Above and Beyond

Above and Beyond

Above board and going beyond expectations. This is how we conduct business.

Welcome to our second annual sustainability report. Throughout 2011 we have worked together to develop a strategy toward meeting our 2017 BOLD GOALS in the areas of people, planet and prosperity. Furthermore, our cross-functional Executive Sustainability Council successfully developed a shorter-term evaluation method—our 2012 Sustainability Targets. We are proud of the responsible accomplishments of our dedicated employees, especially the perseverance and determination they demonstrated when U.S. Silica took its new position on the New York Stock Exchange in early 2012. We are deeply committed to finding new ways to go and grow “Above and Beyond” our corporate responsibility and sustainability commitments.
Above Board

**Significant planning and details are needed to successfully organize and develop an effective and transparent sustainability report.**

This section includes the most important key messages of our strategic sustainability strategy—convened through the opinions and perspectives of our CEO, Bryan Shinn, as well as our core sustainability leaders. Their words set the tone of the report as well as the Company’s every day efforts in sustainability and corporate responsibility. This section is a guide to who we are, what we do and why sustainability is critical to the future of U.S. Silica.
Message from the CEO

The “U.S. Silica way” has guided our business for more than 100 years—from the community relationships we carefully form and nurture to the innovative products that we help produce to make every day modern life easier.

Our “way” has always been and continues to be above board and strongly rooted in sustainability. We believe at the core of every business decision, we must contemplate its impact on our stakeholders, the environment and the success of the business. In a relatively conservative industry, this approach—our way of operating and communicating—has allowed U.S. Silica to grow beyond our own expectations into an exciting, innovative and values-based company.

Through the lens of sustainability, many new opportunities arise as we continue to view ourselves as guests of the planet. Committed to our people, our most important asset, we expand into key markets with ease, hire and retain talented and hard-working employees, and meet and exceed the needs of our partners and customers. By focusing on environmental stewardship, we strive to leave the land as we found it, and preserve and protect resources at every turn. Doing the right thing allows us to envision different, innovative opportunities within the industrial minerals space—opportunities to differentiate ourselves in the market and prosper far into the future.

These opportunities have fueled the expansion of U.S. Silica and will continue to be a driving force in maintaining a strategic focus on sustainability. However, the executive leadership team at U.S. Silica and our employees across the country believe the most important part of sustainability is being a good neighbor with longstanding relationships to each of our communities. It is quite simple because it is personal. We respect our stakeholders and their opinions and ideas. We communicate openly and honestly with them. One day at a time, one location at a time, our relationships grow stronger, and so does our business.

This report, our second annual sustainability report, highlights the progress we have made to be better corporate citizens and a more responsible, transparent company. Our journey toward sustainability is a long one, but our efforts, our mindset and the “U.S. Silica way” are supporting us every step of the journey.

Sincerely,

Bryan Shinn
Chief Executive Officer
Leadership Letter

At U.S. Silica, we are committed to our sustainability vision.

It's the foundation of our efforts and the measuring stick we use to evaluate our success. Created in 2010 by our appointed Sustainability Council, our vision states:

As a leading industrial mineral company, U.S. Silica is committed to the efficient, responsible use and recovery of natural resources. Recognized as a great place to work, we will strive to uphold the following principles:

- We value our employees by providing a safe and healthy work environment with fair pay and benefits along with opportunities for their growth and development.
- We produce the highest-quality raw materials that contribute to the quality of life for everyone while managing our facilities with a present and future focus on environmental stewardship.
- We invest resources as a trustworthy partner to enrich our communities and the legacy we leave.
- We help our customers and other stakeholders meet their sustainability goals through innovative solutions.

With the commitment of our more than 700 employees, 2011 was a year of organizing, managing and implementing our sustainability efforts in a more proactive and accelerated manner. Many exciting initiatives were introduced and accepted, guiding U.S. Silica as we work to realize our sustainability vision and secure a position of leadership within this arena.

Thank you to all who have helped support U.S. Silica’s endeavors,

Mike Winkler
Vice President of Operations

Holly Bellmund
Director of Operations and Maintenance Excellence
Sustainability

U.S. Silica values its longstanding commitment to safety and environmental stewardship.

We have steadily grown our business and operations with an unyielding focus on ensuring positive social, environmental and economical impacts. Today, sustainability is more engrained into the culture of U.S. Silica because of consistent, transparent communications and the motivation and enthusiasm of our engaged workforce.

“These last 12 months have been very exciting for U.S. Silica, especially in regard to our sustainability journey. We continue to innovate on ways to be better environmental stewards and, at the same time, our community relationships and partnerships have never been stronger. I am proud to be a part of a company where your word and deep rooted values mean something.”

