# RECYCLING REFRACTORIES FROM AN ENDUSER'S VIEWPOINT











#### Contents

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		<b>U</b>	Ott	on

> Why Recycle

> Potential Industries

➤ What is Recyclable

> Examples

> Terminology

Partnership

Advantages

> Conclusion

➤ Questions

Page 3 - 5

Page 6

Page 7 - 8

Page 9 - 12

Page 13 - 19

Page 20

Page 21 - 22

Page 23 - 25

Page 26 - 28

Page 29





#### Introduction

#### Mass Balance of Refractories after Use

- Based on the original materials installed:
- > 35 % dissolved/consumed in within the process
- > 27 % is used in non refractory applications
- 20 % can be recycled as secondary refractory material
- > 18 % is disposed as waste (mostly fines)

Reference: PRE Position and Reference Paper, Management of Refractories in Europe,

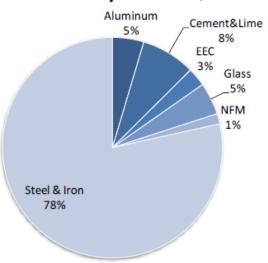
R 53 – December 2002





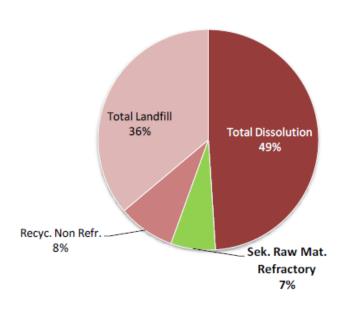
### Market for Secondary Raw Materials - Worldwide

#### Refractory Market \*)



Market refractories: 23 Mio. t

#### Mass balance worldwide



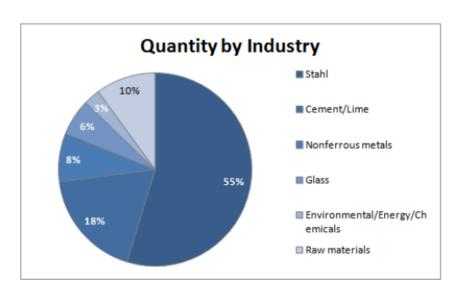
Market sec. raw materials: 1,6 Mio. t



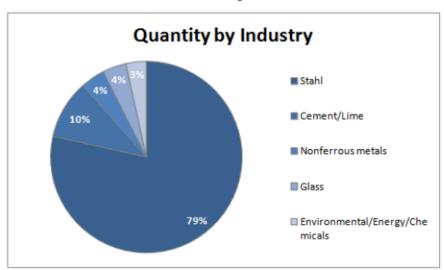


# Industries using Products made of Secondary Raw Materials

#### **Industries using RHI products:**



# Industries using our products made of secondary raw material:







### Why Recycle Refractories?

#### Motivation for Recycling

- Sustainable protection of natural resources
- Less exploitation, thus saving nature
- Lowering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions created by producing raw materials
- > Reduce landfill volume
- Save landfill costs
- Reduce liability of land filled material (cradle to grave)

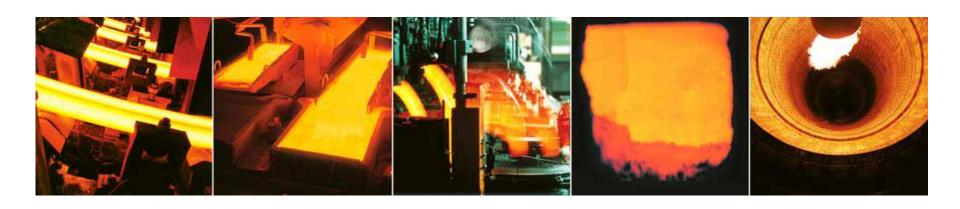
### Effects of Recycling

- > Save raw material costs
- Improve environmental balances and figures
- Introduce new products in new markets
- Closer cooperation between refractory supplier and customer
- Introduction of recycling specialists to improve treatment and distribution of recycled materials
- Stay ahead of ever changing EPA regulations on landfill materials.





