

Sustainability Inside the Gates



As an industry that works directly with the earth on a day-to-day basis, aggregate operators have a keen appreciation for the value of sustainable operations, which is why sustainable practices are found at every step of the quarrying process.

WATER

Water is a critical component for processing aggregates because fine dust particles need to be washed off the crushed stone. Rather than drawing from municipal sources, **aggregate facilities maintain water onsite and reuse the same supply repeatedly.**



Did You Know?

Aggregate processing is chemical-free. Rocks are crushed, screened to the proper size and washed using just water – almost all of which is recycled and reused onsite.

AIR

Operators optimize water usage when controlling dust throughout the manufacturing process. **High-efficiency technologies are installed on everything from water trucks to spray bars on conveyors, so just the right amount of water is used to keep dust down.**

RESOURCES

Everything from batteries, plastic containers, scrap metal, motor oil and more is recycled at aggregate facilities. **The materials themselves are also recycled.** Concrete and recycled asphalt product (RAP) find a second life, as does rock dust created during processing (called fines). Historically fines were considered waste products, but today they are used to amend agricultural soils and create high-quality compost in addition to road-base or fill material.

ENERGY

Many facilities are utilizing clean energy options like solar, wind and electric to power their operations and **some have installed turbines and solar panels onsite.** The industry is also cutting down on energy usage in big ways, like installing energy-efficient crushers and investing in new high-performance mobile equipment, and little ways too, like switching to LED lightbulbs and purchasing electric trucks for light duty vehicles—because every watt counts.

LAND

Only a portion of land in the aggregates industry is directly mined. Thousands of acres owned by operators are preserved or restored to promote biodiversity and **many targeted projects take place every year like planting pollinator gardens or installing nests or habitat for specific threatened or endangered species.**

RECLAMATION

Just like the materials extracted from it, the life of a quarry is circular. **Aggregate pits are ultimately reclaimed and given a new life, often as natural areas like ponds, wetlands or upland forests, all of which are planted with native species and trees that aid in carbon sequestration.**