

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

T. Carter Ross, (888) 468-6499
cross@asphaltpavement.org

Warm-Mix Asphalt Use Grows; Recycled Materials Hold Steady

*Nationwide in 2017, Nearly 39% of Asphalt Pavements Produced as Energy-Saving Warm Mix;
Nearly 79 Million Tons of Recycled Materials Used in Asphalt Pavements During 2017*

Lanham, Maryland — Asphalt pavement mixture producers continue to apply technologies and innovations to make long-lasting asphalt pavements more energy-efficient to produce and more resource responsible.

Nearly 39 percent of asphalt pavement mixture produced in 2017 was produced as warm-mix asphalt at reduced temperatures, which decreases energy demands, reduces air emissions, and improves compaction at cooler temperatures.

Of all the materials recycled in the United States, nothing is recycled as consistently as asphalt pavement mixture. The latest survey of asphalt mix producers finds that more than 99 percent of the asphalt pavement material removed from roads and parking lots in 2017 was put back to productive use, primarily in new asphalt pavement mixtures.

The survey of the U.S. asphalt pavement mixture production industry has been conducted for each construction season since 2009 by the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Over the years, the survey has documented increases in the use of recycled materials and warm-mix asphalt.

Asphalt mix producers continue to make significant use of energy-saving warm-mix asphalt technologies. In 2017, 147.4 million tons of warm-mix asphalt was produced at reduced temperatures — nearly 39 percent of total asphalt pavement mix production, and a 777 percent increase since 2009.

The use of warm-mix asphalt had tracked at about a third of all asphalt mixture production since 2013. The increase for 2017 is attributable to an increase in the tons of warm-mix asphalt used by state departments of transportation (DOT). Companies that produce warm-mix asphalt reported that about 42 percent of the asphalt pavement mixture produced for DOTs was produced at reduced temperatures using warm-mix technologies.

– MORE –

“The use of warm-mix asphalt technologies has become just another part of our business. During 2017, more than half of all asphalt pavement mixtures in 16 states were produced as warm-mix asphalt, and in eight of those states, more than 75 percent was produced as warm mix,” stated Craig Parker, 2018 NAPA Chairman and Executive Vice President of Silver Star Construction in Moore, Okla. “Road owners are clearly seeing the benefits these technologies bring to our product, and they are willing to support innovations in asphalt pavements.”

Warm-mix asphalt is produced using technologies and additives that reduce the production and placement temperature of asphalt pavement mixtures, reducing the amount of fuel used in the production process. The most common technology is plant-based foaming, which injects a small amount of water into the asphalt during production. A number of environmental, worker safety, and construction benefits have been realized through the adoption of warm-mix asphalt.

Also, according to the survey, nearly 79 million tons of recycled materials — primarily reclaimed asphalt pavement material (RAP) and recycled asphalt roofing shingles (RAS) — were used in new asphalt pavement mixtures during the 2017 construction season, which was similar to the amount of these materials used in 2016. Ground tire rubber, steel and blast furnace slag, and recycled cellulose fibers were among the other recycled materials used in new asphalt pavements in 2017. The use of RAP and RAS alone resulted in cost savings of more than \$2.2 billion compared to the use of virgin materials.

“Through engineering, performance-based specifications, and improved RAP processing, production equipment, and procedures, we are creating asphalt pavement mixtures that successfully incorporate reclaimed and recycled materials,” stated NAPA President Mike Acott. “However, there is still room to improve, and we are supporting research and education efforts to keep the use of these cost effective, environmentally friendly asphalt mixtures growing.”

The survey found that more than 76.2 million tons of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) and nearly 950,000 tons of reclaimed asphalt shingles (RAS) were used in new asphalt pavement mixes in the United States during 2017. An additional 3.9 million tons of RAP and RAS were used as aggregate, in cold-mix asphalt, and other road-building activities.

The survey also found that at year-end 2017 about 103.5 million tons of RAP and RAS was stockpiled for future use across the country. Reclaiming RAP for use in future pavements saved nearly 50 million cubic yards of landfill space during 2017.

Although national usage estimates were not calculated, respondents to the survey reported recycling some 1.5 million tons of ground tire rubber, slags, cellulose fiber and other reclaimed and waste materials into nearly 7.5 million tons of asphalt paving mixtures.

The survey was conducted in the first quarter of 2018. Results from 238 companies with 1,158 plants in all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and American Samoa, along with data from state asphalt pavement associations for 32 states, were used to compile the report. A copy of the full survey report, including a state-by-state breakdown of data, is available at www.asphaltpavement.org/recycling.

About the National Asphalt Pavement Association

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) is the only trade association that exclusively represents the interests of the asphalt producer/contractor on the national level with Congress, government agencies, and other national trade and business organizations. NAPA supports an active research program designed to improve the quality of asphalt pavements and paving techniques used in the construction of roads, streets, highways, parking lots, airports, and environmental and recreational facilities. The association provides technical, educational, and marketing materials and information to its members; supplies product information to users and specifiers of paving materials; and conducts training courses. The association, which counts more than 1,100 companies as members, was founded in 1955.