



What is the Natural Stone Council doing for you?

Through educational seminars, print media advertising, direct mail campaigns and organized industry meetings, the Natural Stone Council and its association memberships are advocating natural stone awareness and seeking support for their industry-wide sustainability initiative. This initiative includes the development of an ANSI Dimensional Stone Standard intended to offer the following benefits to the stone industry:

- Establish a set of well-defined environmental and human health metrics recognized by the green building movement as an indicator of leadership sustainability performance.
- Educate key members of the green building movement, government, and environmental advocacy groups about the production of stone products.
- Create a mechanism that rewards natural stone companies that demonstrate environmental leadership through commitment to sustainable operations and continued innovation.
- Proactively address potential stone-related environmental and human health concerns in a multi-stakeholder, science based forum (i.e. radon, dust, etc.).
- Harmonize national and international environmental requirements for stone quarrying and production.

ANSI Standard progress update: The Stake Holders have been divided into work groups and subgroups focused on scoping issues relevant to the standard and then developing draft criteria around the various issues. Primary work groups have been established for both Processing and Quarry Operations. Subgroups have been formed around the topics of water, energy, social responsibility, and transportation to name a few. An in-person Stake Holder meeting is scheduled for August 22 – 23, 2011 in Ann Arbor, MI. This meeting will be critical in the development process, as it will begin the process of pulling all of the criteria together into one cohesive document. Participation in the meeting is open, and anyone interested in attending and taking part in the discussions is encouraged to attend. Contact Mindy Costello mcostello@nsf.org for more details.

Progress reports on the stone standard development, each of the task groups and the Joint Committee meetings can be viewed online via the Natural Stone Council website www.genuinestone.com/stone_news.php

In other NSC news, the Natural Stone Alliance (fka StonExpo Federation) pledges to match dollar for dollar contributions made to the NSC up to a total match of \$100,000.

Since January, several NSC board members, industry associates and NSC liaisons have attended various international stone industry events advocating the importance for global support of the sustainability initiatives through the NSC. Events include the London Stone Show in England, the Vitoria Stone Show in Brazil and the Xiamen Stone Fair in China.

In April, NSC Board of Directors mandated a review of their existing *Best Practices of the Natural Stone Industry* documents, originally published 2008 – 2009. In July, the updated documents were published on the NSC website www.genuinestone.com/env_researchandresults.php

In June, the NSC assumed lead agency role to coordinate partnerships and funding to research and resolve concerns surrounding MSHA and OSHA regulatory inconsistencies burdening the industry. Further funding is needed to lobby local and national government officials and effectively campaign for policy reforms. Industry support and participation is greatly beneficial to the efforts. Sponsorship form available online http://www.genuinestone.com/docs/NSC-Donation_Form.pdf