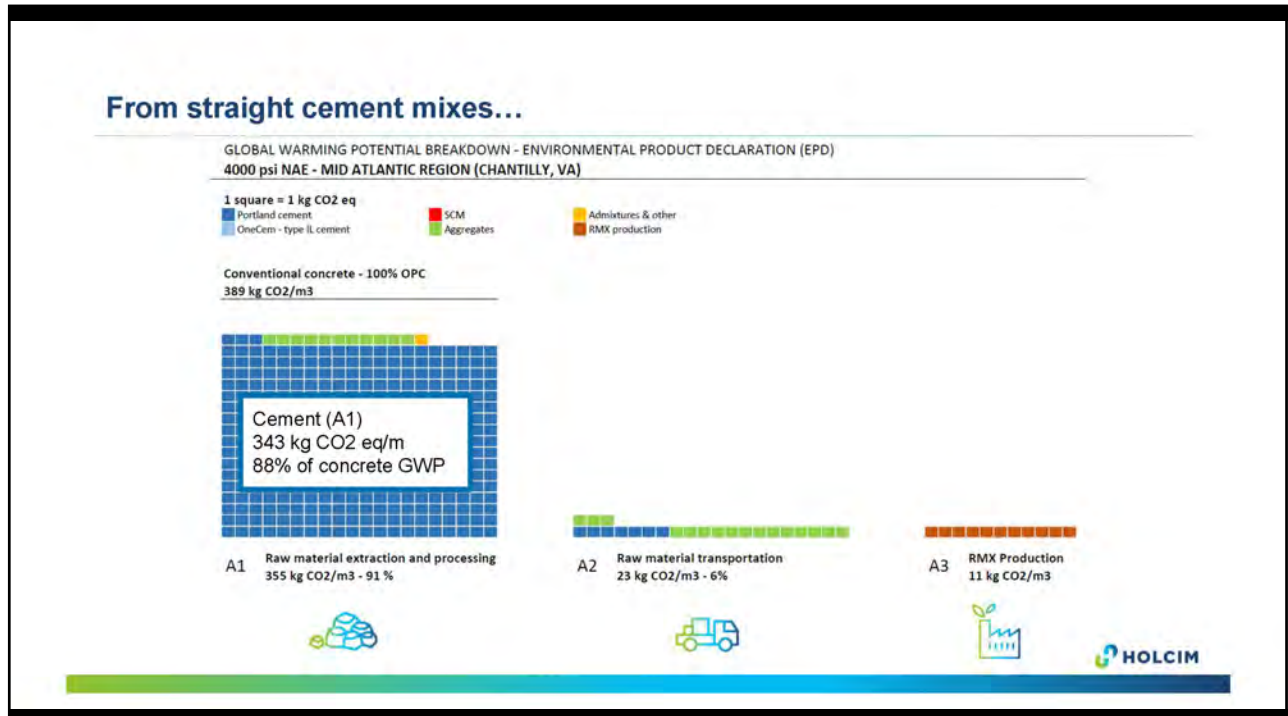
Innovative ways to reduce Embodied Carbon in Concrete

NRMCA Concrete Innovations - September 14, 2022  
Cecile Roman - Innovation and Sustainability Manager - Holcim RMX US



- Global leader in building materials and solutions
- Active on all continents in around 70 countries
- 72,000 employees
- Activities
  - Cement
  - Aggregates
  - **Ready-mix concrete**
  - Solutions & Products (Roofing, insulation...)
- Net Zero Climate Pledge with 2030 climate targets that are validated by the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi)
  - **60% of our R&D is for sustainability** (circular economy, CO2 reduction, CCUS, health and urban air quality)





## Tracking and reducing emissions at different scales

### LCA/EPD - Product level

**ECOPact**  
The Green Concrete

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

**Declared Product:**  
 Mix ECOS80504 - Fort Totten (DC Plant)  
 Description: 8000 ECOPACT, STANDARD PST NAE  
 HRWR  
 Compressive strength: 8000 PSI at 28 days