Mike Winkler, Vice President of Operations

For U.S. Silica, it has been a year of strengthening our connection to sustainability. We have concentrated significantly on developing our relationships with our key stakeholders —our employees, customers, partners and the communities where we live and work every day. Our environmental efforts have organically continued to expand and we are making great strides in meeting our 2017 BOLD GOALS. As we strive to uncover new innovations within our industry, maintain our dedication to excellence and integrity in the workplace, and be better guests to this world, we have facilitated many sustainable and responsible initiatives, including:

- Maintaining an engaged and active Executive Sustainability Council to create, manage and support ongoing efforts
- Working toward meeting and exceeding U.S. Silica’s 2017 BOLD GOALS
- Creating and communicating one-year “People,” “Planet” and “Prosperity” Targets for 2012
- Educating and training employees at each plant location on the Targets and BOLD GOALS
- Preparing for a comprehensive training program for all 13 plant managers regarding Operations Excellence methods
- Exceeding state and local regulatory requirements for responsible blasting procedures to limit vibration and air concussion
Recycling our process water

- Monitoring and managing endangered species to minimize impact to rare wildlife
- Developing new uses for filtration silica
- Using whole grain silica and ground silica in renewable energy applications, such as glass for solar applications and fiberglass for wind turbines
- Organizing significant tree planting at plants across the U.S. Silica footprint
- Beginning a comprehensive talent search to grow our team and ignite innovation and sustainability
- Continuing our commitment to education, especially in the mathematics and science fields
- Researching and planning for a “Take Safety Home” program launch at all of our plant locations
- Striving to be an employer of choice by offering good wages and benefits
- Giving back to our communities through philanthropy, volunteerism, sponsorships and financial contributions

Throughout this report, you will review facts and read stories of how sustainability allows us to rise above our competition and deliver results beyond any expectations to ensure success and the company’s continued growth into the future.

enrich our communities and the legacy we leave

- Help our customers and other stakeholders meet their sustainability goals through innovative solutions

Throughout this report, you will review facts and read stories of how sustainability allows us to rise above our competition and deliver results beyond any expectations to ensure success and the company’s continued growth into the future.
Products and Operations

U.S. Silica is a leading silica sand supplier with a focus on performance materials that are essential to modern living.

We produce whole grain silica, ground silica, fine ground silica, calcined kaolin clay and aplite. Our state-of-the-art offerings are used in a variety of industries and applications including, the oil and gas industry and specialty products like glass, chemicals, foundry, building solutions, filtration and recreation. With our 112-year history, U.S.Silica is also the oldest in the industry.

“The opportunities are endless for the innovation of new products and offering within our industry. It is our responsibility to take the challenges and advance forward. I am excited to be a part of a team that embraces a future rooted in sustainability and ready for what is next.”

JP Blanchard, Vice President and Manager of Industrials and Specialty Products

In November 2008, we were acquired by Golden Gate Capital, a San Francisco-based private equity firm, which enabled us to thrive and build upon our vision. After careful consideration and strategic planning, U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc. announced in early 2012 that it had commenced an initial public offering, filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Now, with a strong position on the New York Stock Exchange, we continue our efforts in corporate responsibility and sustainability with concentrated resources.

We offer more than 200 unique products from three offices and 15 plants across the United States and a sales office in China. Our plants are located on or near high-quality mineral resources and are equipped with the proper equipment systems and shipping capabilities to best serve our valued customers. At each plant, our employees work together to ensure the safety of one another. This is our first priority.

These individuals also come together as a team to integrate environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic prosperity—the critical elements necessary to ensure the long-term supply of quality minerals to our customers. We mine minerals for many applications including: glass production and fiberglass applications; aluminum, steel and iron mold and core making; proppant silica for oil and gas well stimulation; fillers in plastics, rubber, grout, mortar, paint and polishes. At U.S. Silica, our devotion to remaining on the cutting edge of technology helps improve the quality of every day living at home, at work and at play. Below, we have highlighted examples of these improvements:
→ Paints and coatings are more durable because of the quality of our crystal structure.

→ Electronic devices are more scratch resistant because of our specially sized sand.

→ Oil and gas wells are more productive because our high-quality proppants improve flow rates and recovery from unconventional wells.

→ Wind-powered and solar energy are more economical due to cost-effective manufacturing.

→ Geothermal wells are more efficient due to improved heat transfer.

→ High-performance metal parts are more uniform because of our strict product and quality control.

→ Swimming pools, fountains and water monuments are cleaner due to filtration systems that use our products to operate.

