



CORNERSTONE
STANDARDS COUNCIL

Cornerstone Standards Council

Recognizing Responsible Aggregate Practices

A prosperous and
environmentally and
socially responsible
aggregate materials
industry





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Aggregates and the Cornerstone Standards Council

ELMIRA
Independent

“Visual impact of gravel pit under review”

THE HAMILTON
SPECTATOR

“Province steps in to Carlisle quarry fight”



Ontario
GREENBELT
ALLIANCE

The current “business as usual” policies for extraction of stone, sand, gravel and shale in the Province of Ontario are unsustainable

680 News
ALL NEWS RADIO

“First Nation community protest mega quarry plans for Niagara Escarpment”

the**IFP**.ca

“GET Council Opposes Hidden Quarry Application”

THE GLOBE AND MAIL
LEADER'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1857

“Caledon residents score victory in quarry battle”



Ontario Applications

- Rockfort Quarry – denied at OMB
 - environmental concerns
- Puslinch Quarry – denied at OMB
 - concerns over impact on local PSW complex
- Flamborough Quarry – Zoning freeze by MMAH
 - conservation easement to protect biodiversity on-site
- **Duntroon Quarry – approved by supreme court**
 - **demonstrated “no negative impact” to biodiversity**
- Mt. Nemo Quarry– denied at OMB
 - protection of Jefferson Salamander habitat
- Melancthon Quarry – application withdrawn
 - concerns over impacts to the water table



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CSC Solution

Differentiate sites that voluntarily meet a higher bar of practice

- Providing stakeholders with third-party verification that a site's practices meet these rigorous standards
- Offering stakeholders in the planning processes a credible "lens" to assess sites that are more socially and environmentally responsible
- Establishing clear and measurable standards for site's that go above and beyond legal requirements





Social License

Certification

- Certified by 3rd party organizations to meet world-class standards
- Recognizes companies that demonstrate significant efforts to exceed legal requirements
- Addresses community interests in a clear but flexible format
- **Enforced through ability to meet market demand for responsibly sourced resources**
- *Applies only to sites which volunteer to be certified*

Regulatory License

Regulations

- Issued by the Provincial or Federal authority
- Provides minimum requirements for operation
- Addresses legal right
- **Enforced through regulatory inspectors**
- *Applies to every legally operated site*





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Background

Formed in 2012 by a balanced group of industry and NGO Directors

Follows in the footsteps of **successful, credible and achievable** certification programs

(FSC – forestry, MSC – fisheries, LEED – building)



In order to be **CREDIBLE** and **EFFECTIVE**, CSC certification must deliver two key components:

- A Responsible Aggregate Standard that establishes the requirements against which an aggregate site's performance is assessed;
- An Assurance System that establishes the processes, mechanisms and requirements for how sites are assessed against the standard.



- Principle 1:** Compliance with Laws
- Principle 2:** Community notification, consultation and participation
- Principle 3:** Respect for Aboriginal peoples' rights and culture
- Principle 4:** Benefits to host communities and employees
- Principle 5:** Site stewardship and impacts to environment, water, agriculture and human health
- Principle 6:** Resource efficiency and conservation
- Principle 7:** Point of Origin



Raising the Bar

- Increased engagement of interested parties early in the siting process (and throughout the life of the operation)
- Assurance that sites will be progressively and expeditiously rehabilitated
- Delivering on commitments of community support (local jobs, local purchasing, sponsorship and community agreements)
- Consistent and clear Standard Operating Procedures (dust mitigation, noise, traffic, water taking, water discharge etc)
- Financial support for independent peer review during the licensing process
- Increased involvement in site planning and rehabilitation for municipalities, community organizations and public agencies
- Improved Natural Heritage System including greater biodiversity, healthier environments and greater



- Core Requirement 5.4 of the Standard describes siting requirements that proposed (new) operations must meet if they wish to be certified
- Table 5.1 of the Standard outlines how certified sites must protect certain areas and features (e.g, agricultural lands, Greenbelt Natural Heritage System, Natural Cliffs)
- Includes areas that are off-limits and areas where additional measures are required if certain features are impacted





Protecting Agricultural Lands

Specialty crop areas (expansions to existing operations)

New Operations

- No impact allowed

Expansions to Existing Operations

- Restore the same area, average soil capability, and same range and productivity of specialty crops; AND
- Demonstrate successful restoration of similar cropland to original productivity elsewhere

Class 1 – 3 farmland, as per Canada Land Inventory

All Operations

- Restore land back to substantially the same area and same, or better, average soil capability for agriculture OR where restoration is not feasible protect lands of the same class or better at a ratio of 1:2. *Where a site includes small pockets of class 1-3 soil and is predominately class 4-7, the requirement to restore or off set is not mandatory.*





- 2015
 - Responsible Aggregate Standard V3 released for 2 –year pilot period
 - Project with University of Waterloo underway to identify and develop tools and materials
 - 5 pre-assessment audits completed
 - Interest from private and public developers to purchase certified aggregate
- 2016
 - **Announcement of Ontario’s first certified responsible operation!**
 - 3 – 5 operations anticipated to undergo evaluation audit
 - Build demand for certified aggregates in the marketplace
 - LEED recognition
 - Municipal procurement
 - Fall Consultation period: seeking input on key issues
- Spring/Summer 2017
 - Review and revision of Standard by balanced stakeholder panel
 - Release of CSC Responsible Aggregate Standard (V4)





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