

Ontario engineers and builders advocate for recycled crushed aggregates

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Engineers, builders and suppliers are [urging](#) Ontario's provincial and municipal governments to incorporate more recycled crushed aggregate (RCA) in public infrastructure projects, including roads, subdivisions, highways, bridges and tunnels.

The coalition, which includes the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers ([OSPE](#)) and eight construction associations, suggests a new mandate to include 20% RCA in municipal, regional and provincial projects would save local governments more than \$260 million annually and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions equivalent to 15 million cars, without compromising quality.

Testing has shown RCA—made from reclaimed concrete and asphalt that would otherwise end up in landfills—performs as well as primary aggregate. Its successful track record in Ontario includes its use in 400-series highways, Pearson International Airport and transit projects. Overall, however, less than 7% of aggregates used annually in Ontario's roadway, bridge and tunnel construction come from recycled sources.

“Recycled aggregates are cost-effective and can help municipalities deliver more from their capital plans while helping to reach net-zero targets,” says Raly Chakarova, executive director of the Toronto and Area Road Builders Association ([TARBA](#)).

The advocacy effort is inspired by other governments around the world that have already used policies and regulations to incentivize the use of RCA. The coalition's goals include:

- harmonizing municipal specifications for RCA through provincial standards.
- including the use of RCA in tenders for construction projects.
- incentivizing the use of RCA through provincial funding for municipal projects.
- prohibiting municipalities from specifying 'primary-only' in public infrastructure tenders.

Besides OSPE and TARBA, the coalition members include [Concrete Ontario](#), [Good Roads](#), the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Construction Association ([GTSWCA](#)), the Heavy Civil Association of Toronto ([HCAT](#)), the Ontario Road Builders' Association ([ORBA](#)), the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario ([RCCAO](#)) and the Ontario Sand, Stone & Gravel Association ([OSSGA](#)).