

Evolving the well-established

# **Decarbonisation and preservation of natural resources along the cement and concrete value chain**

**vdz**

Joerg Rickert, VDZ Duesseldorf, Germany

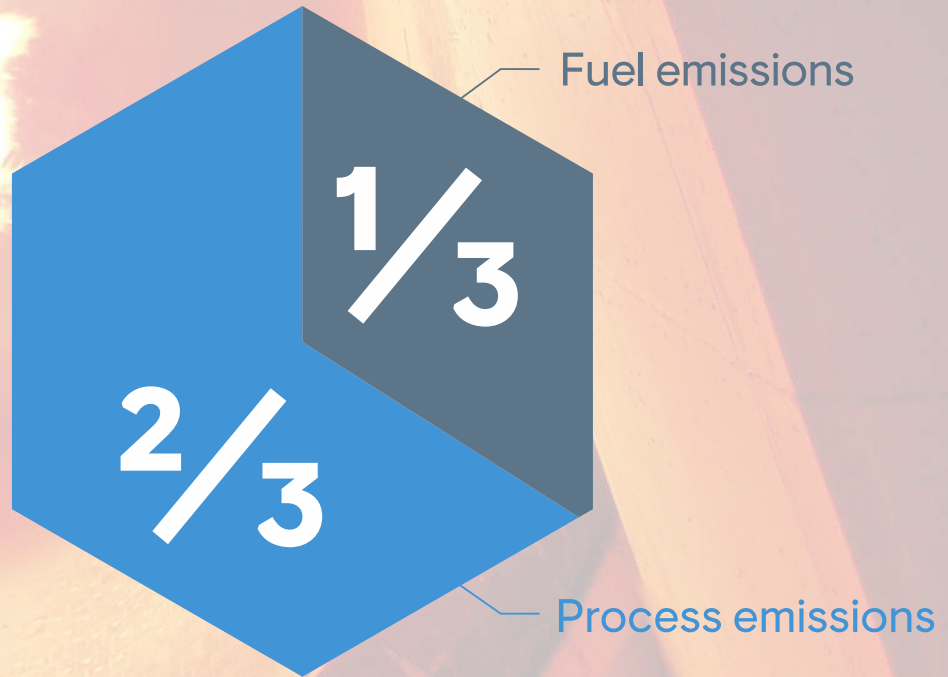
C2 Congress: Green Cement & Concrete 2050

May 6 – 9 2024, Guatemala (virtual presentation)

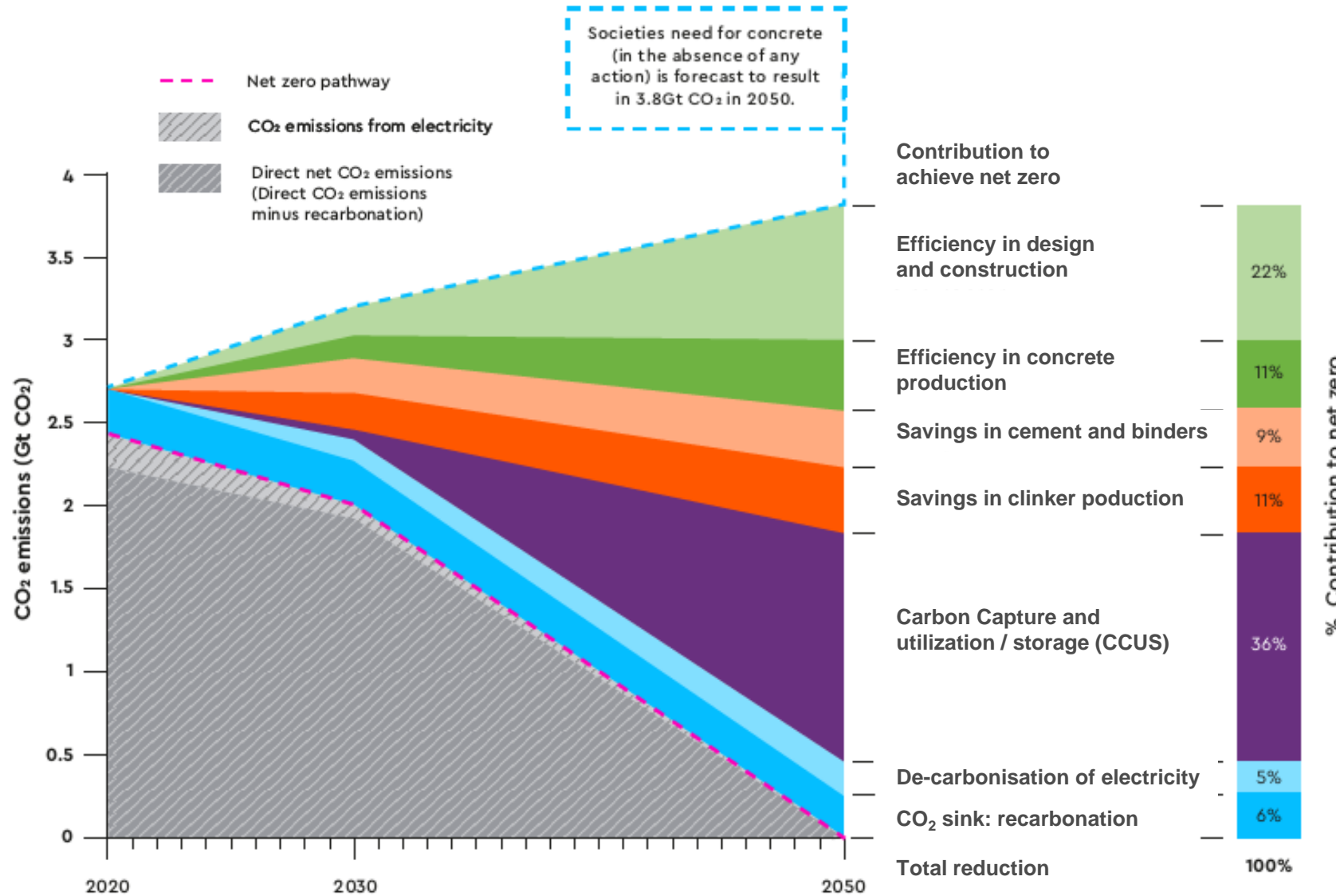


## Portland cement clinker

- Main constituent of cement
- Burned limestone
- Temperature up to 1450 °C



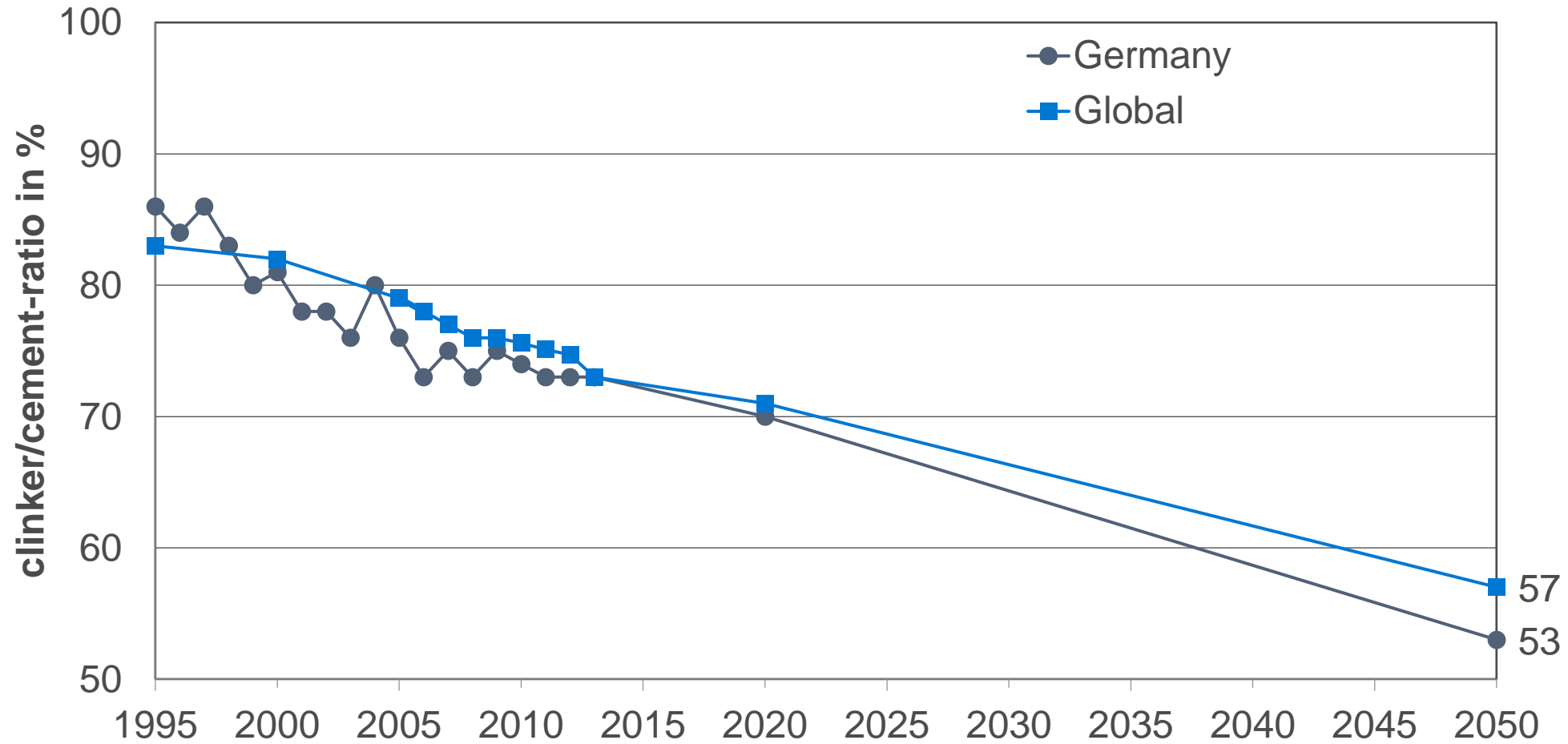
# GCCA-Roadmap for Net Zero Concrete



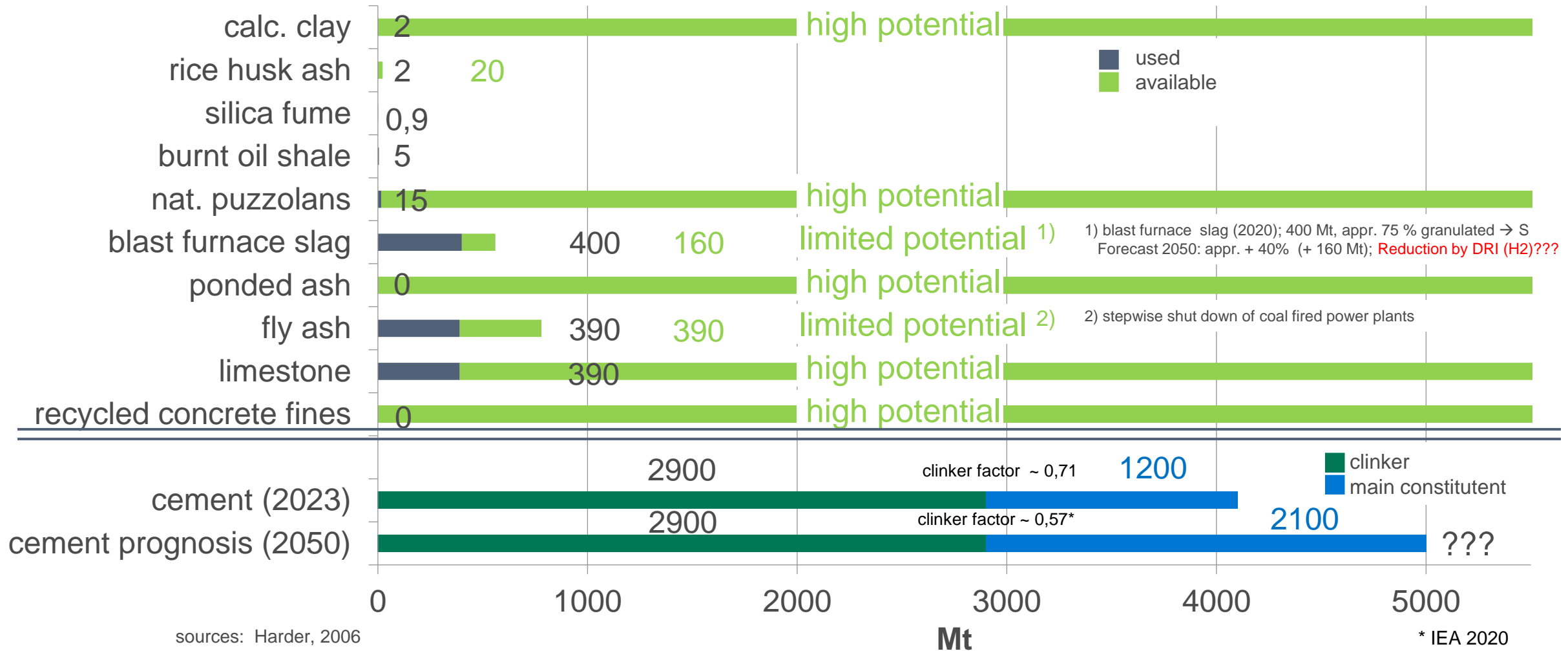
- Net Zero Concrete requires a broad mix of measures along the value chain
- The use of low carbon cement, concrete and structures are main levers
- Carbon capture to be used to achieve net zero cement and concrete

