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One man's rubbish is another man's gold

Rotterdam-based Inashco has found a new way to extract something valuable from the bottom ash which remains in incinerators and was generally only suitable for use in landfill or low grade construction materials. Inashco can separate out the tiniest metal and mineral fractions from this ash, proving that even the dregs of the waste chain are still precious!

Up to now, the waste incineration sector has had no answer to realize the full potential of its major residual stream: incinerator ash. Following combustion the slag typically contains 10 per cent of ferrous and 3.5 per cent of non-ferrous metals. With Inashco technology, the slag can be economically processed to recover these metals and remove contaminants, in order for it to be used as an improved aggregate for the construction sector. With conventional technologies, only a small amount of metal (larger than 12mm particles) can be extracted.

Inashco has developed an advanced process able to recover metal particles down to 1mm.

The technology does not only maximize economic benefits, it also is by far the most environmental friendly process available. Direct handling of the bottom ash

prevents dust and gas emissions, and minimizes chemical reactions such as leaching of heavy metals and the corrosion of aluminium metal particles.

An important advantage of this technology is that it can also be used as an extension to existing installations, meaning the invention can be added to conventional technology (screens, magnets and eddy current separators) to improve the non ferrous metal recovery with 50 – 100 per cent.

For more information:
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