



WASTE NOT: TecEco's John Harrison with concrete made using extracted carbon dioxide and other waste composites. Picture: JAMES KERR

Concrete ideas on saving the world

MARK WORLEY

TUCKED on a secluded waterfront block in Austins Ferry a man is trying to save the world.

And not in a Miss Universe "I want to save the world" kind of way.

With climate change policy firmly on the agenda of governments around the world, John Harrison thinks he has the answer.

It is all about concrete.

Mr Harrison, who has degrees in science and economics, has patented a system where concrete can be created using extracted carbon dioxide and other waste composites.

"If martians looking down at earth were asked what they thought humans did, their answer would be 'they build stuff; a heck of a lot of stuff,'" Mr Harrison said.

"Concrete is the second most used substance on earth behind water. About 17 billion tonnes of concrete is created every year.

"What if we could use our

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waste products and our CO₂ to create our second biggest substance? "Our technology shows that we can."

Strewn around Mr Harrison's yard are examples of his technology. Heavy bricks are piled on pallets, and there are concrete samples of all shapes, sizes and colours.

Picking up a heavy-looking cylindrical piece of cement and throwing it in the air, Mr Harrison explains the concrete was made using foam as the binding composite. "Our waste products become excellent composites in binding our concretes."

"There are so many different composites we can use to build strong, crack-resistant concrete."

Mr Harrison started his business TecEco in 1999 and has been battling to prove the naysayers wrong ever since.

"We just forked out over \$500,000 battling for the patent

for our technology in America," Mr Harrison said.

"The establishment doesn't like having the status quo challenged. But people are starting to take notice. "We are in positive negotiations with several extremely large companies in the US, all of which are enthusiastic about our technology.

"People are starting to realise that our technology is a positive input for the world economy."

Mr Harrison agrees that governments need to look at solutions for reducing pollution in the atmosphere.

"Our technology takes away the carbon from the atmosphere, and uses other waste products to make a substance that is used every day everywhere in the world.

"Why can't governments look at this issue clearly, and say 'hey, why don't we make all builders use 80 per cent man-made carbonates for their developments?'"

"It's simple really, isn't it?"

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