Source: GCCA/VDZ

# Clinker/cement-ratio



# Estimation of possible SCM's for cement - worldwide

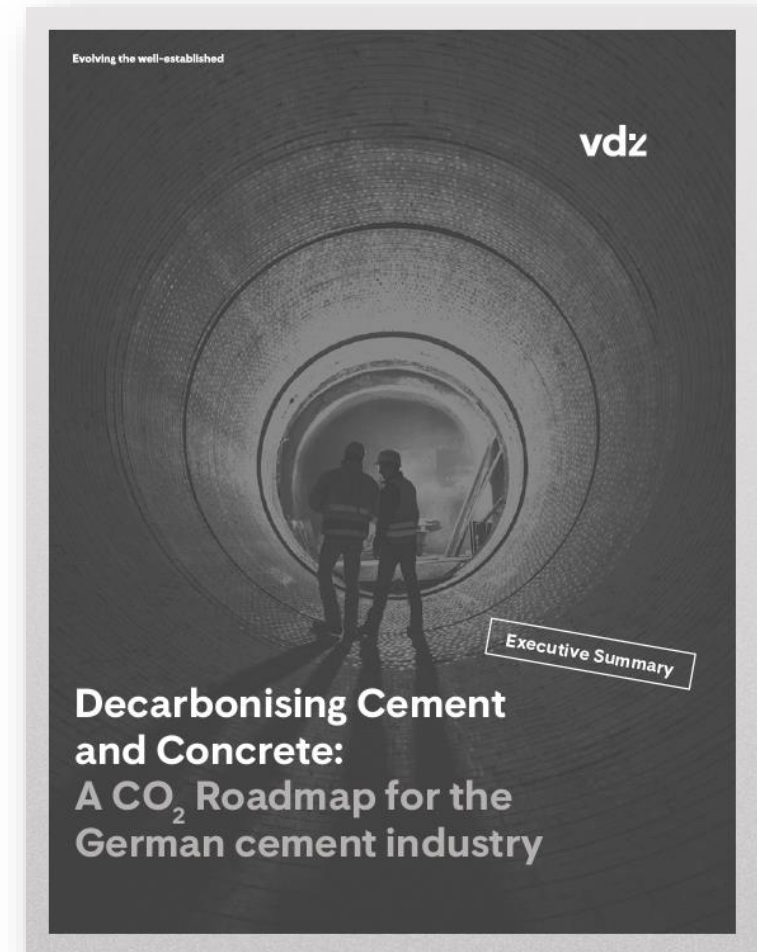


sources: Harder, 2006  
 ECOBA, 2014  
 Heidrich;Feuerborn;Weir, 2013  
 Schulze, Diss. 2014  
 FEhS, 2020

## Key questions of the CO<sub>2</sub>-Roadmap

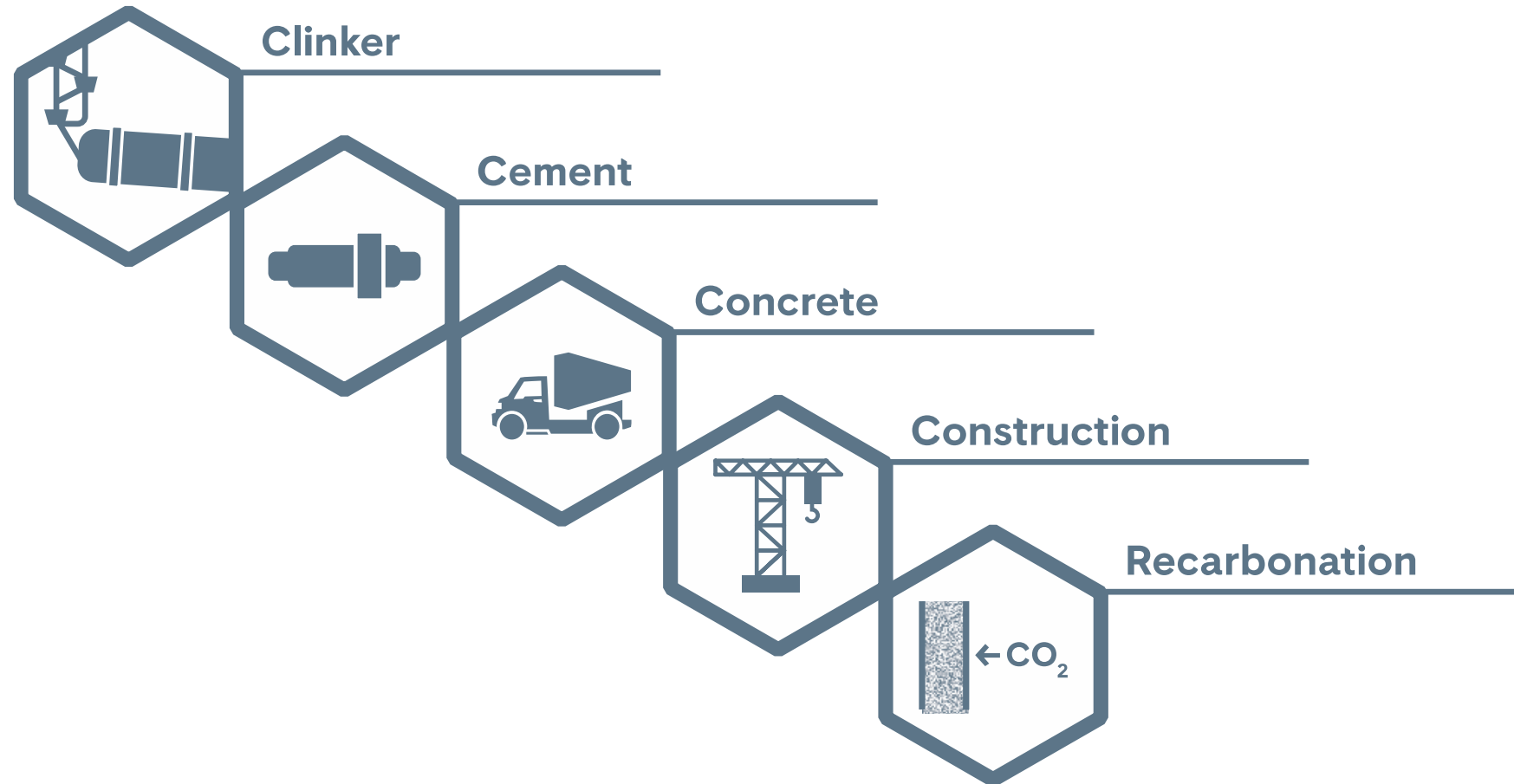
- Is a climate-neutral cement & concrete value chain possible?
- What challenges does the industry face regarding decarbonisation?
- Which technologies and innovations are necessary?
- What are the (external) prerequisites for climate-neutral concrete construction?

<https://www.vdz-online.de/en/knowledge-base/publications/decarbonising-cement-and-concrete-a-co2-roadmap-for-the-german-cement-industry>

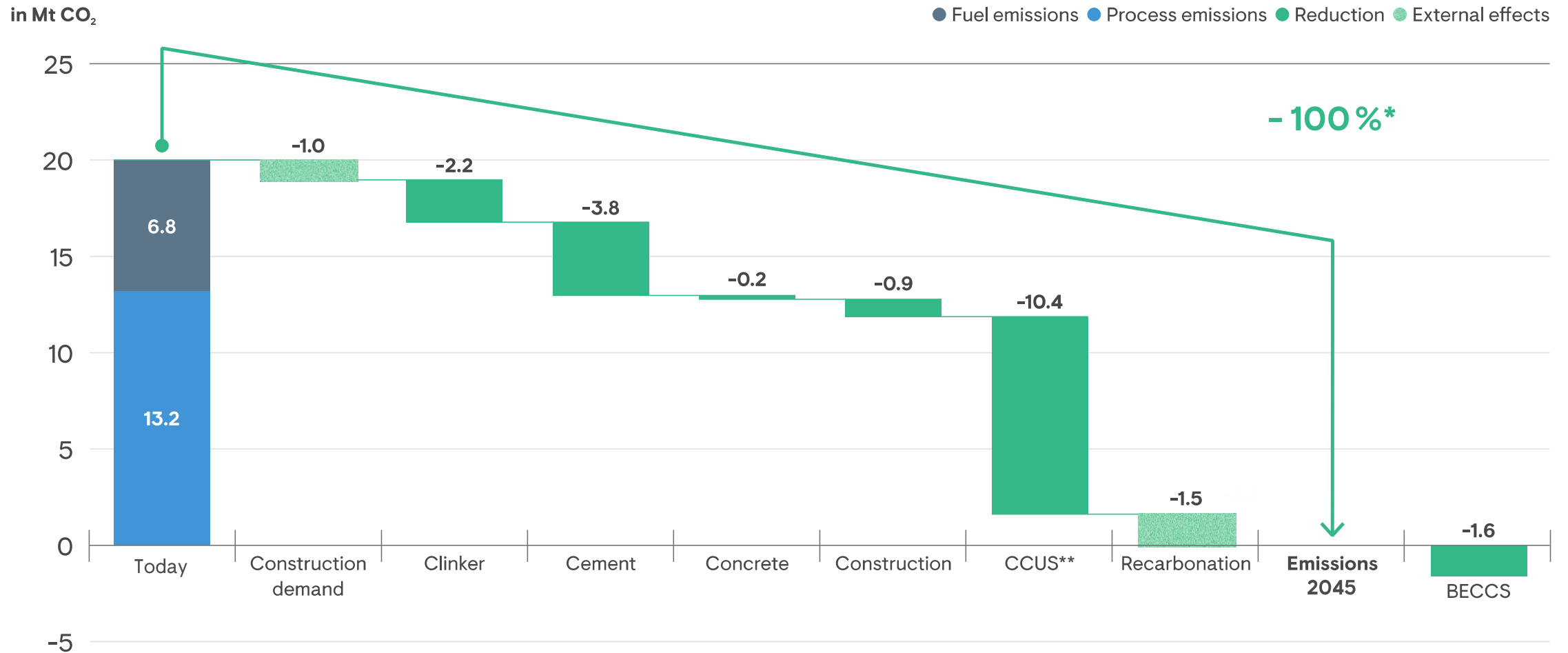


# Holistic approach for climate neutrality

CO<sub>2</sub> reduction along the value chain



# CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the climate neutrality scenario until 2045

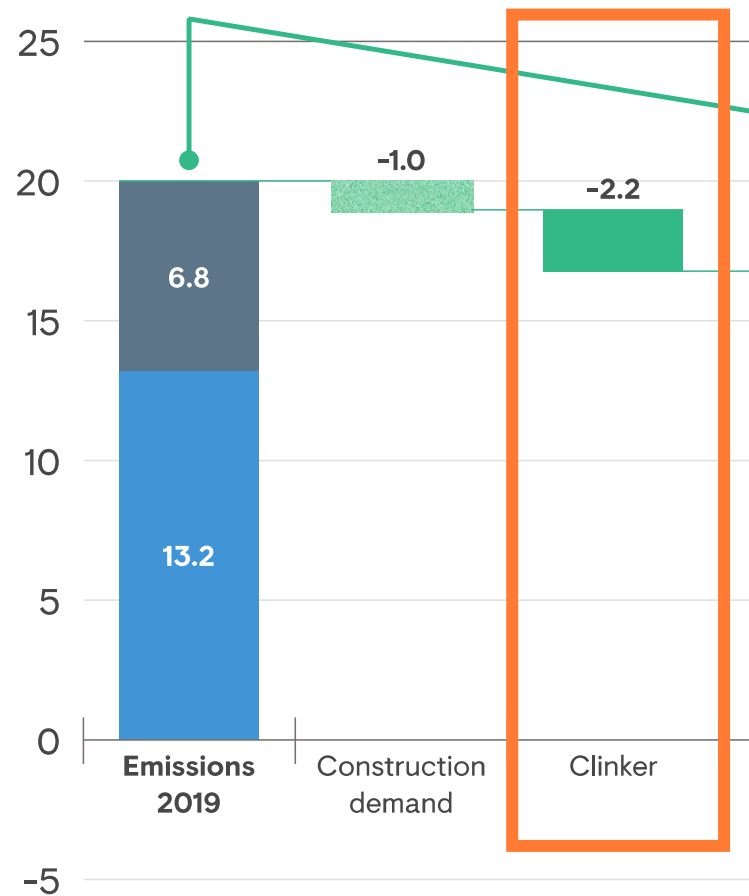


Source: VDZ / Notes: \*Thereof about 88 % reduction through measures along the value chain. Remaining emissions are reduced by a decreasing construction demand as well as the contribution of recarbonation. \*\* CCUS: Carbon Capture technologies aiming at reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the atmosphere through CO<sub>2</sub> storage (CCS) and appropriate procedures for CO<sub>2</sub> utilisation (CCU). BECCS: Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage



# CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the climate neutrality scenario until 2045

in Mt CO<sub>2</sub>



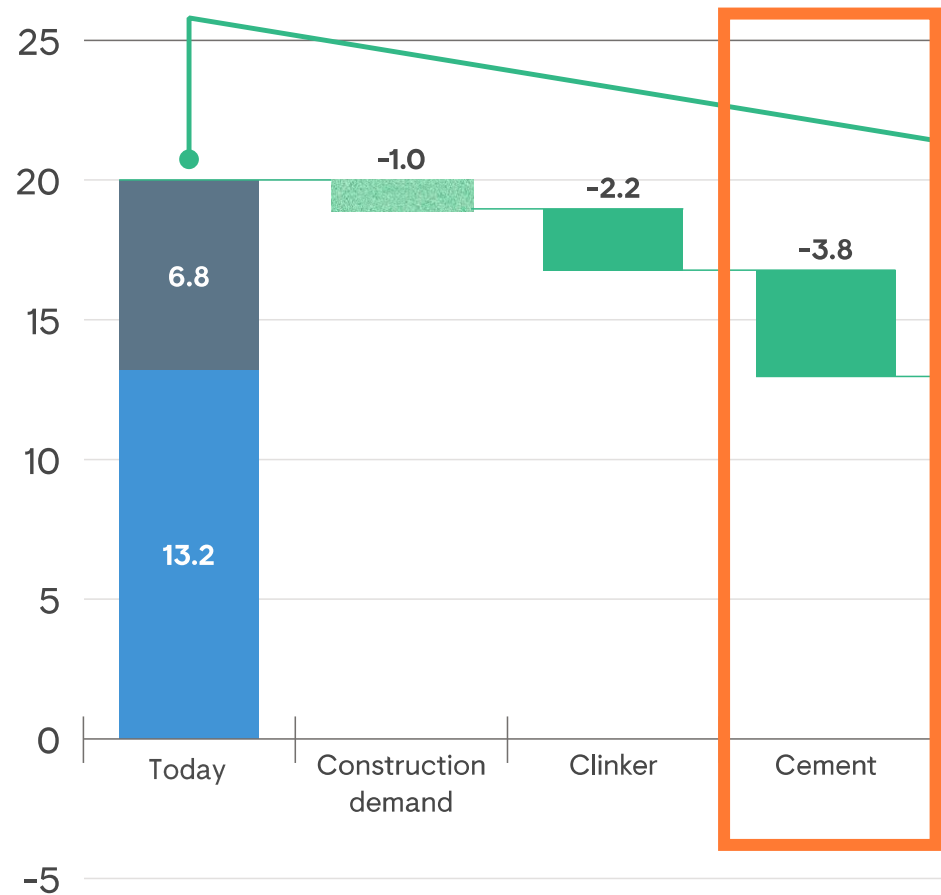
● Fuel emissions ● Process emissions ● Reduction ● External effects




- Thermal efficiency: +13%
- Alternative fuels: 90% (of which 35% biomass)
- 10% hydrogen
- Use of CCUS

# CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the climate neutrality scenario until 2045

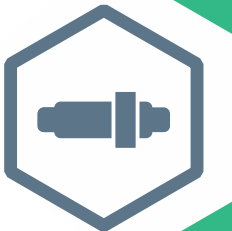
in Mt CO<sub>2</sub>



● Fuel emissions ● Process emissions ● Reduction ● External effects



- Thermal efficiency: +13%
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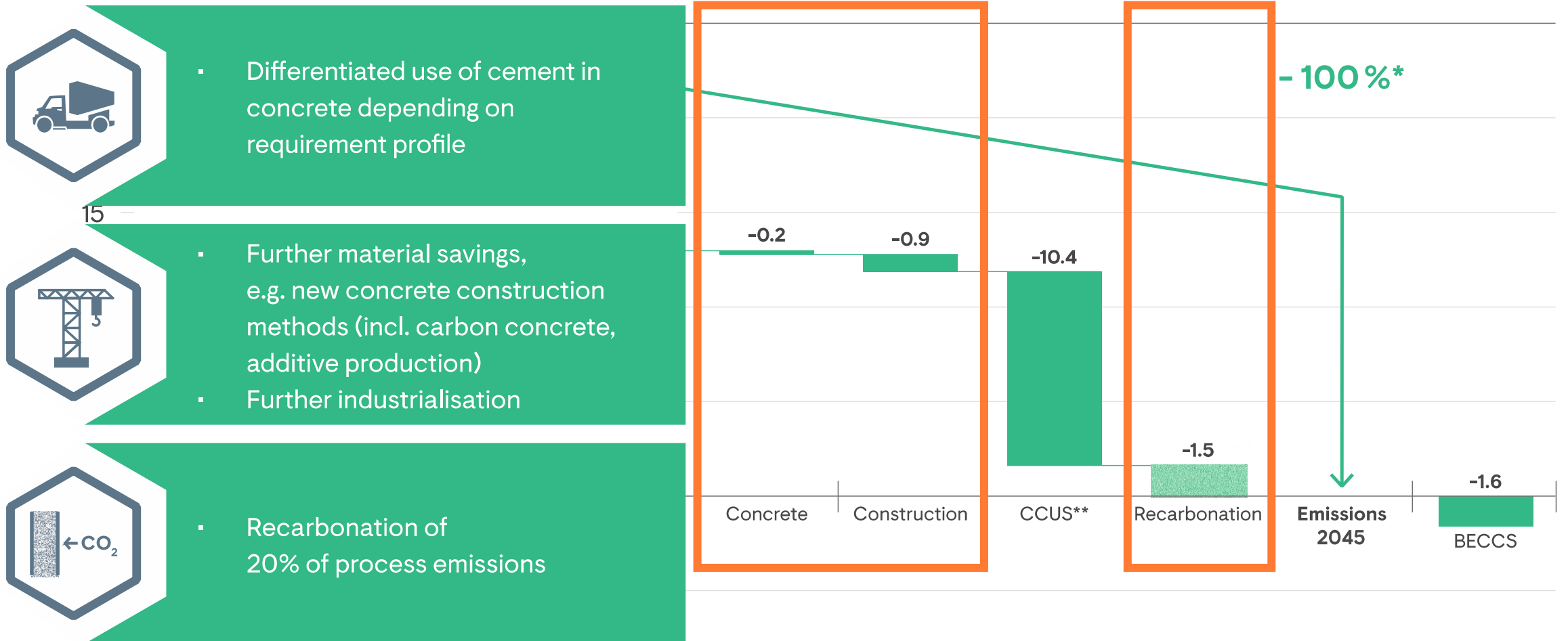


- Focus on CEM II/C and CEM VI
- Clinker-cement factor 53%
- 5% market share of new binders

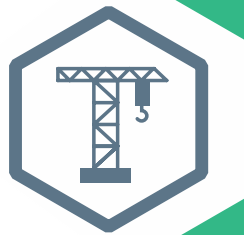
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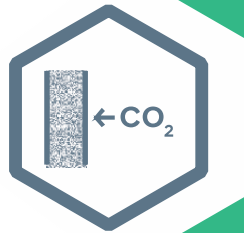
● Fuel emissions ● Process emissions ● Reduction ● External effects



- Differentiated use of cement in concrete depending on requirement profile

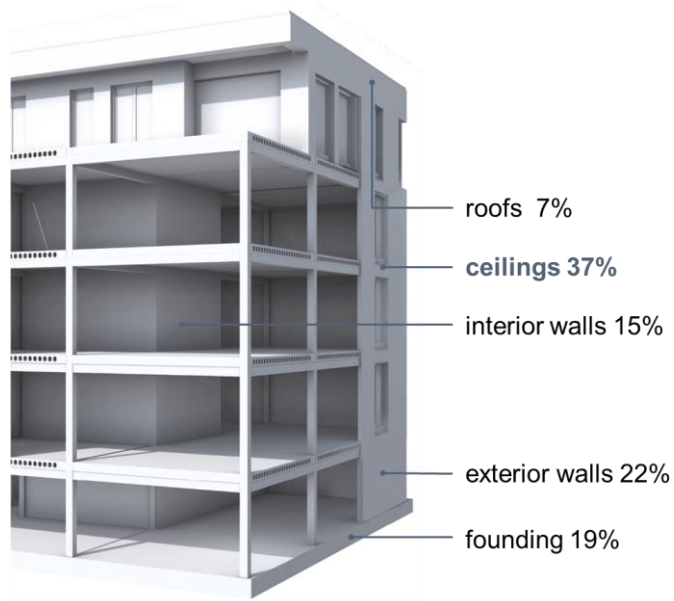


- Further material savings, e.g. new concrete construction methods (incl. carbon concrete, additive production)
- Further industrialisation



- Recarbonation of 20% of process emissions

# CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of ceiling systems by CO<sub>2</sub> optimized concrete



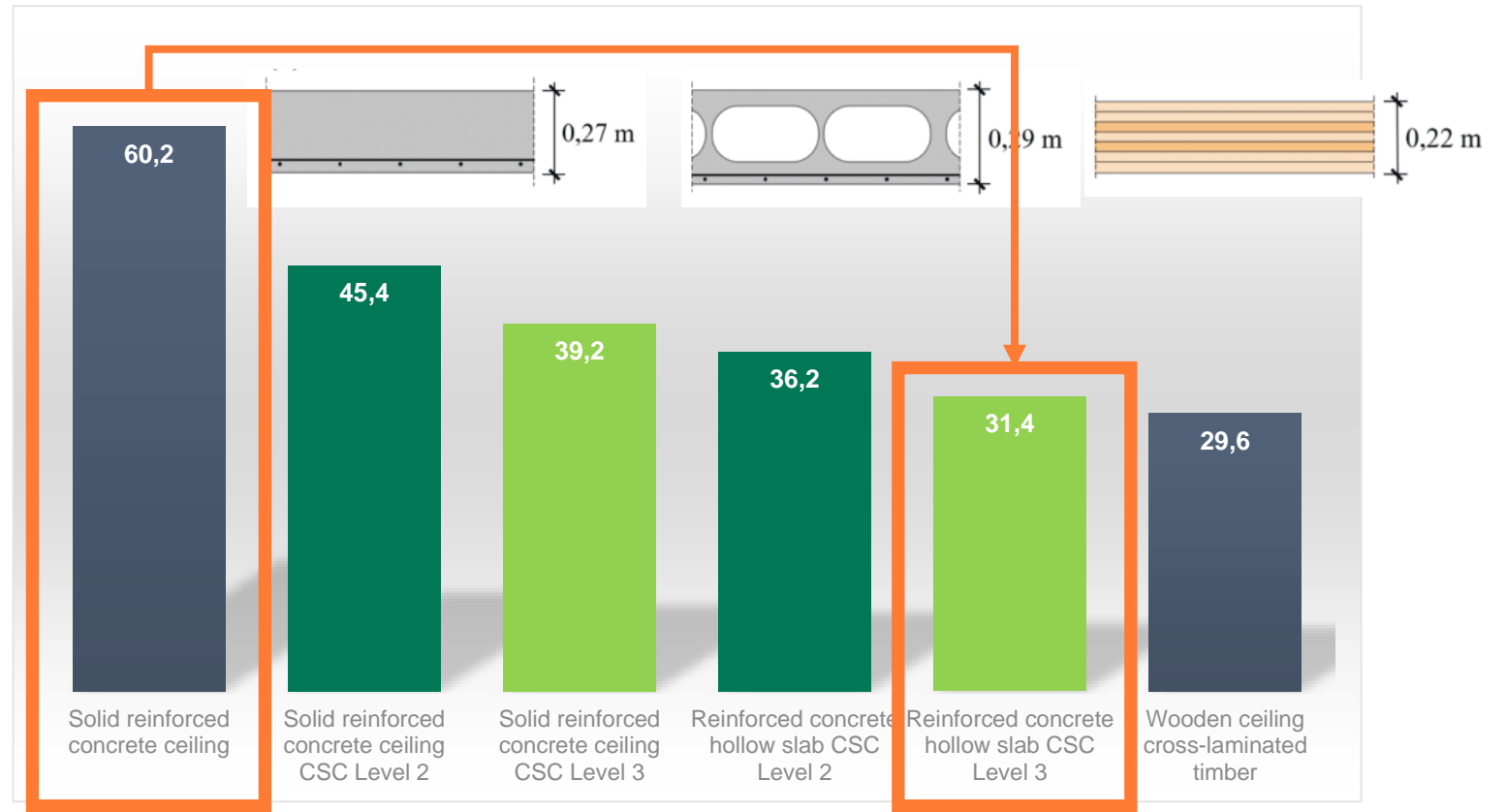
100 % = 7.37 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/(m<sup>2</sup> NRA x a)

