



# Low carbon concrete comes on stream in County Mayo

**M**cGrath Quarries of Cong and Frank Harrington, Kilkelly are among 17 of Ireland's largest concrete manufacturers who have come together to launch Low Carbon Concrete (LCC). Manufactured with Ecocem's Green Cement, Low Carbon Concrete will allow consumers and the construction sector to reduce the carbon footprint of new buildings and structures by 25%.

Green Cement is made from GGBS (Ground Granulated Blast-Furnace Slag), a by-product of the steel industry and releases 16 times less CO<sub>2</sub> than conventional cement during its manufacture. It also reduces the embodied CO<sub>2</sub> footprint by 25% – embodied CO<sub>2</sub> is the quantity of CO<sub>2</sub> released in the construction of a building or structure.

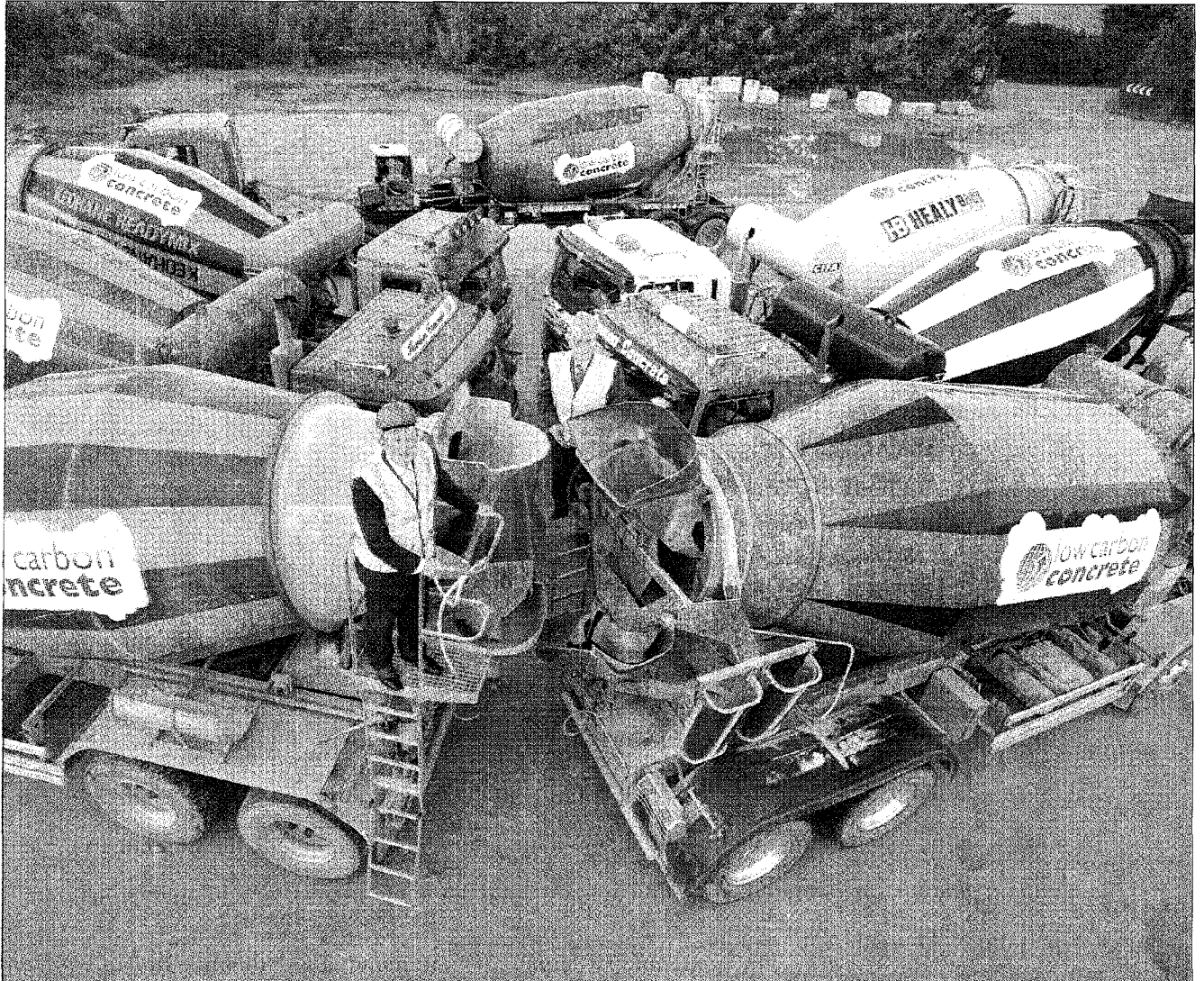
Tom Parlon, Director General, Construction Industry Federation commented, "The construction industry is making a huge contribution to efforts to reduce Ireland's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The industry has adopted new practices and technologies and is continually looking at ways of innovating in this area.

The launch of Low Carbon Concrete is a very significant development in this respect"

Donal O'Riain, Group Managing Director, Ecocem commented "The construction industry will be able to save over 2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually through the use of Low Carbon Concrete. This is equivalent to taking more than 500,000 cars off the road for a year.

"Ireland is currently producing over 3 million cubic meters of Low Carbon Concrete, saving over 1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes so far. This growth has been achieved without any support or regulatory assistance from the Government.

"Were the Government to introduce the EU's Green Purchasing Guidelines, the resulting increased use of low carbon products and corresponding reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would significantly reduce the potential exposure of Irish taxpayers to fines from breaching Ireland's Kyoto Protocol commitments."



At the launch of Low Carbon Concrete are Tom Parlon (left), Director General, Construction Industry Federation and John Newell, Managing Director, Ecoconcrete Ireland.