

The Industrial Resources Council

In 2005, six industry associations came together to form a cooperative partnership to develop market opportunities for industrial residuals. Those associations were, in alphabetical order:

- American Coal Ash Association (ACAA)
 - Coal ash and emission control residues
- Construction Materials Recycling Association (CMRA)
 - Recycled concrete, asphalt pavement, wallboard, shingles, etc.
- Foundry Industry Recycling Starts Today (FIRST)
 - Foundry sands
- National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI)
 - Residues from the wood and paper products industry
- National Slag Association
 - Iron and steel slag, ground granulated blast furnace slag
- Rubber Manufacturer's Association
 - Tire derived aggregates

From a regulator's perspective or even public perspective these materials are, at best – byproducts or co-products. At worst they are industrial wastes. Perception is in the eye of the beholder and the IRC sees these as viable alternatives to other commonly used materials.

Using these materials conserves natural resources, reduces the need for landfill space, and creates synergistic opportunities to be combined with other materials to create products meeting performance and quality standards.

The use of many of these materials is guided or implemented by standards like the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), state DOT specifications or other design documents.

Since the barriers to increased use or regulatory approval were very similar among all six organizations the formation of the IRC seemed good common sense.

The IRC works to share or distribute technical and environmental information pertaining to the use of their respective materials. This is done through meetings, publications, web-based information and workshops. The IRC also participates in the development of codes, standards and regulatory guidance through the participation of their members.

Most of the IRC members have been involved in the Byproducts Beneficial Use Summits since the first summit was held in Chicago in 2002. The Council's goal is to facilitate awareness and understanding of the environmental, economic, engineering, manufacturing and societal benefits derived from the recovery, use, reuse and recycling of industrial materials.