**Declared Unit:** 1 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete

Global Warming Potential (kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq)	320
Crustal Depletion Potential (kg CrP-13 eq)	8.31E-6
Acidification Potential (kg SO <sub>2</sub> eq)	1.27
Eutrophication Potential (kg N eq)	0.98
Photochemical Oxidant Creation Potential (kg O <sub>3</sub> eq)	22.1
Absorbed Dehydration, non-fossil (kg Sil eq)	4.49E-5
Absorbed Dehydration, fossil (kgC)	1.732
Total Water Depleted (kg)	4.37
Consumption of freshwater (m <sup>3</sup> )	3.47

**Product Components:** crushed aggregate (ASTM C33), natural aggregate (ASTM C33), Portland cement (ASTM C150), slag (ASTM C989), admixture (ASTM C494), latex resin (ASTM C1602)

Additional details and impacts are reported on page three of this EPD.

### GHG Protocol - Company level

OUR CO<sub>2</sub> FOOTPRINT (%)

SCOPE 1: 119.3 MT CO <sub>2</sub>	75%
SCOPE 2: 7.0 MT CO <sub>2</sub>	5%
SCOPE 3: 30.0 MT CO <sub>2</sub>	20%

## Lever 1 - Stage A1 - Using carbon storing materials

### Reducing aggregate related environmental impacts

- Agg (coarse and fine) account for 15% of concrete embodied carbon (A1 & A2) in a low-carbon mix
- Virgin raw materials extraction
- CDW management issues

**ECOPact PRIME** ECOP40702  
180 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup> (55% GWP reduction)

**Aggregates A1**  
11 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq/m<sup>3</sup> - 6% GWP

**A1** Raw material extraction and processing  
146 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup> - 81%

**A2** Raw material transportation  
23 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup> - 6%

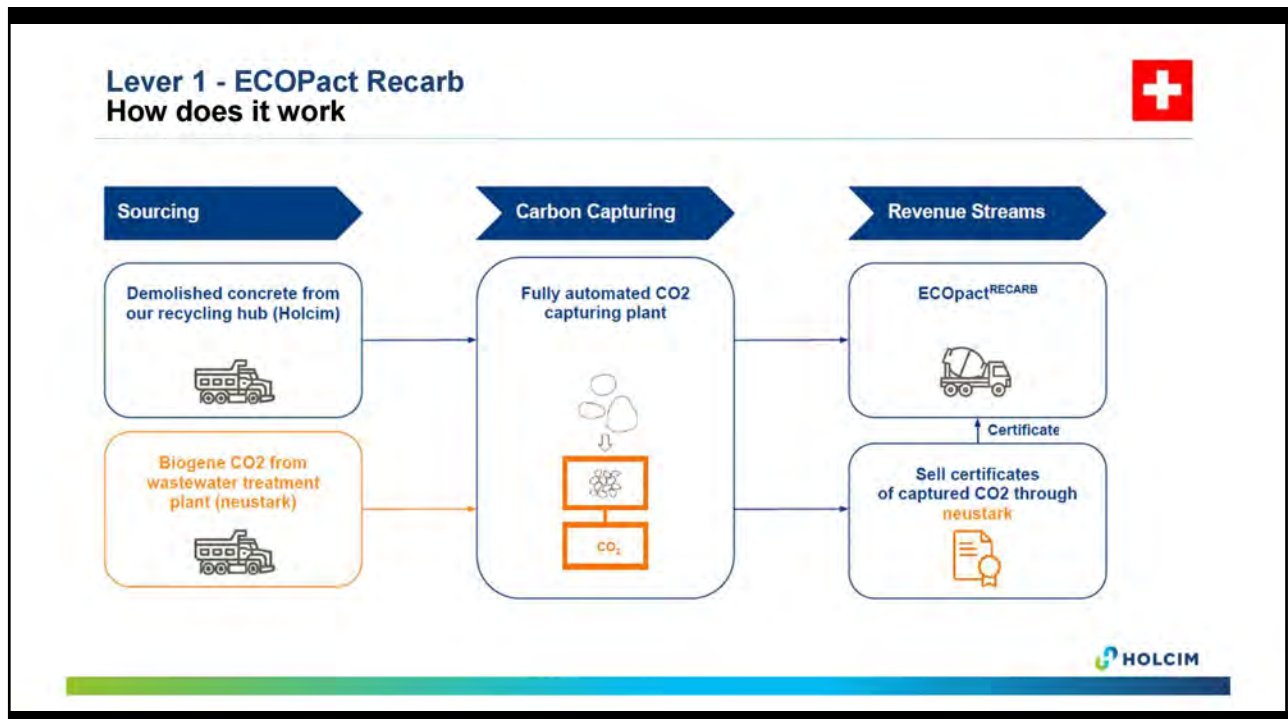
**A3** RMX Production  
11 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>

