# CEMEX UK pioneers circular pallet reuse for sustainable cement distribution



CEMEX UK has taken a significant step towards sustainability in the construction sector by partnering with The Pallet LOOP to introduce a circular pallet reuse system for bagged cement distribution. Starting from October 2025, the core range of cement products bagged at CEMEX’s flagship Rugby plant will be delivered on The Pallet LOOP’s distinctive green, reusable pallets. This pioneering initiative marks CEMEX as the first cement manufacturer to adopt this innovative circular economy model, which aims to reduce waste and carbon emissions in line with broader industry climate goals.

The move aligns with CEMEX’s 'Future in Action' strategy, which aims for carbon neutrality by 2050 through a comprehensive focus on climate action, circularity, and natural resource management. The company has set ambitious interim targets, including a 47% reduction in CO₂ emissions per ton of cementitious material by 2030 and significant increases in the use of clean electricity, demonstrating its commitment to decarbonisation across its operations.

The Pallet LOOP system provides a practical solution to a long-standing problem in construction logistics: the vast majority of pallets have traditionally been single-use, with fewer than 10% reused, generating more than 250,000 tonnes of wood waste annually. These pallets, designed specifically for multiple trips, are FSC-certified and come with a nationwide collection service that incentivises customers, including Rugby Cement’s client base, to return them for refurbishment and reuse. Damaged pallets are recycled, reinforcing a closed-loop approach to material use.

CEMEX UK’s National Sales Manager for Bagged Cement, Vicki Elliott, emphasised the importance of this initiative, noting it as a "significant step forward" for reducing waste and carbon emissions while enabling customers to make more sustainable choices. She highlighted that the integration of The Pallet LOOP into their supply chain represents a simple, effective way to advance circularity in the industry.

The partnership builds on CEMEX’s existing pallet recovery efforts. Earlier programs have focused on collecting reusable wooden pallets free of charge, refurbishing them, and returning them for reuse to prevent pallets from ending up in landfill. These collection schemes, capable of handling up to 250 pallets per load, have been relaunched to strengthen environmental efficiency across the supply chain. Graeme Barton, National Sales Manager for Packed Cement at CEMEX, underscored the need to embed pallet recovery into standard delivery practices to minimise timber waste.

Industry data reflect the scale of the pallet challenge: CEMEX distributes around 250,000 pallets annually to about 600 builder merchant outlets, alongside over 10 million bags of cement. By partnering with The Pallet LOOP, which charges a returnable pallet fee that circulates through the supply chain and incentivises returns, CEMEX hopes to significantly increase the reuse rates from previous levels, where only about 20% of pallets were recovered for refurbishment.

Andy Williamson, Managing Director of The Pallet LOOP, welcomed the agreement as a demonstration of how forward-thinking manufacturers can reimagine supply chains for both efficiency and environmental benefit. He emphasised that CEMEX’s commitment to the circular economy model sets an important example in the construction materials sector, reinforcing that sustainability and smart business practices can complement each other effectively.

