



Fall 2011

## An Update on the Natural Stone Council

The Natural Stone Council (NSC) is moving forward with the development of an ANSI Dimensional Natural Stone Standard and recently released a draft document of development to date. Industry review of this document revealed an overwhelming lack of awareness from stone industry members as to what certification to a natural stone standard will mean and what its benefits are to industry members. It has also drawn attention to negative aspects of setting thresholds of sustainability for our industry. Jack Geibig, president of Ecoform the agency hired by the NSC to direct standard development for them, mentioned in October during the first NSC Q&A call on the draft document that one of the reasons for pursuing the standard is for natural stone to be recognized in a market becoming ever more crowded and focused on sustainability. [Click here](#) to view the results from Oct 12th Q and A, and [here](#) for the Oct 31st session.

Stephanie Vierra, Associate AIA, LEED AP, of Vierra Design & Education Services, LLC shares a few articles with the BSI that may help give our industry an idea of just how much attention, energy, resources, and focus is being placed on this area of growth within the building sector, not only within the U.S. but around the world. One is an article she recently wrote on the current state of Green Building Standards and Certifications. There are a number of links within the page to explore if you wish to go into more depth. There are so many more programs that could have been included, but she chose to focus on some of the more respected and frequently used ones. [Green Building Standards and Certifications](#)

The other is this link to an article written by Peter Becker, a German journalist on a model for recycling stone and creating a leasing mechanism. The additional links, video, and support articles at the end are very informative as well. [Read article](#)

The Natural Stone Council will hold its annual board meeting Monday January 23, 2012 in conjunction with StonExpo in Las Vegas. Election of officers and appointment of any new directors will also occur at this meeting.

Please pledge support of the Natural Stone Council and their sustainability initiatives on behalf of the natural stone industry through this pledge form. [Download NSC Pledge Form.](#)

GENUINE STONE

