COAL ASH BY THE NUMBERS

Coal ash is the second-most abundant waste material in the U.S. behind household trash.

Fly ash relative composition

- CaO
- K₂O
- SiO₂
- Al₂O₃
- Fe₂O₃
- MgO
- Na₂O
- SO₃
- TiO₂
- K₂O

Trace elements*: Ba, Sr, Mn, Zn, V, Cr, As, Pb, Ni, Cu, Mo, Ti, Be, U, Se, Sb, Cd, Hg

NOTE: Circles represent mean concentrations for various fly ash samples, for example, SiO₂ = 215,000 mg/kg. a In order of relative abundance. SOURCE: Electric Power Research Institute

About 1.5 billion tons of coal ash are currently stockpiled in the U.S.

Coal ash breakdown

- Bottom ash 10%
- Boiler slag 2%
- Fly ash 39%
- Fluidized bed ash 12%
- Other flue gas material 11%
- Flue-gas gypsum 28%

2014 U.S. coal ash production = 129.7 million tons per year

SOURCE: American Coal Ash Association

World coal consumption, million tons

- World 8,439.9
- All North America 955.7
- U.S. 889.2
- Central America/Caribbean 3.6
- South America 479
- Europe 1,370.1
- All Asia 5,622
- China 4,150.7
- India 744.5
- Africa 220.1
- Oceania 220.5

NOTE: Data from 2012. SOURCE: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Burning 4 to 8 tons of coal produces 1 ton of coal ash.

This Asheville, N.C., airport taxiway was constructed with coal ash fill.

The Ronald Reagan building in Washington, D.C. was built with coal ash concrete.

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