

# Driving quality TDF usage

With tyre-derived fuels (TDF) becoming an increasingly-attractive waste fuel option, ResourceCo Asia has been driving TDF usage for the cement sector and beyond. As cement producers look to proactively manage their carbon footprint, the company is further developing the supply of TDF as an alternative fuel to Asian markets.

■ by *ResourceCo Asia, Malaysia*

As tyre-derived fuel (TDF) becomes increasingly recognised as an alternative fuel due to its high calorific value, the product is becoming a more attractive proposition to the cement industry. One of the largest producers of TDF and Australia's leading tyre recycler, ResourceCo, is making a significant impact worldwide by helping companies reduce their environmental footprint. The company has a key point of difference compared to others in the Australian end-of-life (ELT) tyre market as ResourceCo offers "full visibility of chain of custody," notes Pavel Cech, managing director of ResourceCo Asia. "We have direct trading relationships with various cement kilns across southeast Asia and can track where our material goes. By dealing directly with overseas TDF purchasers, it gives us and our disposal customers quality assurance that all materials reach their intended destination."

## Rapidly-growing demand

Demand for ResourceCo's TDF is growing rapidly, with the company currently trading about 120,000tpa, and importantly diverting Australian tyres away from landfill. Compared to coal, TDF is not only more cost effective but provides a superior environmental outcome by reducing landfill and fossil fuel use.

"We're exporting from Australia to high-end industrial facilities such as Ssangyong Cement in South Korea," Mr Cech continues. "There is a huge drive in South Korea towards renewable energy across a variety of industries, and demand for ResourceCo's TDF is increasing rapidly as users look to secure good quality management of the product and follow the chain of custody," he adds.

## Staying ahead of the game

In terms of cement producers planning future environmental strategies, Mr Cech



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"The clock is ticking on what implication future carbon taxes will

have on industries such as the cement sector. We are already seeing cement companies in some geographies applying strategies and planning for the future carbon footprint implications of taxes, to ensure they are best placed for eventual carbon crediting. Pressure is mounting both internationally and regionally on the introduction of new carbon credit systems, where certain industries including the cement sector will be penalised for their carbon footprint.

## Why TDF?

What makes quality TDF desirable to the cement industry?

- Cost effective
- Consistent product quality – high calorific value with a significant biomass content
- Physically and chemically stable alternative fuel.

“We have customers who are proactively planning for this and are already securing TDF for the long-term to ensure they stay ahead of the game. They are building and remodelling plants in readiness for their eligibility for potential carbon credits, and as a proof point for their environmental responsibility.

“This is certainly putting pressure on other cement plants to do the same and challenging the industry as a whole to think about any upcoming carbon abatement mechanisms.

“The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is substantial when you consider we’re converting the majority of used passenger and truck tyres into TDF.”

#### ResourceCo subsidiary Tyrecycle operations in numbers

**GHG reduction  
equivalent:**

**21,276**

**cars  
off the road**

Reduces Australia’s  
GHG emissions by  
**100,000tpa**

*61,200ha of  
native forests  
conserved*

### Environmental commitment

ResourceCo’s commitment is to eliminate the sending of tyres to landfill or whole baled tyres being sent off-shore. “We are extremely proud to be the only TDF producer in Australia that can guarantee a full chain of custody for all materials received, processed and supplied – ensuring TDF is used in an environmentally responsible way.”

ResourceCo’s TDF is manufactured in accordance with strict specifications and regulations and in line with all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and council approvals.

As a globally-traded commodity, TDF burns cleaner and hotter than brown coal combined with lower moisture, sulphur, nitrogen and ash outputs.

TDF can be broadly compared to emissions from natural gas according to the independent report ‘Carbon Value Proposition, Resource Recovery using Tyre Derived Fuel (TDF)’, prepared for the Australian Tyre Recyclers Association.

### Further opportunities in Asia

The supply of TDF as an alternative fuel to Asian markets is being further developed by ResourceCo Asia.

“Global demand for quality TDF is increasing among a variety of industries and we’re now collaborating with customers in Japan to produce tailor-made products,” Mr Cech continues.

“There is still an enormous opportunity to optimise the use of TDF to increase resource recovery and lower greenhouse gas emissions,” he says.

“Our role is vital to ensure Australia’s end-of-life tyres are managed in an efficient, environmentally-sound and socially-responsible manner – decreasing the number of tyres entering waste streams and landfill.” ■