note: NRA = Net Room Area; a = 50 years

Source:  
Sustainable building with concrete (in Germany)  
[www.beton.org](http://www.beton.org)

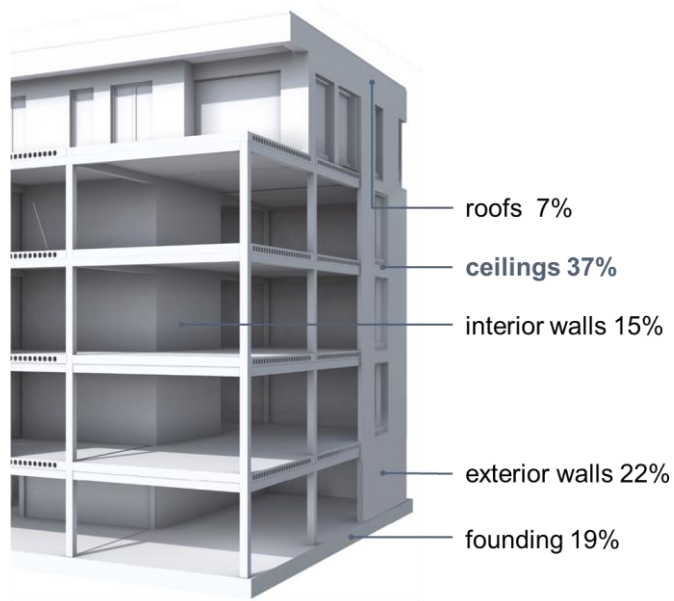
GWP in CO<sub>2</sub>-eq / m<sup>2</sup>

**- 48 %**



Source: Heidelberg Materials Germany – Customer magazine CONTEXT 01/2024 (modified)

# CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of ceiling systems by CO<sub>2</sub> optimized concrete

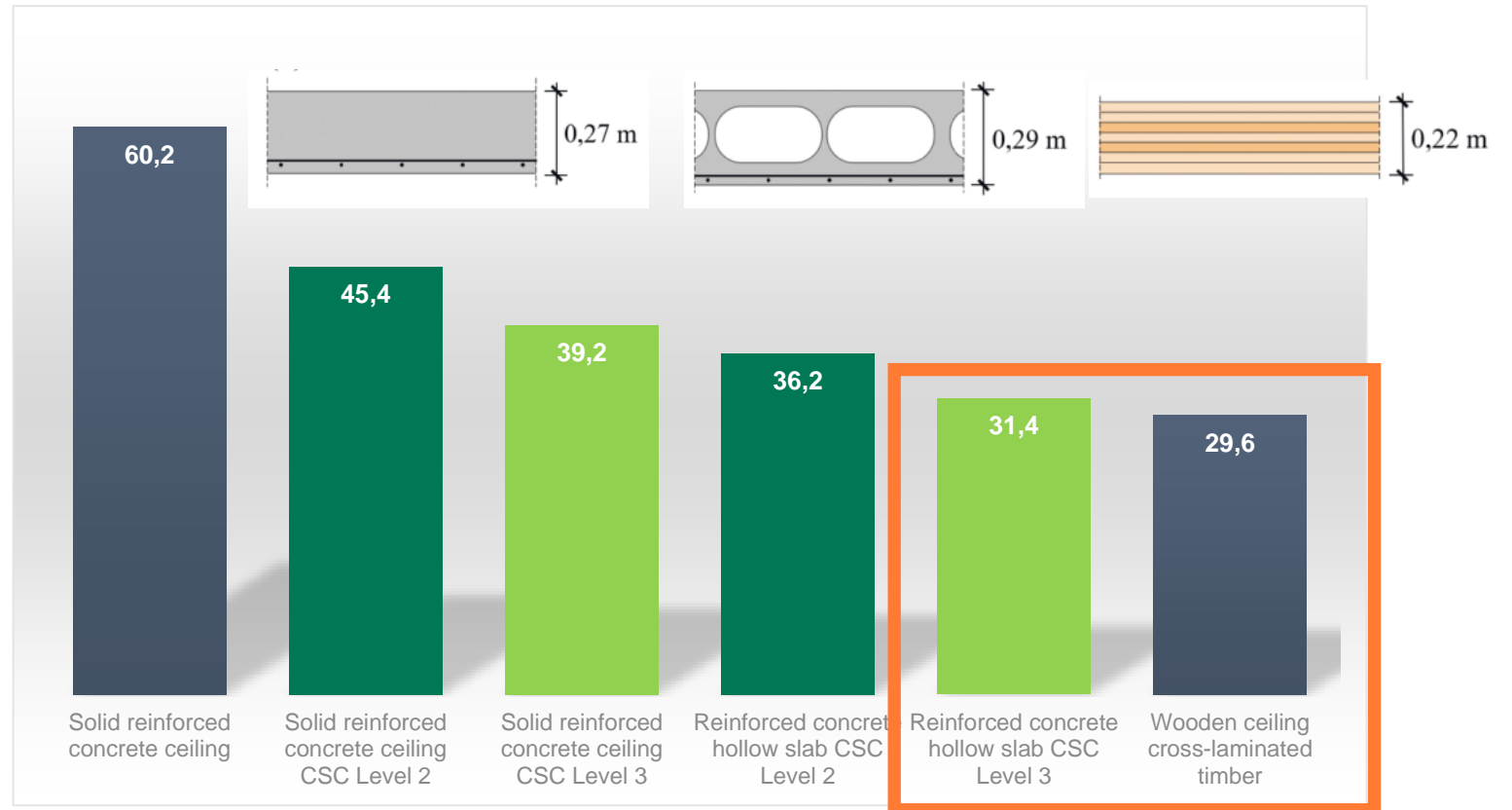


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GWP in CO<sub>2</sub>-eq / m<sup>2</sup>



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# New clinker efficient cements CEM II/C and CEM VI

## European cement standard EN 197-5

| Main types | Notation of the products<br>(types of common cement) |                  | Composition (percentage by mass <sup>a</sup> ) |                     |             |           |            |                |                 |                |                 |      |                               |
|------------|--|------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------|-------------------------------|
|            |  |                  | Main constituents                              |                     |             |           |            |                |                 |                |                 |      | Minor additional constituents |
|            |  |                  | Clinker  | Blast-furnace slag  | Silica fume | Pozzolana |            | Fly ash        |                 | Burnt shale    | Limestone       |      |                               |
|            | natural  | natural calcined |  |                     |             | siliceous | calcareous | L <sup>c</sup> | LL <sup>c</sup> |                |                 |      |                               |
| Name       | Abbreviation   | K                | S  | D <sup>b</sup>      | P           | Q         | V          | W              | T               | L <sup>c</sup> | LL <sup>c</sup> |      |                               |
| CEM II     | Portland-composite                                   | CEM II/C-M       | 50-64  | ←----- 36-50 -----> |             |           |            |                |                 |                |                 | 0-5  |                               |
| CEM VI     | Composite cement                                     | CEM VI (S-P)     | 35-49  | 31-59               | -           | 6-20      | -          | -              | -               | -              | -               | -    | 0-5                           |
|            |  | CEM VI (S-V)     | 35-49  | 31-59               | -           | -         | -          | 6-20           | -               | -              | -               | -    | 0-5                           |
|            |  | CEM VI (S-L)     | 35-49  | 31-59               | -           | -         | -          | -              | -               | -              | 6-20            | -    | 0-5                           |
|            |  | CEM VI (S-LL)    | 35-49  | 31-59               | -           | -         | -          | -              | -               | -              | -               | 6-20 | 0-5                           |

- CEM II/C-M
- **Min. clinker content: 50 %**
- **Unburned limestone: 20 %**
- Example:  
CEM II/C-M (S-LL)  
CEM II/C-M (V-LL)
- Increasing the range of constituents, that are only available in limited quantities, e.g. blast furnace slag or fly ash

<sup>a</sup> The values in the table refer to the sum of the main and minor additional constituents.

<sup>b</sup> The proportion of silica fume is limited to 10 %.

<sup>c</sup> The proportion of limestone (sum of L, LL) is limited to 6-20 %.

<sup>d</sup> The number of main constituents other than clinker is limited to two and these main constituents shall be declared by designation of the cement.

# New clinker efficient cements CEM II/F with recycled concrete fines

## European cement standard EN 197-6

| Main types | Notation of the products (types of cement) |                  | Composition (percentage by mass) <sup>a</sup> |            |                     |   |             |           |   |   |                |                 |         | Minor additional constituents |                         |                    |             |
|------------|--|------------------|---|------------|---------------------|---|-------------|-----------|---|---|----------------|-----------------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
|            |  |                  | Main constituents                             |            |                     |   |             |           |   |   |                |                 | Clinker |                               | Recycled concrete fines | Blast-furnace slag | Silica fume |
|            |  |                  | Pozzolana                                     |            | Fly ash             |   | Burnt shale | Limestone |   |   |                |                 |         |                               |                         |                    |             |
|            | natural                                    | natural calcined | siliceous                                     | calcareous |                     |   |             |           |   |   |                |                 |         |                               |                         |                    |             |
| Type name  | Type notation                              | K                | F   | S          | D <sup>b</sup>      | P | Q           | V         | W | T | L <sup>c</sup> | LL <sup>c</sup> |         |                               |                         |                    |             |
| CEM II     | Portland-recycled-fines cement             | CEM II/A-F       | 80-94   | 6-20       | —                   | — | —           | —         | — | — | —              | —               | —       | 0-5                           |                         |                    |             |
|            |  | CEM II/B-F       | 65-79   | 21-35      | —                   | — | —           | —         | — | — | —              | —               | —       | 0-5                           |                         |                    |             |
|            | Portland-composite cement <sup>d</sup>     | CEM II/A-M       | 80-88   | 6-14       | ←----- 6-14 -----→  |   |             |           |   |   |                |                 |         | 0-5                           |                         |                    |             |
|            |  | CEM II/B-M       | 65-79   | 6-29       | ←----- 6-29 -----→  |   |             |           |   |   |                |                 |         | 0-5                           |                         |                    |             |
|            |  | CEM II/C-M       | 50-64   | 6-20       | ←----- 16-44 -----→ |   |             |           |   |   |                |                 |         | 0-5                           |                         |                    |             |
| CEM VI     | Composite cement                           | CEM VI           | 35-49   | 6-20       | 31-59               | — | —           | —         | — | — | —              | —               | 0-5     |                               |                         |                    |             |

<sup>a</sup> The values in the table refer to the sum of the main and minor additional constituents.

<sup>b</sup> In case of the use of silica fume, the proportion of silica fume is limited to 6 % to 10 % by mass.

