

Asheville Ash Frequently Asked Questions

What is coal ash?

How will it be used by Asheville Regional Airport Authority?

Has coal ash been used this way before?

How is coal ash created?

I have heard coal ash called a coal-combustion product (CCP). What does that mean?

How will the coal ash get from the power plant to the airport?

Does the Environmental Protection Agency support this type of fill project?

What about the environment?

Is this an environmentally friendly way to use ash?

Who will be moving the ash?

What is the timetable for the project?

What is coal ash?

When coal is burned, the noncombustible minerals remain as coal ash. This ash is similar in consistency to black sand. It contains limestone, iron, aluminum, silica, sand and clay – all materials found in the earth's crust. Coal ash is moved from the power plant to either an ash pond, where it settles, or into a dry storage system.

How will it be used by Asheville Regional Airport Authority?

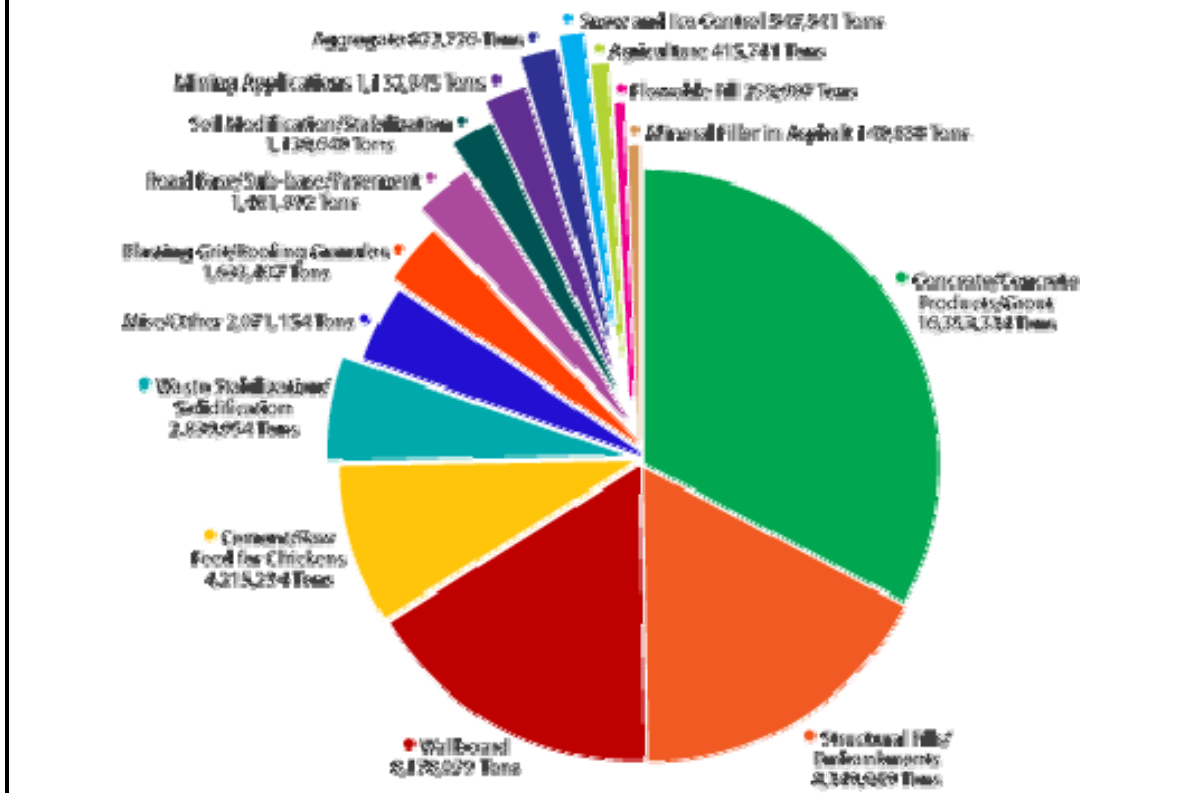
Approximately 650,000 cubic yards of coal ash will be used as structural fill for an expansion project in the airport's North General Aviation area. The 15-acre project begins this December and will take approximately 18 months to complete. Upon completion of the fill activities, the area will be capped with six to eight feet of clay soil.

