FACT SHEET

Aggregates and the Environment

Virginia's aggregate producers recognize that the Earth's resources are limited and that environmental stewardship is vital to preserve quality of life for future generations. Wise environmental stewardship is good business, and good for business.

Sustainable Plant Operations

Modern Aggregate Plants...
- Are energy efficient and have strictly regulated noise and emission controls.
- Recycle water from captured stormwater runoff in the manufacturing process and for dust suppression.
- Use wet suppression and dry collection systems to control dust from processing, stockpiling and traffic.
- Deploy water trucks to wet access and haul roads during working hours. Wheel washes help control dust from being carried offsite.

Reclamation and Conservation
- Responsible for the conservation and reclamation of the land they use.
- Activities include reclamation of land into wetlands, wildlife habitats, parks and many other beneficial uses.
- Operational environmental responsibilities include:
  - *stormwater management*
  - *reforestation*
  - *timber management*
  - *protection and preservation of wildlife habitats*
- Conservation and reclamation programs are strictly overseen by local, state and federal regulatory agencies, and are developed internally using environmental regulations and best practices from industry and conservation groups.
- Mining operations generally utilize only a portion of their sites for mining and processing while maintaining large tracts of land as buffer areas.
- Virginia's aggregate producers have created some of the most progressive and innovative environmental programs in the Commonwealth.

Aggregates themselves have many environmental uses and benefits:
- Erosion control and slope protection.
- Building dams and protecting shorelines and navigation channels.
- Limestone aggregates are used in some smokestacks to help clean the air by reducing sulfur dioxide emissions.
- Water filtration, sewage control, wastewater control and drinking water purification.