<sup>c</sup> In case of the use of limestone, the proportion of the sum of limestone and recycled concrete fines (sum of L, LL and F) is limited to 35 % by mass.

<sup>d</sup> The number of main constituents other than clinker is limited to two and these main constituents shall be declared by designation of the cement (for examples, see Clause 6). In case of the use of both F and (L or LL) in the composition, the number of main constituents other than clinker is limited to three and these main constituents shall be declared by designation of the cement.

- well-tried and proven constituents combined with recycled concrete fines
- cements can be used in several applications
- application acc. to national rules

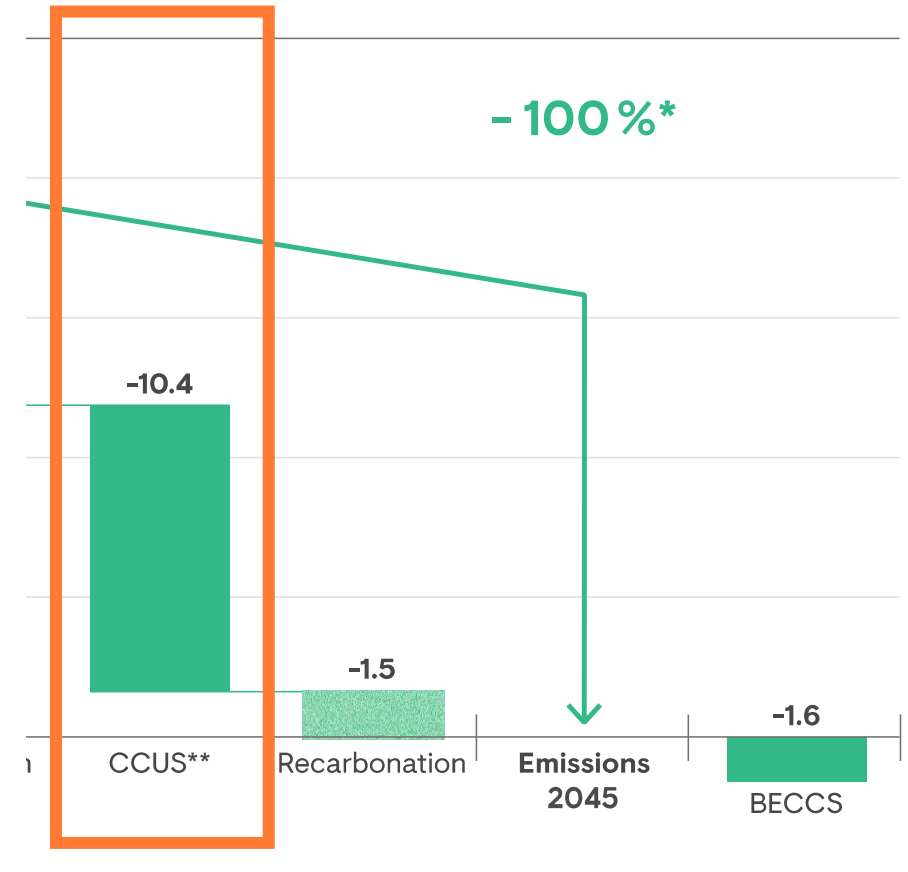
# CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the climate neutrality scenario until 2045

in Mt CO<sub>2</sub>,



- based on the prerequisite that all other potential reduction levers have been exhausted CCUS is essential to decarbonise the sector
- high energy demand, approx. more than double the amount for clinker production

● Fuel emissions ● Process emissions ● Reduction ● External effects





# CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the climate neutrality scenario until 2045

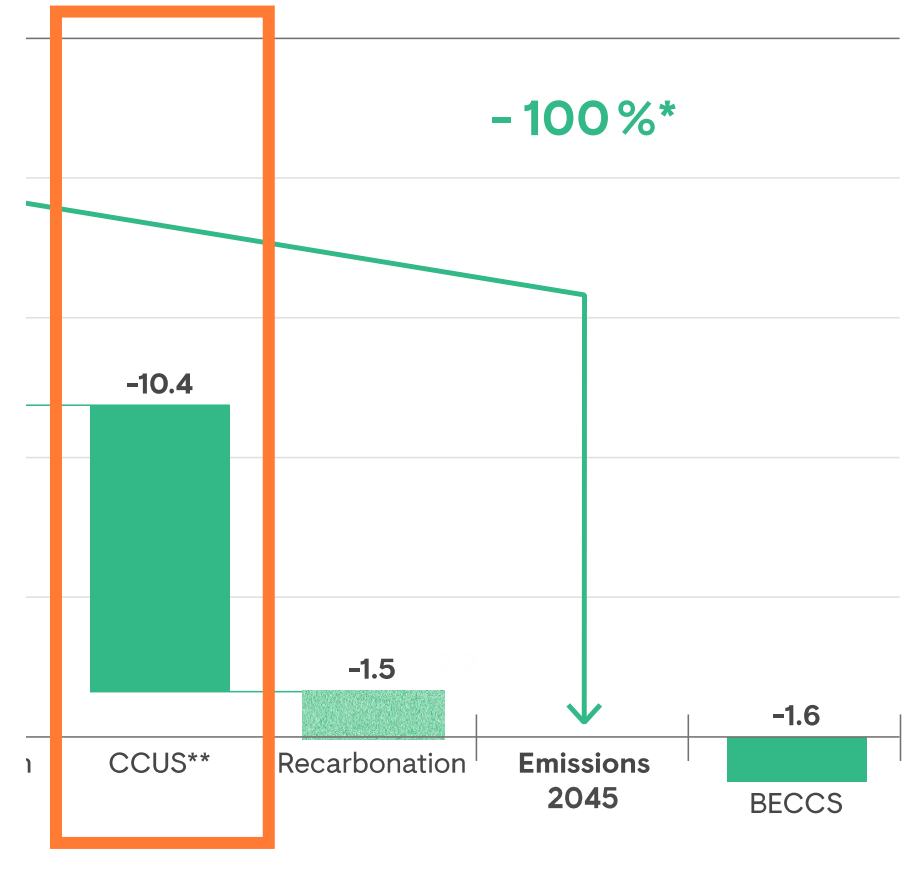
## Cost estimations

in Mt CO<sub>2</sub>,



- Germany: 14bn € for 4800 km pipelines
- CO<sub>2</sub> capture + processing: 80-110 €/t CO<sub>2</sub>
- CO<sub>2</sub> transport: 25-60 €/t CO<sub>2</sub>
- CCU: 200-400 €/t CO<sub>2</sub>
- CCS: 10-50 €/t CO<sub>2</sub>

● Fuel emissions ● Process emissions ● Reduction ● External effects



# Prerequisites for a climate neutral industry

Five central fields of activity



Availability of  
renewable energy  
and power grids



Suitable  
infrastructure for  
CO<sub>2</sub> transport



Policy framework  
for compe-  
titiveness and  
innovation



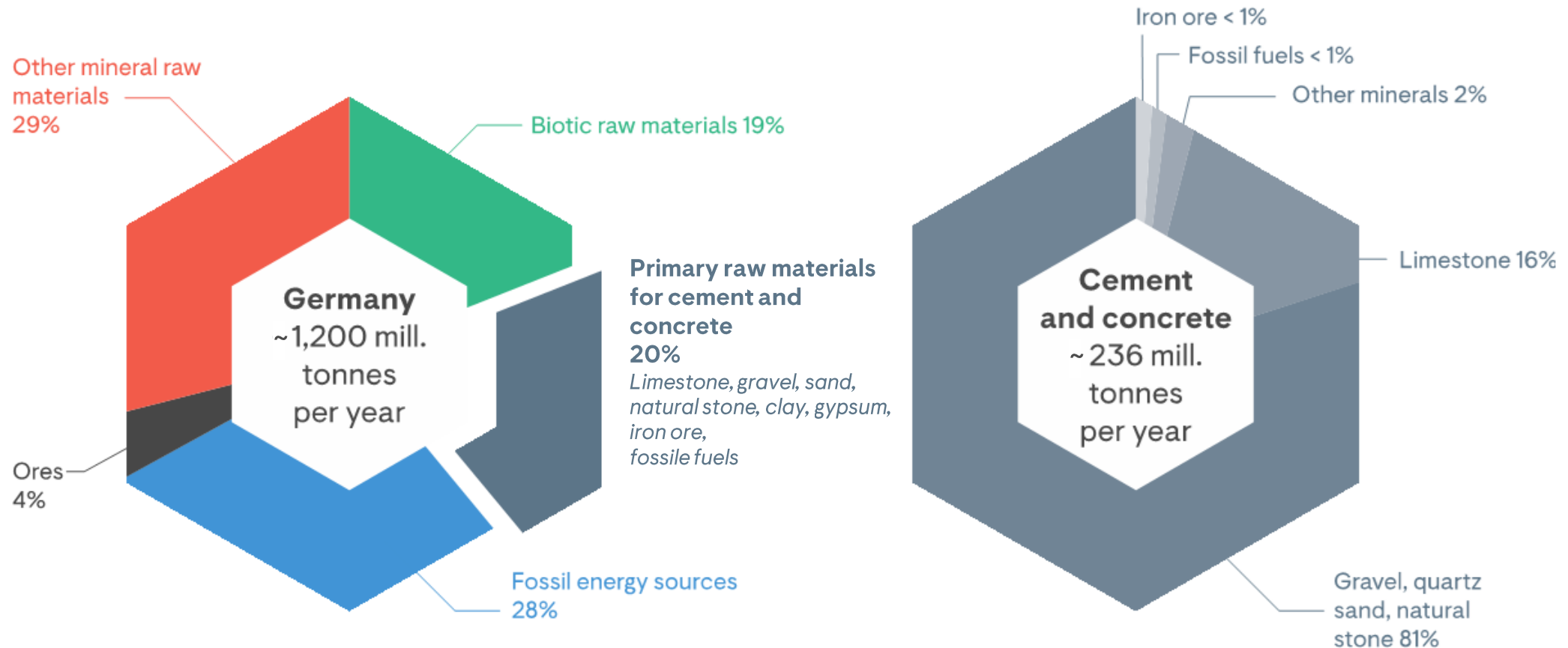
Markets for  
low- and carbon-  
neutral cement  
and concrete



Societal  
acceptance  
for industrial  
transformation

# Primary materials for cement and concrete production today

Around 20% of primary raw material are used for cement and concrete

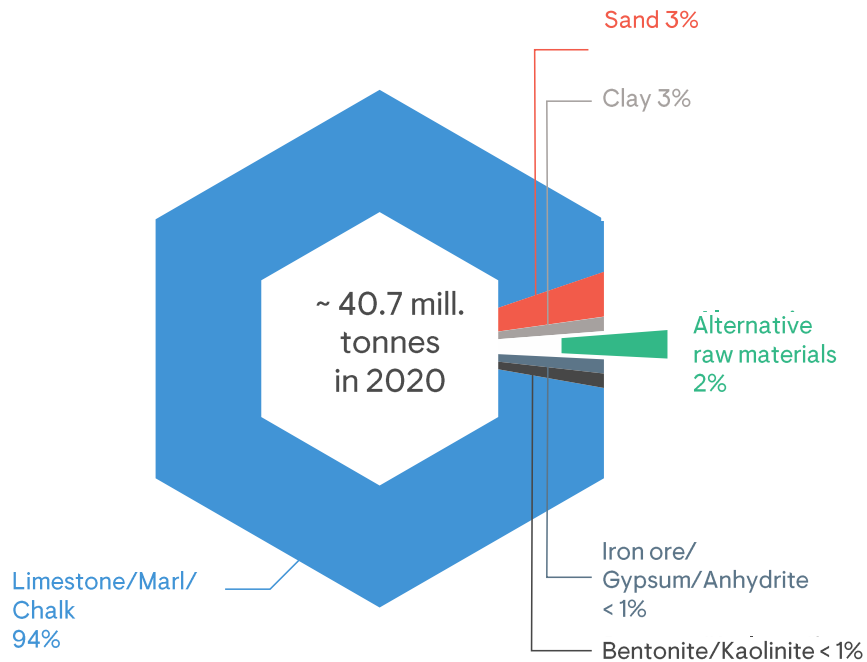


Sources: German Federal Statistical Office, VDZ, German Association of Mineral Raw Materials e.V.