### Lever 1 - ECOPact Recarb

#### The concrete with captured CO2 - Switzerland



- Recycled concrete aggregates enriched with CO2
- Permanent storage of biogenic CO2 into concrete
- Partnership with a Swiss startup, neustark, through our startup accelerator, [Holcim MAQER](#)



## Lever 1 - ECOPact Recarb Pilot project



### IMPLEMENTATION / CHALLENGES:

- Mineralized recycled aggregates used for a **full scale project** in Zug district in 2022
  - 5,500 cy (4,200 m<sup>3</sup>) of concrete with carbonated RCA
  - 1344 metric tons carbonated RCA
  - 40% of coarse agg. (specification)
- Onsite installation with 2 containers and a CO<sub>2</sub> tank (minimal footprint)
  - 1 hour CO<sub>2</sub> uptake for 15 m<sup>3</sup> (36 metric tons)
  - Labor intensive
  - Available for any RMX plant



### ENABLERS / SUCCESS FACTORS:

- Ready mix with **carbonated recycled concrete aggregates prescribed** in submission
- Holcim's ability to **collect and process CDW** in nearby facility
- **Proven monitoring of the CO<sub>2</sub> capture** by startup partner Neustark



## Lever 1 - ECOPact Recarb Benefits and next steps



### OUTCOME / BENEFITS:

- 21 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub> savings due to carbonation of recycled aggregates for the Zug project
- Minimum 5 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq stored by m<sup>3</sup> of concrete
  - **6-15 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq/m<sup>3</sup>** stored in recycled aggregates depending on the recycled material properties
  - **Additional CO<sub>2</sub> savings up to 10%** from ECOPact PRIME baseline
- Upcycling concrete in an efficient and profitable way
  - Circular economy

### NEXT STEPS:

- In Switzerland, mobile installation, up and running in 1 day and fully automated
  - Adapted to existing RMX plant bins
  - Enrich 40,000 metric tons of recycled concrete aggregates annually (**268 t CO<sub>2</sub>** permanently stored)
- Verify if and how cement content can be reduced due to mineralization and improved agg. performance
- In the US, similar solution with Blue Planet aggregates (CA)

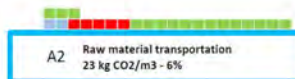
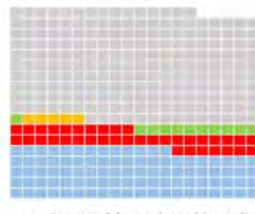


## Lever 2 - Stage A2 - Reducing our transportation emissions

### US Strategy:

- optimize asset utilization
- replace the existing energy sources to power our logistics assets with lower CO2 alternatives

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 180 kg CO2/m3 (55% GWP reduction)



