Ozinga Ready Mix is a fourth-generation, family-owned company specializing in concrete, building materials, and logistics. With 100 years of experience under its belt, Ozinga operates almost 70 ready mix concrete plants across Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, and South Florida. The company has invested in digital technology as it has grown and is now recognized by the industry as a leader in innovation.
Challenge

The leadership team at Ozinga Ready Mix (Ozinga) recognized early on that offering greener solutions could become an important competitive advantage, with the connected benefit of aligning well with the company’s corporate mission. Ozinga had long been interested in innovations that could improve sustainability and reduce carbon emissions, but options for carbon reductions in the concrete industry have been limited.

Solution

The emergence of carbon utilization technologies like CarbonCure provides just the solution concrete producers like Ozinga have been waiting for.

CarbonCure’s ready mix technology enables Ozinga to use less cement in their concrete mixes while maintaining concrete quality and performance, and benefit not only from more sustainable operations but a powerful new differentiator in a competitive marketplace.

At a conference in 2015, William Holden, a member of CarbonCure’s Board of Directors, made a beeline for Marty Ozinga to encourage him to try out this newly launched technology.

Marty was impressed enough to task his younger brother, Paul, with looking into the viability of CarbonCure. Paul became a crucial internal champion and led the expansion of the CarbonCure Technology into more than 20 plants.
Implementation

CarbonCure’s Technical Services and Support staff provided boots on the ground to assist with testing, adjusting, and gathering data for measuring the strength of the new mixes.

Ryan Cialdella, Ozinga’s Vice President of Research and Development, managed the implementation program and reflects on how the company embraced CarbonCure: “To find a design that strengthens concrete is always a good thing, to discover a way to make concrete more sustainable is a great thing, but to find a solution that does both is exactly the kind of progress Ozinga wants to be a part of.”

High-profile projects supplied with CarbonCure concrete include the McDonald’s flagship restaurant in Chicago, IL. For Carol Ross Barney, Principal Designer at Ross Barney Architects who oversaw the project, CarbonCure was an effective way to meet the high expectations laid out by the McDonald’s team: “From the beginning, [they] knew they wanted this project to be sustainable... CarbonCure turned out to be a great answer to the McDonald’s requirements.”

For this project alone, using CarbonCure concrete saved 30,000 pounds of carbon emissions from entering the atmosphere.

Ozinga has supplied a variety of commercial projects with CarbonCure concrete and found that customers are thrilled to take part of an environmentally-friendly initiative. With CarbonCure, contractors can capitalize on the unique qualities of concrete they rely on — strength, versatility, durability but now, with a reduced carbon footprint.
Results

Since the partnership began in 2016, as of July 2020 Ozinga has produced upwards of 650,000 cubic yards of concrete with CarbonCure, resulting in carbon savings that exceed 10,000 tons. Those carbon savings are equivalent to the amount of CO₂ sequestered by more than 13,000 acres of forest in a year.

As of July 2020, 31 CarbonCure systems are used at 27 Ozinga plants — and that number continues to grow. In early 2020, Ozinga licensed another CarbonCure system and designated it for the company’s Miami plant, making Ozinga the first ready mix producer to supply CarbonCure concrete in the state of Florida.

Further expansion is, according to Cialdella, a no-brainer: “We have been very satisfied with the technology and the quality of the concrete produced with CarbonCure, which is why we are continually adding it into more of our plants.”

Ozinga’s ambition doesn’t stop there. Since the Chicago Department of Transportation (DOT) accepted CO₂ as an approved cement-reducing admixture in June 2019, Ozinga has become the primary supplier of concrete made with CO₂ for the Chicago DOT. Between June 2019 and April 2020, Ozinga delivered 7,500 cubic yards of concrete made with CarbonCure to numerous Chicago DOT projects, saving more than 225,000 pounds of carbon emissions.

To learn more about Ozinga’s CarbonCure story, download the full case study eBook at carboncure.com/resources/ozinga.

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— Ryan Cialdella
Vice President of Research and Development, Ozinga
CarbonCure Technologies Inc. is the global leader in carbon dioxide (CO₂) utilization technologies for concrete. The retrofit CarbonCure Technology chemically mineralizes waste CO₂ during production to make high-performing, more sustainable concrete. CarbonCure is on a mission to reduce the embodied carbon footprint of the built environment, with the goal of reducing CO₂ emissions by 500 megatonnes annually.

To learn more about how CarbonCure can help grow your concrete business while shrinking your carbon footprint, visit carboncure.com or contact a CarbonCure representative at info@carboncure.com or +1 (902) 442-4020.