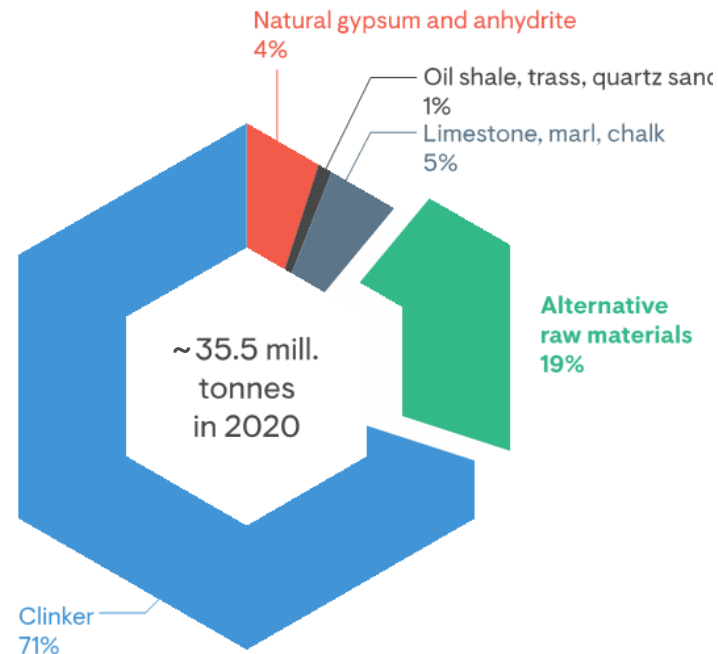
# Resource savings – today`s status

More than 10 million tonnes of industrial by-products and recycled products in use

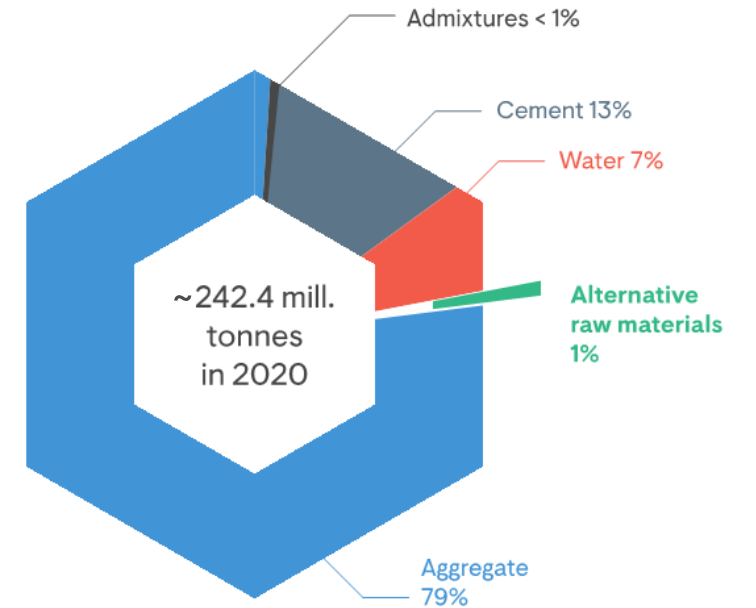
## Clinker



## Cement



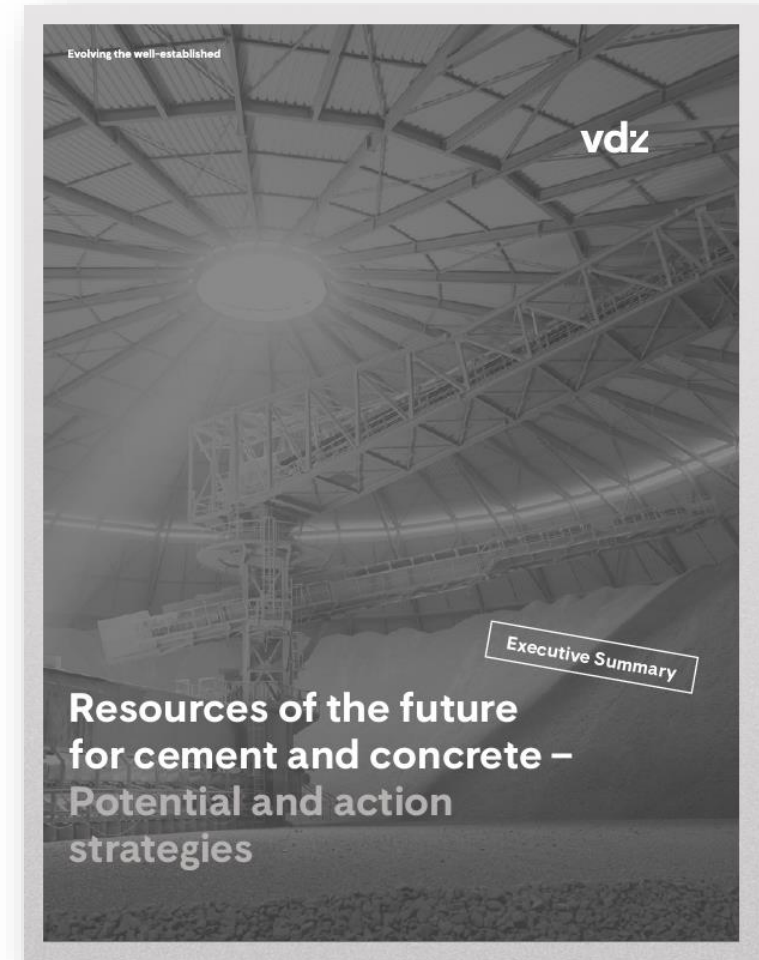
## Concrete



## Key questions of the Resource-Roadmap

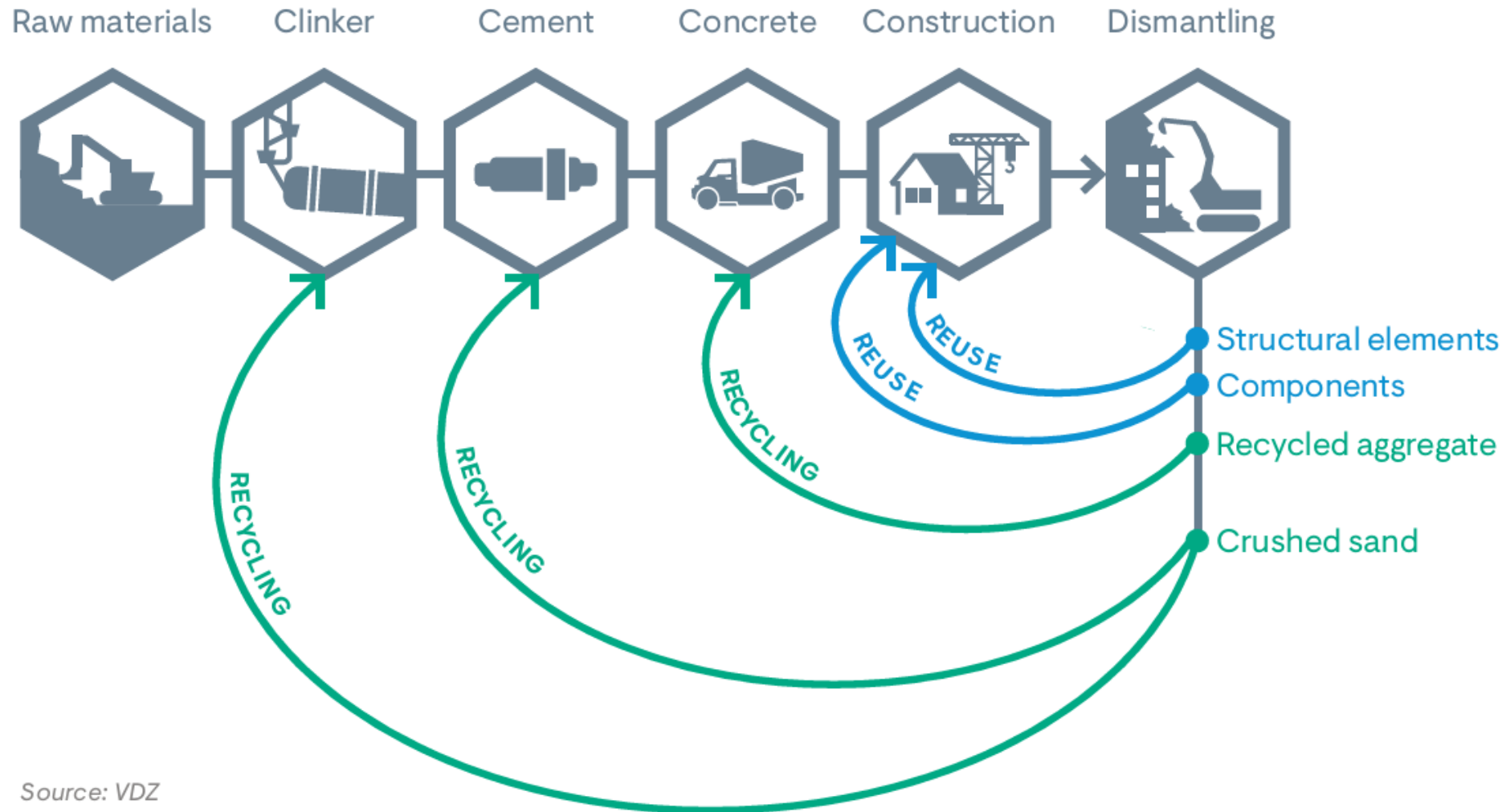
- To what extent can natural resources or raw materials be saved along the value chain of cement and concrete?
- Which technologies and innovations are required?
- What are the prerequisites for resource-saving concrete construction?
- What challenges does the industry face in reducing its use of raw materials?

<https://www.vdz-online.de/en/cement-industry/raw-materials-and-biodiversity>



# Holistic approach

Resource conservation and circular economy along the value chain



Source: VDZ

# Assumptions for savings of primary materials - 2050



- 5 % drop in demand for concrete



- 3.9 mill. tonnes of recycled fines, 4.3 mill. tonnes of calcined clays and 1.0 mill. tonnes of limestone as substitute for clinker, blast furnace slag and fly ash



- Reduction of the clinker-cement factor to 53%
- 2.5 mill. tonnes of recycled fines as raw meal component



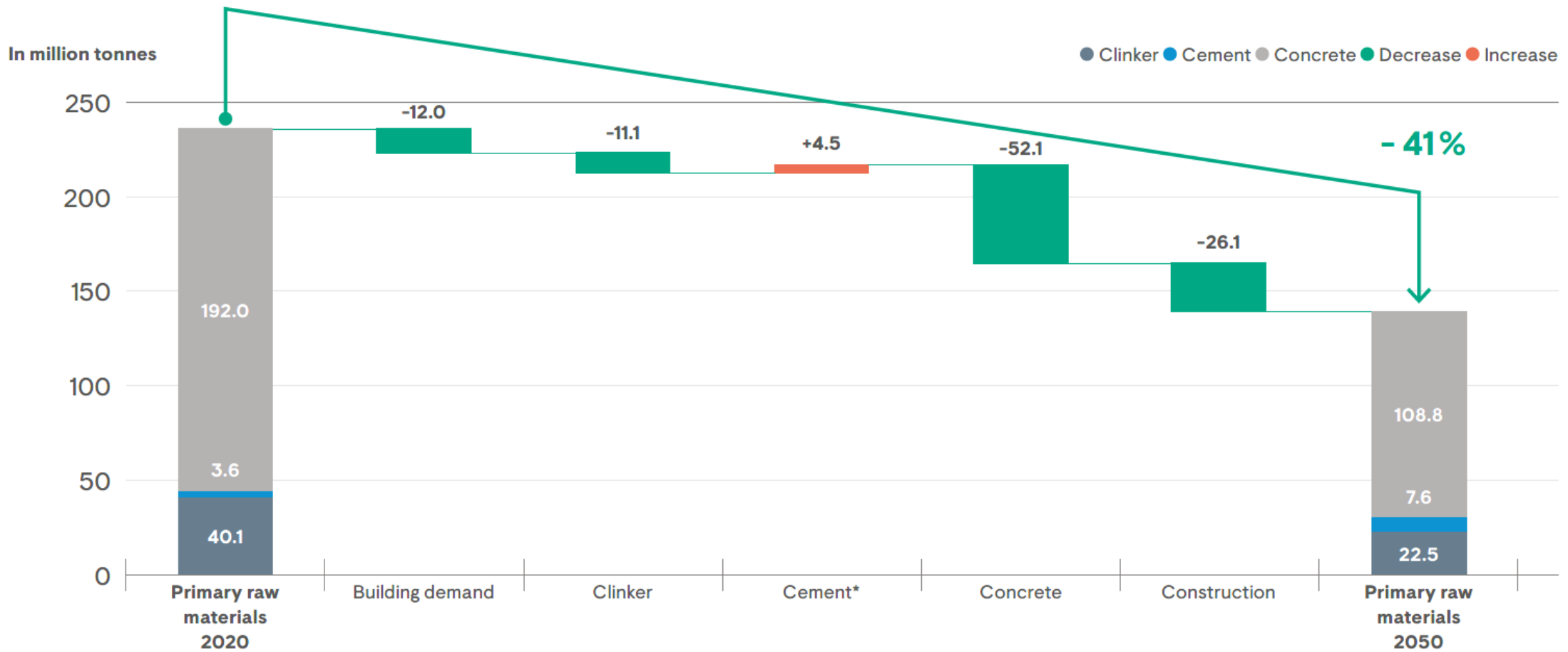
- 53.3 mill. tonnes of recycled aggregates in concrete
- Cement and rock powder as substitute for fly ash in concrete



- Resource-saving concrete construction methods
- Reuse of components and building structures
- Extended service life of structures

# Resource savings along the value chain

In the 2050 scenario, primary raw material use can be reduced by 97 million t



Source: VDZ

Note:

\* Includes primary main constituents and sulphate agents; clinker is considered separately.