## Potential Industries for Recycling







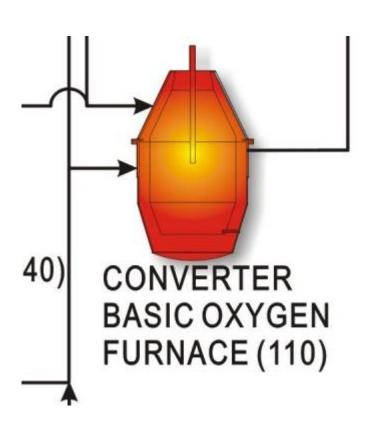
# Industries and Furnace Types

	Industrial Incineration		
	Power Generation		
Environmental Engage Chamical	Oil Refineries		
Environmental Energy Chemical	Chemical & Petrochemical		
	Pulp & Paper		
	Kiln Furniture		
Non-Ferrous Metals	Primary		
Non-Femous Metais	Secondary		
Cement and Lime	Cement		
Centent and Line	Lime		
	Flat Glass		
	Container Glass		
Class	Water Glass		
Glass	Fibre Glass		
	Specialty Glass		
	Dinner Ware		
	EAF		
	BOF		
	Ladles		
Iron/Steel	Reheat Furnace		
	Torpedo Cars		
	Flow Control		
	Induction Furnace		





#### **BOF Converters**



- DesirableMgO-CarbonMgO
- Contaminant

  Metal/Slag

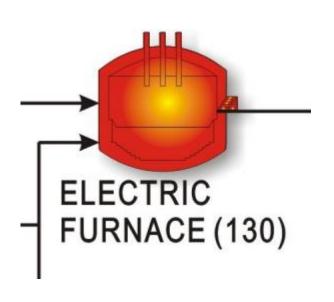
  Alumina refractory

  Fines





### Electric Arc Furnace

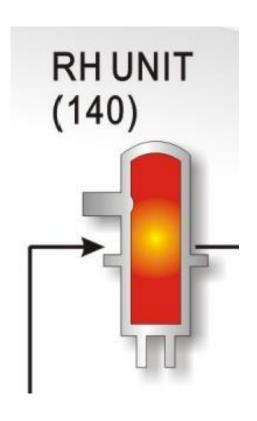


- DesirableMgO-CarbonMgOElectrodes
- Contaminant Metal/Slag Fines





## RH/DH Degasser Units

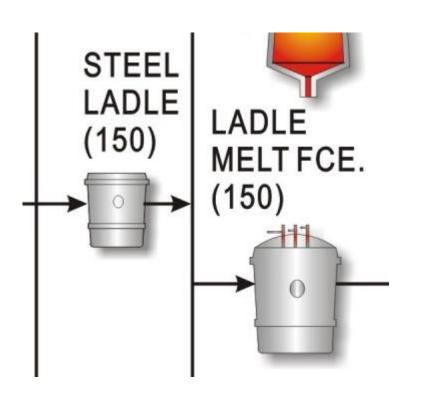


- DesirableMgOMgO-Chrome
- ContaminantsAlumina refractoryMetal/SlagFines





#### Ladles



Desirable

MgO

MgO-Carbon

**AMC** 

Slide Gates

**Alumina** 

Contaminants

Dolomite

Metal/slag





### **Example from Steel Industry**



Breakout from steel industry before sorting



MgO-C scrap after sorting and cleaning





## Close up of Unprocessed Bricks



### Yield affected by:

- > Steel
- Nozzles
- > Fines
- Hydrated Brick
- > Hi Alumina castable
- Bricks stuck together





# Removing Metal and Slag









### Grizzly

- Spacing @ 3" to separate the large pieces.
- Remove alumina and large pieces of brick stuck together.



- > Fines separated.
- May elect to remove large pieces for recycling.
- May elect to crush large pieces for melt shop addition.







