SUSTAINABILITY AND CONCRETE
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REDUCING THE CONCRETE TRUCK CARBON FOOTPRINT

The RMCAO commits itself to a series of educational measures designed to further reduce the carbon footprint of the concrete industry. It's Sustainable Development and Environment Committee (SDE) has identified six areas where the concrete industry can reduce fuel use and its carbon footprint by:

1. **Supporting a provincial [100 km] speed limit and governors to limit truck speeds to 105 km/h**
   This supports the Ontario Ministry of Transport initiative.

2. **Decreasing idling**
   All operators and facilities should have "idling" policies for trucks. Specifically designed for seasonal plant operations, each company should detail their policy and communication procedures.

3. **Limiting yard speed**
   All operators and facilities should have yard speed limits posted and should detail their policy and communication procedures.

4. **Increasing fuel efficiency, reducing stack emissions**
   All operators and facilities should have regular vehicle maintenance programs to ensure the truck engine and equipment is running at best efficiency.

5. **Reducing road and traffic congestion and project-based emissions**
   All operators and facilities should work with their customers and partners to schedule project deliveries relative to contractor and placement unloading capabilities. This can prevent an excess number of trucks on the project waiting to be discharged and will allow truck and drivers' times to be optimized. GPS dispatch and tracking systems can also be used to optimize project deliveries.

6. **Promoting the use of more productive truck design and configuration**
   All operators and facilities should have knowledge of required and normal load size demands relative to the projects they supply. They should identify truck configurations where possible to best suit the type and location of the project, delivery locations, the specific concrete placement method and the type of concrete being delivered.

CONCLUSION

In an industry with thin margins and escalating fuel costs, increasing fuel efficiency and minimizing fuel consumption are major points of any concrete company. Those goals coincide with the global needs for industries to reduce their carbon footprint and to lessen their environmental impact.

The RMCAO firmly believes that advancing these recommendations will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the concrete industry while delivering concrete more efficiently than ever.

The RMCAO has also released the **ECO CERTIFIED Concrete Facility Program** designed to address Responsible Materials Procurement (RMP) for owners and users. Details can be found at www.rmcao.org.