# Resource savings along the value chain

In the 2050 scenario, primary raw material use can be reduced by 97 million t



Source: VDZ

Note:

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# Alternative resources for clinker production

High potential: **2.5 Mio. t / a** recycled concrete fines as low carbon calcium source

- approx. **10 wt.%** (for low sand fractions up to 18 wt.-%) of clinker raw materials can be replaced by recycled concrete fines and stoichiometrically counterbalanced with average limestone qualities
- ~20% of the process  $\text{CO}_2$  was taken up by concrete during service life; ~80% of the hardened cement paste in concrete remains uncarbonated and represents a potential  $\text{CO}_2$ -free source of calcium for clinker production
- savings in  $\text{CO}_2$  and primary resources;
- key element to close the loop – circular economy of cement and concrete

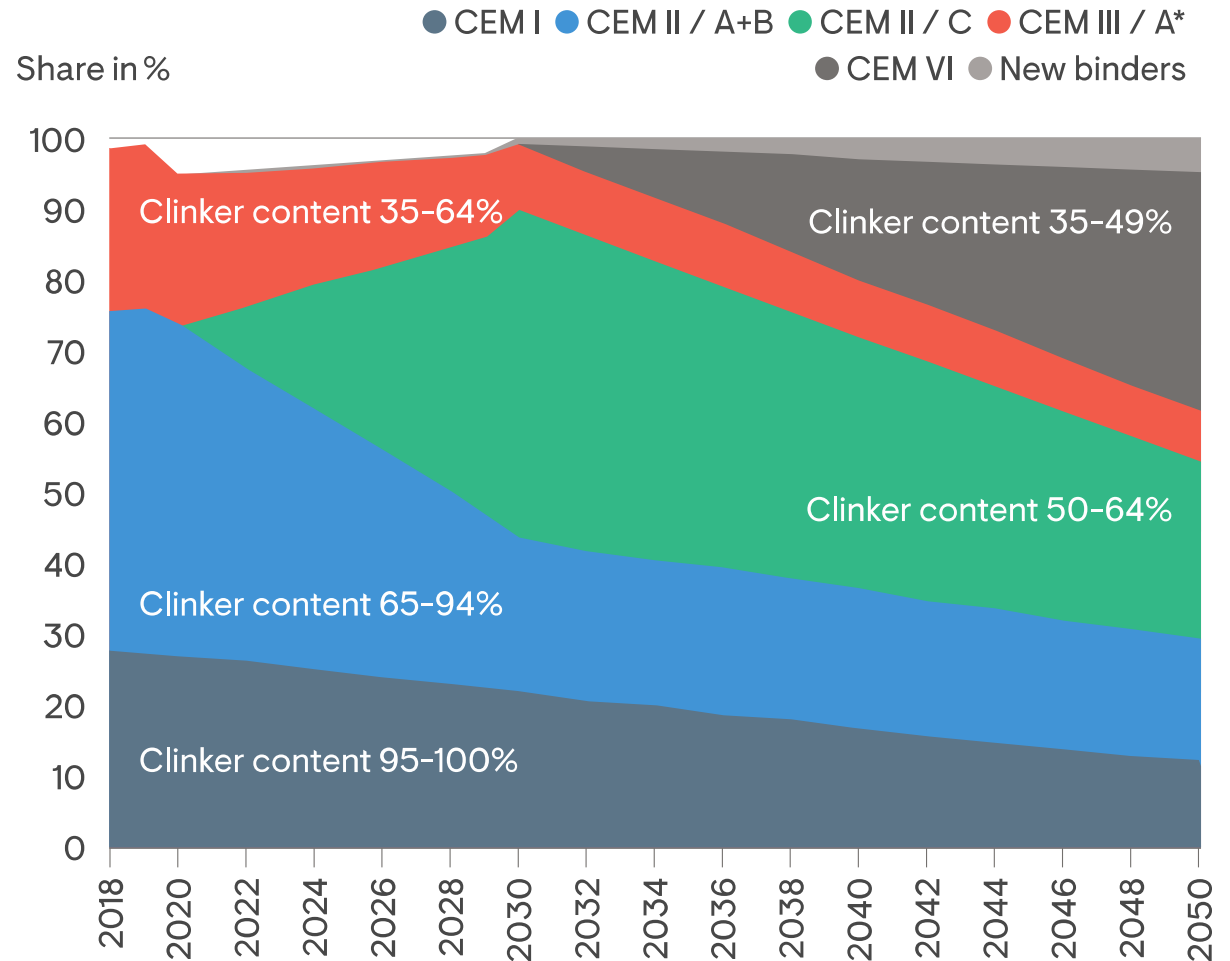


# Lowering of clinker content

2050: Reduction of the clinker content in cements to 53%

**approx. 8,6 Mio. t/a less natural resources by reduction of clinker factor (0.70 → 0.53)**

- demand for clinker decreases from around 24 million tonnes today to around 14 million tonnes in 2050
- more clinker-efficient cements in future, e.g. CEM II/C-M, CEM VI
- Limestone, calcined clays and crushed concrete fines substitute clinker and replace the missing quantities of granulated blastfurnace slag and fly ash



# Resource savings along the value chain

In the 2050 scenario, primary raw material use can be reduced by 97 million t



Source: VDZ

Note:

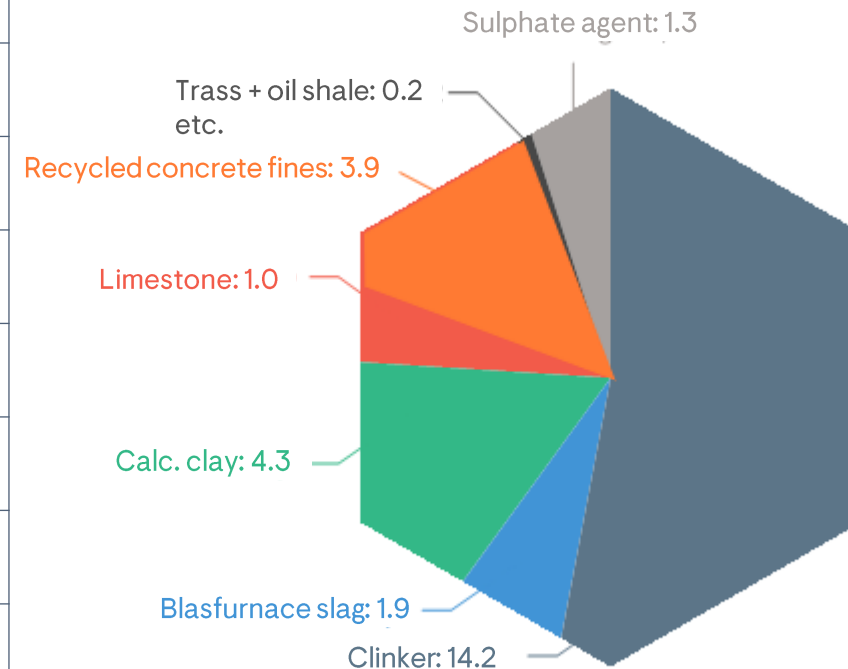
\* Includes primary main constituents and sulphate agents; clinker is considered separately.

# Resources for cement

2050: limestone, recycled concrete fines and calcined clays replace fly ash and parts of blast furnace slag

|                                | 2020        | 2050        |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Clinker                        | 25.3        | 14.2        |
| Blast furnace slag             | 5.0         | 1.9         |
| Limestone                      | 1.8         | 1.0         |
| <b>Recycled concrete fines</b> | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>3.9*</b> |
| <b>Calc. clay</b>              | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>4.3</b>  |
| Fly ash                        | 0.2         | 0.0         |
| Sulfates                       | 1.8         | 1.3         |
| Others                         | 1.4         | 0.2         |
| <b>Cement</b>                  | <b>35.5</b> | <b>26.8</b> |
| <b>Clinker / cement ratio</b>  | <b>0.71</b> | <b>0.53</b> |

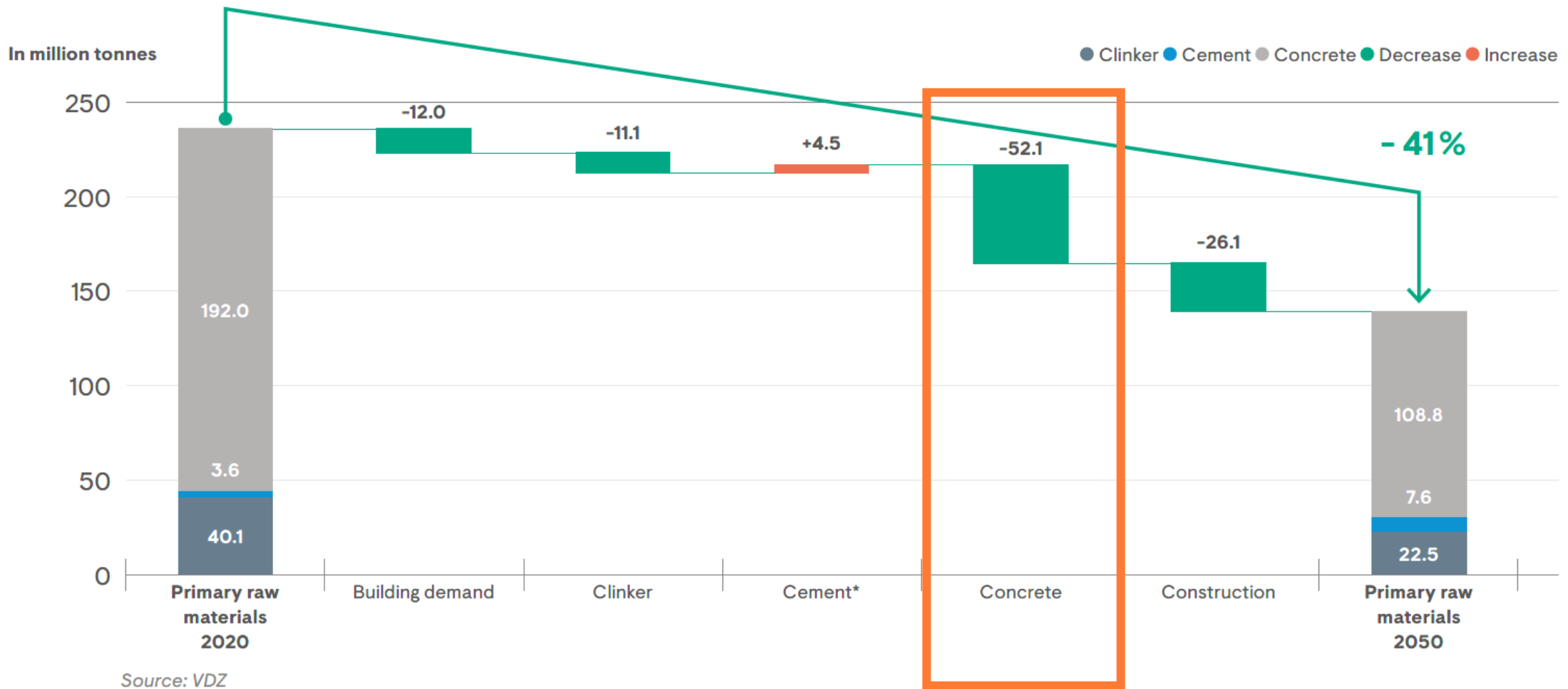
cement composition - scenario 2050



\* Assumption: 75% of the limestone (L, LL) is replaced by recycled concrete fines

# Resource savings along the value chain

In the 2050 scenario, primary raw material use can be reduced by 97 million t



Source: VDZ

Note:

\* Includes primary main constituents and sulphate agents; clinker is considered separately.