→ Recreational sands used for beach volleyball courts, golf courses and children’s playgrounds are of a consistent gradation and quality.
Plant Locations and Corporate Headquarters Map

Click on a location point to learn more about that location.
Report Details

Thank you in advance for taking the time to learn more about our positive social, environmental and economical efforts.

Please note the following as you review and evaluate our policies, programs and short- and long-term objectives:

→ Recognizing the importance of external reporting standards in promoting transparent and comparable disclosures on company performance, U.S. Silica used the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) G3 Guidelines to direct the content of our report. GRI is the world’s most widely used sustainability reporting framework. Click here to learn more about GRI.

→ This report covers activities and metrics for 2011 unless otherwise noted. We are committed to communicating annually.

→ The information and stories highlighted in this report focus on the companies, offices, mines and plants in the United States that collectively form U.S. Silica. Those companies include predecessors Pennsylvania Glass Sand Corporation and Ottawa Silica Company.

→ We utilized a variety of data collection techniques to develop this sustainability report, including peer and competitor research, materiality mapping discussions, goal and target setting workshops, interviews with key leaders and subject matter experts throughout the company, goal process questionnaires and a comprehensive review of relevant communication, marketing materials and strategic planning documents.

→ For more information regarding this report or sustainability in general at U.S. Silica, please email Sustainability@ussilica.com.
Company and Beyond

U.S. Silica’s focused management approach is defined by the title of this report, *Above and Beyond*.

In this section we highlight our structure, the value of our impacts and contributions, and our thoughtful engagement efforts with stakeholders. We invite you to learn more about U.S. Silica’s approach—how we embed sustainability into our core business and governance structure to ensure success and integrity.
Strategy, Management and Governance

**Sustainability is central to our commitment to innovation and forward thinking.**

It is our competitive advantage. It is our future. At U.S. Silica, our executive leadership team uses the principles of sustainability and corporate responsibility to develop, evaluate and continuously refine their management approach and overall operations. We focus on economic, social and environmental considerations when developing strategies to lead the industry into the next century by advancing the use of silica and other industrial minerals into new areas of development. To realize this objective, we invest in our people, products, facilities, communities and reserves. We invest in sustainability.

“Our future lies in our ability to ensure we are making sustainability a priority now. From U.S. Silica’s perspective, aligning our business strategies with our sustainability initiatives is not only the right decision, it is a smart decision.”

Greg Fell, Corporate Environmental Manager

Collaboration, accountability and responsibility are the common threads within our approach to managing sustainability. With the establishment of our Executive Sustainability Council in 2010, we demonstrated our commitment to this approach. Today, the Council is a true reflection of our organization—the diverse groups that work together and represent nearly all facets of our business. From the CEO to the plant managers and from the mine planners to the sales force, the Council members use their unique expertise to help produce safe, efficient and ecologically sound operations.

**U.S. Silica’s Sustainability Governance Structure:**

- Chief Executive Officer leads the Executive Management Team comprised of the Chief Administrative Officer, the VP of Talent Management, the CFO, Operations and Supply Chain, the Vice President/General Manager of Industrial Specialties and the General Counsel, VP/GM of O&G and VP of Strategic Planning

- The Executive Management Team supports and advises the Chief Executive Officer and transforms ideas into actions in collaboration with our senior management team.

- Reporting to the Chief Human Resources Officer is the Corporate Manager of Occupational Health and Safety, who partners with Plant Managers and Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Coordinators to maintain the integrity of our strict health and safety policies and procedures.

- Continued adherence to responsible labor practices is led by our Chief Human Resources Officer who works rigorously with employees, plant managers and unions to manage a broad range of important issues, including employee benefits, protection of employee rights, talent development and health and wellness.

- The Director of Operations and Maintenance Excellence oversees compliance and implementation of the sustainability program. Reporting to the Director of Operations and Maintenance Excellence are our Corporate Environmental Managers, who work closely with each Plant Manager and EHS Coordinator to foster a culture of accountability and responsibility.

- Our Plant Managers and operations staff collaborate with their local community stakeholders in support of our sustainability efforts.
The process highlighted above illustrates our commitment to embedding sustainability deeply within our culture and operations. To successfully meet our five-year **BOLD GOALS** and our annual targets, our Sustainability Council will continue to prioritize the issues of greatest importance to the company and our stakeholders and convene regularly to monitor the progress on the goals and objectives.

Our strategy also includes rewarding and recognizing employees for achievement in sustainability. For example, we share profits with employees in our Gain Share program and we acknowledge employees through our annual Sands of Time Safety Awards. We are committed to investing further in our employees by enhancing our training, performance reviews and professional development programs. Furthermore, we believe investing in our people also extends to their families. We offer scholarships for university education and vocational programs to children of employees.