Has coal ash been used this way before?

Yes. Several airport projects have used coal ash as fill, including the Houston Intercontinental Airport, Rostravor Airport in Pennsylvania and the Central Wisconsin Airport. In 2005, 8.4 million tons of coal-combustion products, including coal ash, were used in the U.S. for fill projects. More generally, ash has been used as a construction material since Roman times, usually as a component of concrete. The first major use of coal ash in concrete in the United States occurred in 1942, when engineers repaired a tunnel spillway at the Hoover Dam.

BENEFICIAL USES OF COAL-COMBUSTION PRODUCTS

2005 data. Source: US EPA



How is coal ash created?

Coal ash is created when coal is burned to produce electricity. Most of what remains after combustion is bottom ash and fly ash. Bottom ash settles to the bottom of the chamber, while fly ash is captured before it leaves the plant's stack.

I have heard coal ash called a coal-combustion product (CCP). What does that mean?

Any material that remains after coal is burned to produce electricity is called a coal-combustion product. Fly ash and bottom ash are coal-combustion products, or CCPs. Scrubbers, also known as flue-gas desulfurization units, remove sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions from power plants and produce synthetic gypsum – another CCP. Scrubbers operating at the Asheville Plant remove approximately 97 percent of the SO₂ produced. The Asheville Plant currently markets up to 100 percent of its synthetic gypsum for the manufacture of construction products such as drywall boards.

How will the coal ash get from the power plant to the airport?

The material will be transported by dump truck from Progress Energy's Asheville Plant in Skyland to the airport. Prior to leaving the site, each truck will be weighed and covered. Trucks will exit the Asheville Plant and use New Rockwood Road, Glenn Bridge Road and Pinner Road before arriving at the airport fill site.

Does the Environmental Protection Agency support this type of fill project?

Yes. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) actively promotes beneficial uses of coal ash and other coal-combustion products through a program called the Coal Combustion Products Partnership ([C²P²](#)). As stated on www.epa.gov, C²P² "is a cooperative effort... to help promote the beneficial use of Coal Combustion Products and the environmental benefits that result from their use." An EPA fact sheet on CCPs and the C²P² program can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/conservation/c2p2/pubs/facts508.pdf>.

What about the environment?

There are many positive environmental effects of the project. Coal ash that might otherwise end up being stored is being put to a beneficial use. Conversely, the resources that would have been used as fill in the airport project remain where they are. As the EPA noted, "using [CCPs](#) in an environmentally safe manner saves virgin resources, and reduces energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions." And according to researchers at the University of Wisconsin, "many of the [coal-combustion products] that are being disposed have desirable properties, and finding methods to use them is consistent with the principles of sustainable construction and development."

Is this an environmentally friendly way to use ash?

Yes. The Environmental Protection Agency has stated that these types of projects are an appropriate use of coal ash.

Who will be moving the ash?

A company called Charah, Inc., will transport the ash from the power plant to the airport. Charah®, Inc. is a leading ash-management provider for the coal-fired electric utility industry. Based in Louisville, Ky., Charah provides a complete line of ash-management services, including landfill management and operations, bottom ash processing and marketing, structural fill applications, ash pond management and Integrated Gasification Combine Cycle (IGCC) slag beneficiation.

Charah, Inc., is a charter member of the EPA's Coal-Combustion Products Partnership (C²P²) which encourages beneficial use of coal by-products. In April 2005, Charah was

awarded the C²P²'s first place award for innovation by the EPA for outstanding achievement in increasing the amount of coal-combustion products ([CCPs](#)) beneficially used in its patent-pending ash-based packaged concrete. For more information about Charah, please visit www.charah.com.

What is the timetable for the project?

The project will begin in December 2007 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.