# Resources for concrete

2050: Intensified circular economy - RC aggregates (> 2mm) replaces natural aggregates in concrete

**approx. 53 Mio. t / a use of recycled aggregates from crushed concrete**

(replace approx. 33% of the required aggregates)

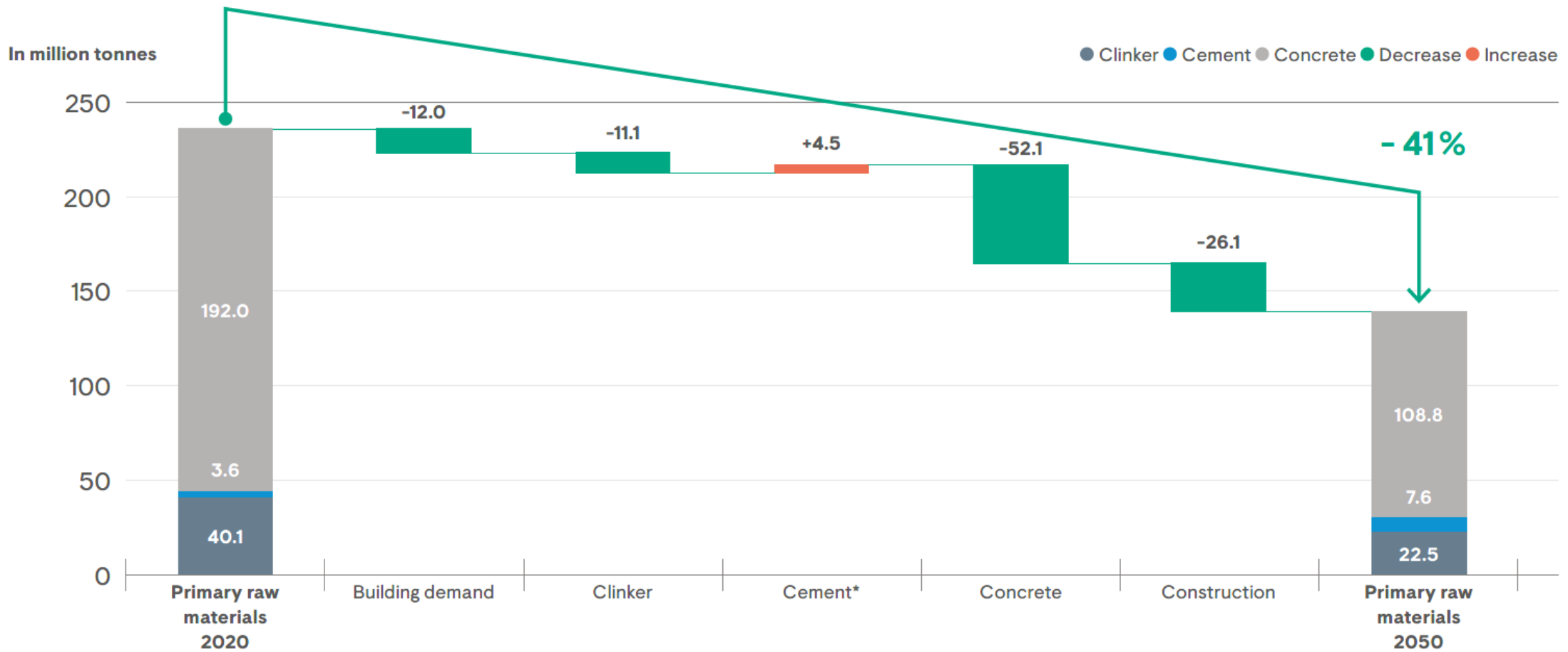
|                   | RC- aggregates [Mio. t] <sup>1)</sup> |      |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------|
|                   | 2020                                  | 2050 |
| Common concrete   | < 1                                   | 37   |
| Prefab concrete   |                                       | 3    |
| Concrete products |                                       | 13   |
| Plaster + mortar  | 0                                     | 0    |



1) Assumptions: max. input quantities according to DAfStb guideline per concrete group; appropriate processing of waste concrete / mineral construction waste

# Resource savings along the value chain

In the 2050 scenario, primary raw material use can be reduced by 97 million t



Source: VDZ

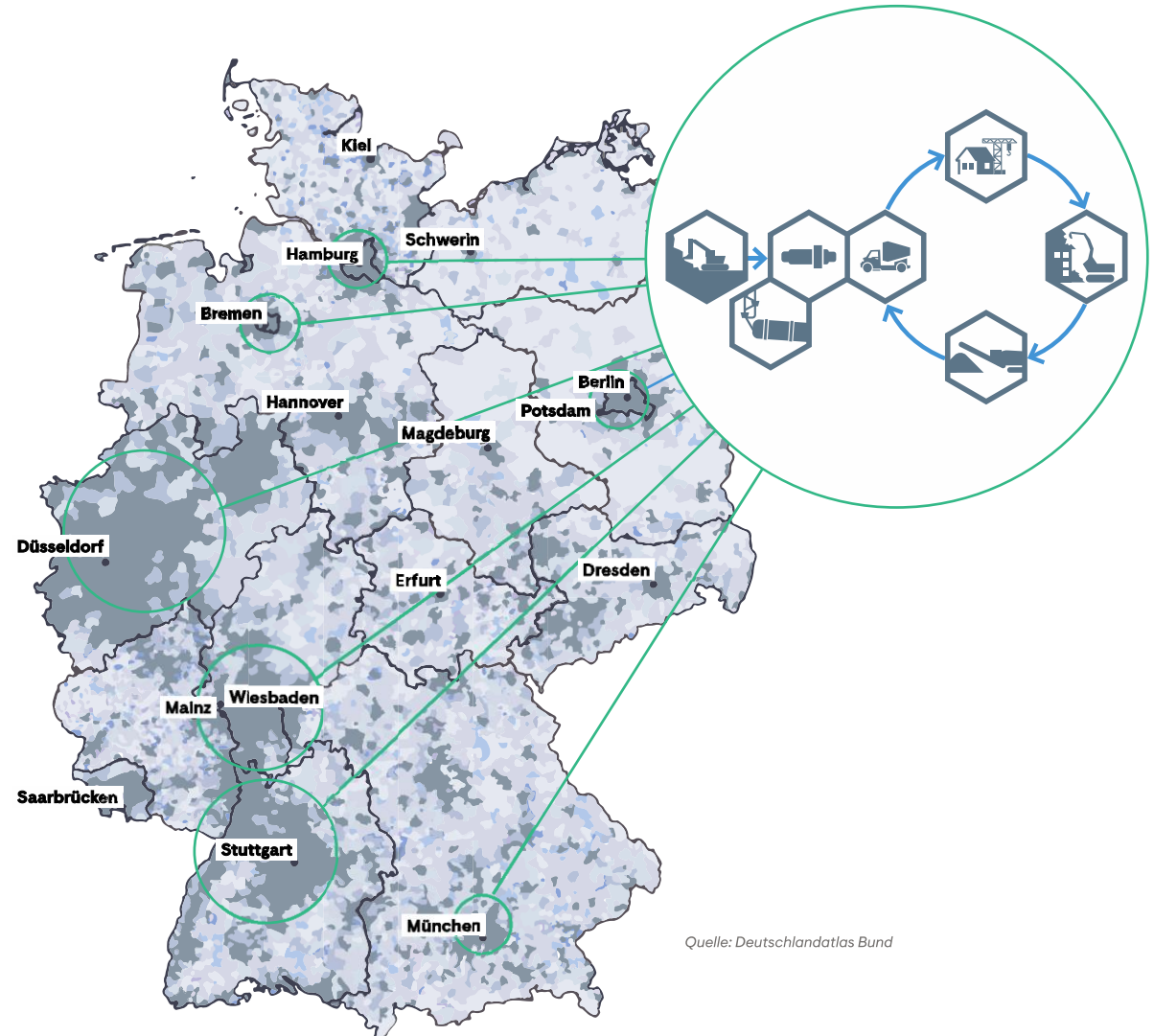
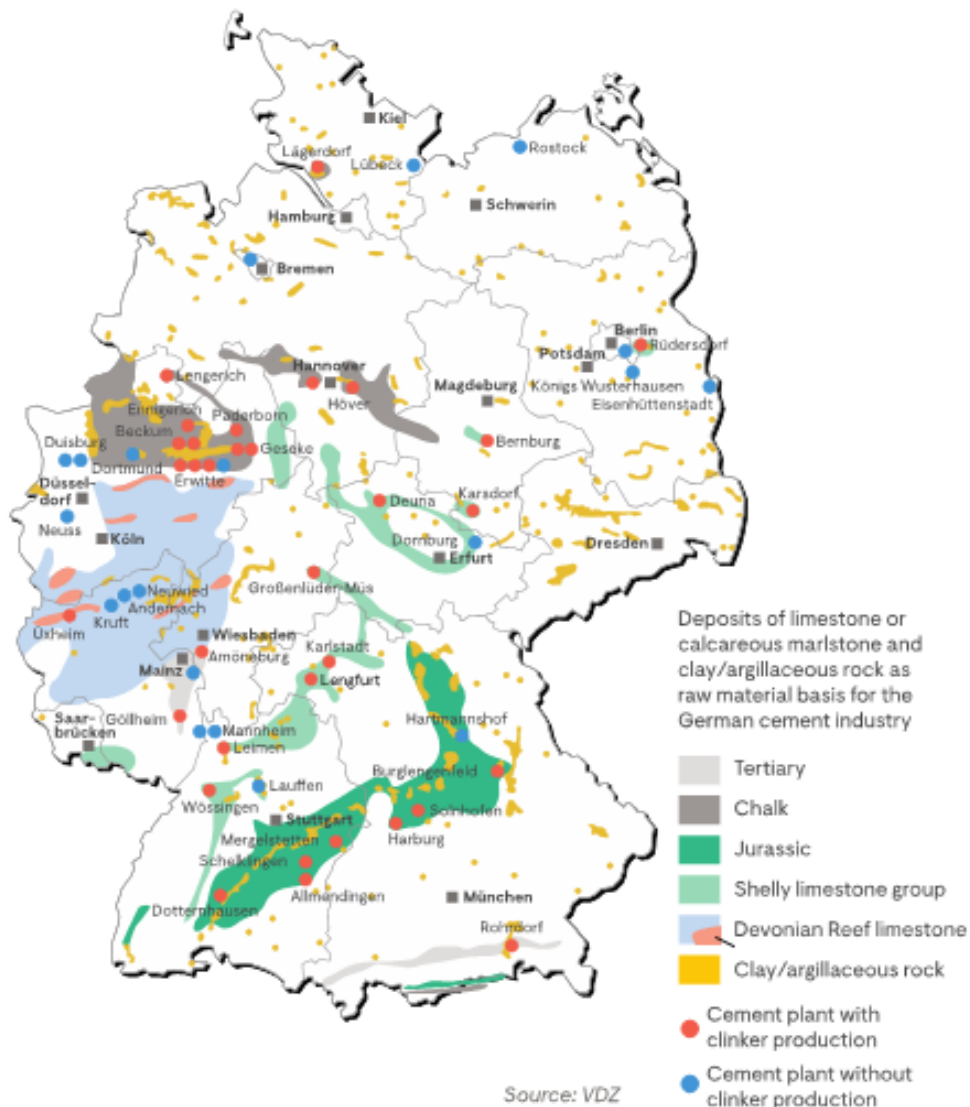
Note:

\* Includes primary main constituents and sulphate agents; clinker is considered separately.



# Raw material mix of the future

Beside primary raw materials, urban mining will play also an important role



# Prerequisites for resource-saving concrete construction

Four central fields of activity



Sustainable  
material flow  
management



Green  
lead markets for  
resource-saving  
cements and  
concretes



Communication  
and qualification  
along the  
value chain



Securing of  
primary raw  
materials

Evolving the well-established

**Thank you for  
your attention**

**vdz**

Please contact us for questions and feedback:

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