



Since aluminium was first produced in commercial quantities in the 1880's it is estimated that over 700 million tonnes of aluminium have been produced worldwide. 75% of this production is still in active use today, either being used in its initial form or recycled into new product. 31% of all aluminium, the largest share, is used in construction.

Bauxite, the raw material from which aluminium derives, is still being mined and smelted into new aluminium to meet world demand for this unique material. The aluminium extraction and refining companies have reduced their energy requirements by almost 70% since 1900. They are using a growing percentage, now 50%, of hydro-electric energy which is not only an established renewable

energy source but also helps to reduce carbon emissions.

Today we are now recycling more aluminium than ever, with just over 35% of all aluminium produced emanating from recycled material. It takes only 5% of the initial energy to recycle aluminium, which is almost 100% recyclable without loss of quality. Aluminium's light weight ensures that the carbon costs of transportation are also reduced.

Aluminium has a long life span even in the commonly supplied natural finish used extensively up until the early 1960's. We see numerous examples of buildings aged 60 years or more that are in excellent condition, many of them listed, and still using their original

aluminium products.

There has never been a better time to specify aluminium - the Council for Aluminium in Building is here to help specifiers and fabricators utilise the best that aluminium can offer. Contact CAB on 01453 828851 or visit the website at www.c-a-b.org.uk.