### **Example from Glass Industry**



Breakout from glass industry before sorting



AZS after sorting and cleaning





### **Example from Foundry**



Alumina Graphite from Foundry before sorting



After cleaning and sorting

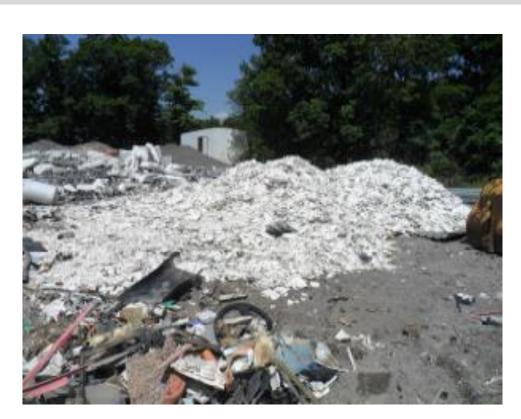




### **Examples from Other Sources**



High Alumina Precast Shapes



Porcelain Scrap





# Recycling Terminology

# European waste management legislation uses following terminology for refractory breakout:

- ➤ Materials that have not been used or changed in chemical or mineralogical compositions during use. Can be used directly as secondary raw material.
- Materials that have been used and no changes in composition. Pose no environmental risk.
  Can be used as secondary raw material when processed according to the specification for their use as secondary raw material.
- Materials that have been used and pose some environmental risk. Only authorized or competent recycling companies are permitted to separate, clean and convert them into non-hazardous secondary raw materials.





### Partnership

#### **Production Plant**

**RHI-AG** 



Processor

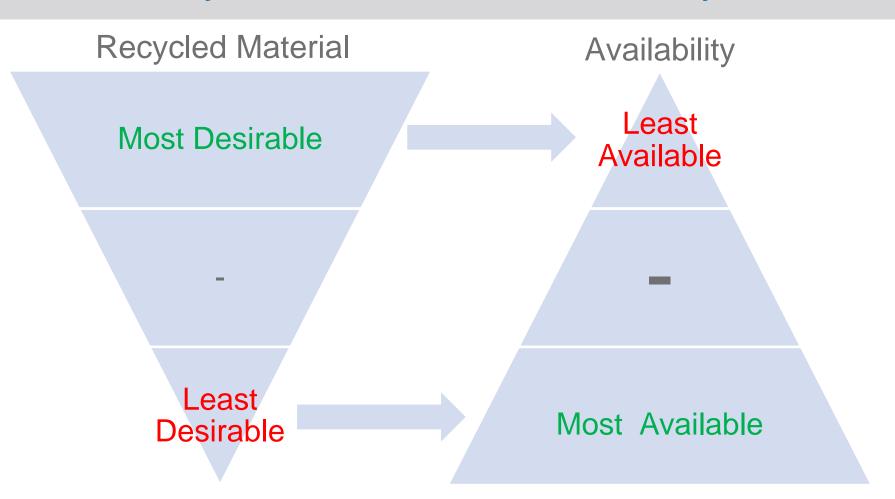
To make the spent product usable for recycling

- > Processing companies have become increasingly important.
- ➤ Closer cooperation between production plant, the processor and the supplier is necessary to increase the consumption rate of secondary raw materials.





### Recycled Materials vs Availability



Reference: Mineralen Kollee





### Minimising Refractory Waste

#### Demolition:

- > Determine the classes of breakout materials.
- Select and segregate refractory types.
- Supervision during demolition.

#### Processing:

- Separation of fines, large pieces and debris from the desirable refractory.
- This increases purity of materials with higher value.





### Maximising Waste Value

#### **Production Plant**

- Selective demolition of spent refractory Increase purity of materials with higher value
- Supervision during demolition
   Determine the classes of breakout materials

#### **Recycling Partner**

- Improve separation techniques
   Remove infiltration zones to increase the degree of purity
- Improve sorting techniques introducing technical equipment to sort the different refractory types
- Find alternative applications for materials that cannot be reused in refractory





#### Conclusion

A financially and environmentally productive recycling program requires cooperation by all three partners.

#### This is accomplished by:

- Determining what can be recycled.
- How can the refractory be removed, segregated and stored.
- Establish Standard Operating Parameters (SOP's) throughout the process.
- Maintain communication among all three partners.





#### Conclusion

Recycling of refractories is one of RHI's main focuses in regard of raw material availability and cost savings.

Recycling concepts are put in place.

New products based on secondary materials are introduced.

Cooperations with recycling partners allows us to increase the amount of high purity materials.

Advantages include saving natural resources, reduce carbon emissions, reduce landfill, save landfill costs and provide cost savings to our customers.

The refractory industry and it's partners have made immense progress in improved usage, reuse, recovery, recycling and waste minimization. The achievements to date prove a solid basis for further progress and for improved sustainability.





#### Conclusion

- ➤ Every recycling program is unique but our common goals and the commitment to succeed will overcome any obstacle.
- It is easy to send spent refractory to landfill but rising taxes along with environmental fees and increased pressure on our natural resources will leave us with no option but to utilize this vital secondary raw material.





# Questions

# Thank You

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