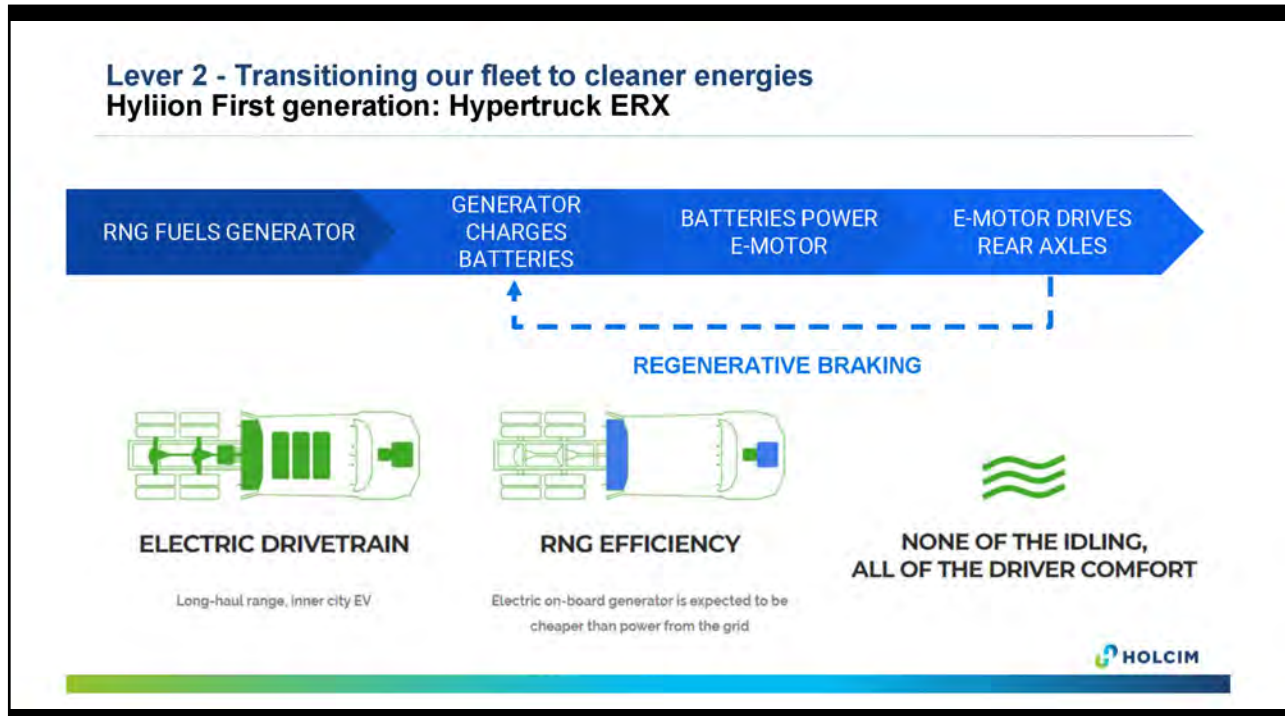
## Lever 2 - Transitioning our fleet to cleaner energies Our Journey in Texas

- 2021:
  - Transitioned circa 50% of RMX deliveries to bio diesel
  - Assessment of other technologies for other transportation needs:
    - Electric Vehicles
    - Natural Gas and Renewable NG (from biogenic source)
    - Hydrogen
- 2022:
  - Hylilion - Austin based startup:
    - First generation = Natural Gas (conventional/renewable) hybrid technology
    - Holcim committed to 10 build slots for Hypertruck ERX's (cement or aggregate transportation)
    - Expected delivery in 2023



Source: Hylilion





### Lever 2 - Transitioning our fleet to cleaner energies Benefits and next steps

**OUTCOME / BENEFITS:**

- 30% CO2 savings compared to diesel - up to 100% if Renewable Natural Gas is available
  - From **7 to 20 kg CO2 eq saved per m3** of concrete (4 to 11% GWP)
- Savings on fleet operation costs (depending on diesel costs assumptions)
- Health and safety benefits for drivers (comfort) and communities (less noise and air pollution)

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Take delivery of Hyliion Hypertruck ERX, assess and deploy
  - Possible partnership with them on their next technologies (fuel agnostic trucks, hydrogen trucks)
- Take delivery of Tesla semi-tractors, assess and deploy
- **Optimize network to reduce our transportation distances** (ongoing data analysis - 2023)
  - Find EV alternatives for concrete mixers (some developed in Europe)
- Magment concrete technology: **EV charging pavements**

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### Lever 3 - Stage A3 - Switching our plants to solar energy

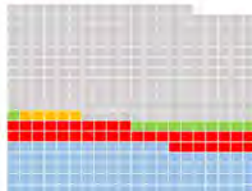
RMX plant Scope 2 emissions from electricity: range from 0.77 to 7.60 kg CO<sub>2</sub> / m<sup>3</sup>

- ie 0.3 to 3% of total GWP

Decarbonization potential **with 50% solar energy**

- For 1 plant = up to 425 t CO<sub>2</sub> eq/year
- Per m<sup>3</sup> of concrete = up to 4 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq/m<sup>3</sup>

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 11 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>