This initiative exemplifies how CEMEX's broader environmental ambitions are translating into practical, measurable actions in the supply chain. It reflects a growing trend in construction towards circular economy practices, which are increasingly seen as vital to achieving net-zero and broader sustainability targets in a traditionally resource-intensive industry.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.agg-net.com/news/cemex-uk-pioneer-reusable-pallet-system-for-bagged-cement-distribution), [[3]](https://www.thepalletloop.com/news/cemex-future-in-action-programme-joins-forces-with-the-pallet-loop/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.agg-net.com/news/cemex-uk-pioneer-reusable-pallet-system-for-bagged-cement-distribution), [[4]](https://www.cemex.fr/web/guest/sustainability/future-in-action)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.agg-net.com/news/cemex-uk-pioneer-reusable-pallet-system-for-bagged-cement-distribution), [[3]](https://www.thepalletloop.com/news/cemex-future-in-action-programme-joins-forces-with-the-pallet-loop/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.agg-net.com/news/cemex-uk-pioneer-reusable-pallet-system-for-bagged-cement-distribution), [[2]](https://www.cemnet.com/News/story/171511/cemex-uk-recovers-pallets-for-circular-economy-initiative.html), [[6]](https://professionalbuildersmerchant.co.uk/news/cemex-relaunches-nationwide-merchant-pallet-recovery-service/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.cemnet.com/News/story/171511/cemex-uk-recovers-pallets-for-circular-economy-initiative.html), [[5]](https://www.cemnet.com/News/story/133395/cemex-pallet-retrieval-scheme-achievements-uk.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.agg-net.com/news/cemex-uk-pioneer-reusable-pallet-system-for-bagged-cement-distribution), [[3]](https://www.thepalletloop.com/news/cemex-future-in-action-programme-joins-forces-with-the-pallet-loop/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.agg-net.com/news/cemex-uk-pioneer-reusable-pallet-system-for-bagged-cement-distribution), [[4]](https://www.cemex.fr/web/guest/sustainability/future-in-action), [[3]](https://www.thepalletloop.com/news/cemex-future-in-action-programme-joins-forces-with-the-pallet-loop/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.agg-net.com/news/cemex-uk-pioneer-reusable-pallet-system-for-bagged-cement-distribution> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.cemnet.com/News/story/171511/cemex-uk-recovers-pallets-for-circular-economy-initiative.html> - Cemex UK has relaunched its nationwide pallet recovery service to reduce timber waste and enhance environmental efficiency. The initiative, part of its 'Future in Action – Committed to Net Zero CO₂' Climate Action Strategy, involves collecting reusable wooden pallets free of charge, refurbishing them, and returning them for reuse. Damaged pallets are recycled. Collections are available within 10 working days, accommodating up to 250 pallets per load. Graeme Barton, National Sales Manager for Packed Cement, emphasized the importance of making pallet recovery a standard delivery process to prevent pallets from ending up in landfill.
3. <https://www.thepalletloop.com/news/cemex-future-in-action-programme-joins-forces-with-the-pallet-loop/> - CEMEX has signed The Pallet LOOP Charter, aiming to reduce pallet waste in the construction industry through a national pallet reuse scheme supporting the circular economy. The Pallet LOOP allows manufacturers to pay a returnable pallet charge to use durable, FSC-certified green-branded pallets. As pallets move through the supply chain, the charge passes from manufacturer to merchant to end user. Once used, the scheme operator collects the pallets, returns the charge, repairs as necessary, and recirculates them. Graeme Barton, National Sales Manager for Packed Cement at CEMEX, highlighted the impact of collective efforts in the supply chain to achieve significant environmental benefits over time.
4. <https://www.cemex.fr/web/guest/sustainability/future-in-action> - CEMEX's 'Future in Action' programme focuses on developing lower-carbon products, solutions, and processes to achieve carbon neutrality. The programme sets ambitious decarbonisation goals, including a 47% reduction in CO₂ per ton of cementitious material by 2030 and a 40% reduction in CO₂ per ton of purchased clinker and cement. The ultimate goal is to become a net-zero CO₂ company by 2050, with interim targets such as a 35% reduction in carbon content in concrete and a 65% increase in clean electricity consumption by 2030.
5. <https://www.cemnet.com/News/story/133395/cemex-pallet-retrieval-scheme-achievements-uk.html> - Cemex UK's pallet retrieval scheme, launched a year prior, achieved a 20% return rate of its cement pallets. The scheme aimed to recover as many as possible of the 250,000 Cemex pallets distributed annually to about 600 different builders merchant outlets, preventing them from being discarded or shredded. Over 10 million bags of Cemex cement are sold every year and transported on pallets. The recovery operation, run in conjunction with European Logistics Management (ELM), collects the pallets, refurbishes them, and returns them to Cemex for new bagged cement deliveries.
6. <https://professionalbuildersmerchant.co.uk/news/cemex-relaunches-nationwide-merchant-pallet-recovery-service/> - CEMEX has relaunched its nationwide pallet recovery service as part of its 'Future in Action – Committed to Net Zero CO₂' Climate Action Strategy. The initiative involves collecting reusable wooden pallets free of charge, refurbishing them, and returning them for reuse. Damaged pallets are recycled. Collections are available within 10 working days, accommodating up to 250 pallets per load. Graeme Barton, National Sales Manager for Packed Cement, emphasized the importance of making pallet recovery a standard delivery process to prevent pallets from ending up in landfill.
7. <https://www.worldcement.com/europe-cis/01092021/cemex-launches-nationwide-merchant-pallet-recovery-service/> - CEMEX has launched a nationwide merchant pallet recovery service as part of its 'Future in Action – Committed to Net Zero CO₂' Climate Action Strategy. The service collects reusable wooden pallets free of charge, refurbishes them, and returns them for reuse. Damaged pallets are recycled. Collections are available within 10 working days, accommodating up to 250 pallets per load. Graeme Barton, National Sales Manager for Packed Cement, emphasized the importance of making pallet recovery a standard delivery process to prevent pallets from ending up in landfill.