

We are committed to sustainable development

With recycled steel from Gerlafingen to be used in the concrete reinforcement and steel construction sector, you can build in a sustainable, flexible and compressed manner height-wise as well as depth-wise.

Urban Steel Mining. In Switzerland, 8 tons of steel per capita are used as the «main supporting element» in buildings and goods. Every year, 340 kg of new steel per capita can be added to that, of which approx. 150 kg consist of reinforcement and steel sections and 190 kg consist of steel that goes «out of service», becoming steel scrap. The utilization of this steel scrap makes the iron contained therein usable again for new applications. This raw material extraction from buildings and goods is also called Urban Mining.

This concept works very well for the sectors of reinforcement steel and steel sections. They are processed into equivalent products with virtually no loss of material or quality (no down-cycling). The high iron content of reinforcing steel of about 98% remains in the cycle in an exemplary manner. The mechanical separation steps in demolition and scrap processing are followed by homogenizing and metallurgical separation steps carried out in the steel mill. In addition to the steel products, other recycled aggregates can be created thereby, for example electro-furnace slag or concentrated secondary zinc ore with more than 40% zinc, gained from the cleaning of exhaust gases, which closes the zinc cycle.

Recycled steel is of high quality, energy efficient and environmentally friendly. Recycled steel meets all required properties for buildings such as strength, ductility or surfaces. Especially when it is used to build in a compressed manner of depth or height, steel is the best solution because it offers a high load carrying capacity. Steel recycling requires much less energy than the primary production itself (already considered as efficient) and generates approx. 10 times less CO₂. The energy efficiency of the processes as well as the environmental engineering facilities applied have reached a high level and are continually evolving.

Steel recycling close to customers and suppliers. *Stahl Gerlafingen* performs steel recycling closely to scrap availability and steel utilization. Thus, the average transport routes are below 90 km. They are usually carried out by train. The proximity between raw material sources and means of transport allows for an optimal interaction.

The knowledge of the necessary recycling steps as well as the knowledge of the steel properties is continuously transmitted to customers, suppliers and interested people. In this way, it is possible to shape our future in a flexible, sustainable and demand-oriented manner with steel coming from local «mines».

"Everything flows and nothing stays" - these words of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus apply just as much to Nature as to men's values and work since, after all, they are all based on the laws of nature. Changes give us a chance to create new values if we ven