### Lever 3 - Switching our plants to solar energy

#### Solar panel installation at a RMX plant in the Mid-Atlantic Region



Installed capacity = 320 kWp

Timeline:

- Feasibility study
- Interconnexion and permitting
- Installation and commissioning (Nov 22 to Mar 23)

Annual expected electricity generation:

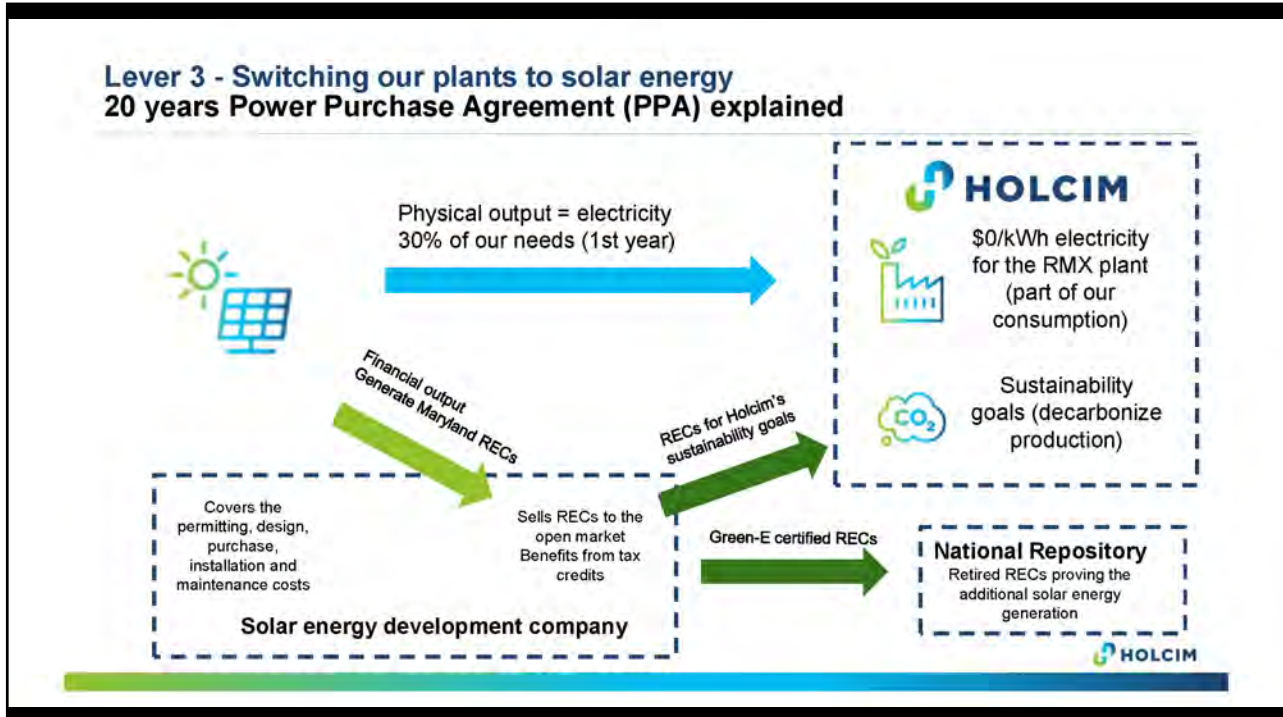
- **30% of the plant's consumption**
- Slowly decreases over 20 years

CO<sub>2</sub> savings:

- The PV system is powering our facility with solar electricity and reducing our carbon footprint







### Lever 3 - Switching our plants to solar energy Benefits and next steps

**OUTCOME / BENEFITS:**

- On-site electricity generation, less exposure to energy price volatility
- Contributing to an **increased solar energy capacity** for the local grid
- SRECs go towards company's sustainability goals
  - No CO2 reduction claim for concrete EPDs

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Assess pilot project, can be replicated with the same partner to other facilities
- **Deploy solar panel installations to all production sites** (cement and ACM)
- Other renewable energies

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Cecile Roman, RMX Innovation and Sustainability Manager, Holcim US  
[cecile.roman@holcim.com](mailto:cecile.roman@holcim.com)  
<https://www.holcim.us/ecopact>