Finally, we believe that communication is critical to the achievement of shared goals. We engage in knowledge sharing to promote best practices through internal publications, host biannual company forums, and recognize leadership at each plant. Employee engagement is an area of exciting opportunity to promote our values, enhance involvement in sustainability and strengthen our organization. Reaffirming our commitment in this area, we set a **BOLD GOAL** to have 100% employee engagement in sustainability.
Impacts and Contributions

Our products are prevalent in the modern world from skyscrapers to wind turbines, but often go unnoticed.

We strive to educate all stakeholders on how our sand is mined, the benefits provided to the general public and how we are committed to minimizing negative impacts and maximizing positive contributions for our stakeholders.

“We are innovating at our operations today to allow U.S. Silica to be a better neighbor, employer and environmental steward in the future. This is what sustainability is all about.”

Al Gwizdala, Operations Director, Industrial and Specialty Products

When most people think about mining, images related to coal and metal mining typically come to mind. Our process for extracting and developing silica for our customers is very different. All mining, except dredge mining, is conducted at the surface level. Also, our mining processes require less chemical use and result in less waste water than other forms of mining. Essentially, we mine, clean and dry sand near the earth’s surface, and engage in closed loop processes.

Within our processes, we seek to minimize our use of energy and water. We evaluate the nature of our deposits to determine the least intrusive way to mine for sand. At some facilities, the rock is loose enough that the sand can be extracted by digging. Other facilities require that rock is blasted to loosen it. If the rock is hard, the materials may be crushed to convert it into grain form. Then the sand is washed using water and takes a slurry form. Sometimes, a flotation process is required to separate particulates within the slurry. During flotation non-sand particles rise to the surface and are removed from the final product. The heavier, clean sand at the bottom of the flotation tank is then dried. We remove excess moisture from our sand prior to placing it in our dryers to reduce the amount of energy required for drying. Once dry, we prepare our sand product for customers—either packaging or shipping directly by truck or rail depending on customer need. Flocculants and coagulants are also sometimes used to bind fine particulates so that they will settle from the water. Additionally, surfactants are sometimes used to remove excess moisture, and our dryers and processing equipment use lubricants and fuels to operate. In all processes, we strive to utilize safe, natural alternatives and to responsibly use and dispose to protect and respect the ecosystems where we operate.

Before acquiring a reserve for mining, we work closely and collaboratively with communities to address and mitigate all issues of potential concern. The greatest areas of initial community concern include truck traffic, dust, noise, potential health hazards and potential water and ecosystem risk. We take an active and concerted effort to engage with
communities at the earliest possible stage when evaluating a site for mining. In our engagement, first and foremost, we listen and we are open with communities. We also participate in community meetings and communicate regularly to address community nuisance and disruption. Once we begin mining, we are committed to operating responsibly and serving as a good and valued neighbor in all communities where we operate.

Our commitment to communities does not end after we open a facility. Our goal is to enhance the quality of life where we operate. We do so by supporting local businesses, investing and volunteering in our communities and often serving as the largest employer in the region. Our plants have detailed closure plans that we review periodically and enhance as needed based on emerging research, studies and best practices.

The products that we create are perhaps our most exciting and greatest contribution to society as a whole. We work with our customers to develop “green” ways to use our products, developing new uses for filtration silica and the use of whole grain silica sand and ground silica in renewable energy applications such as glass for solar applications and fiberglass for wind turbines.
Stakeholder Engagement

Our key stakeholders include our employees, communities, customers, suppliers and the end users of products and services that utilize our silica.

We listen and strive to be transparent and collaborate with our stakeholders. We believe in leading by example and fostering trust through our actions. We also believe that stakeholder engagement provides an extremely valuable forum for knowledge sharing and the exchange of ideas toward shared goals. For U.S. Silica, stakeholder engagement is a two-way dialogue wherein both sides learn and teach.

“We’re so thankful U.S. Silica is in our community. They have been generous to Ottawa High School time and time again. If I could recognize anyone in our community, U.S. Silica would be the star citizen of the city of Ottawa.”

Matt Winchester, Principal, Ottawa High School

To serve as a trusted and technical advisor to our customers and stakeholders, we participate in and are affiliated with more than a dozen national industry associations that promote education, research and development, environmental policy, public awareness projects and technology advancement. Also, employees at each of our plants are active participants in local and state industry associations to better serve stakeholders and address regional issues. We believe that a community-centered approach to engagement is necessary to meet the needs of and achieve prosperity for all stakeholders. This view is reflected in how we engage within each of our communities.

All our plants work closely and collaboratively with community leaders to proactively respond to specific needs with communities and to advance shared goals. In our communities, we are active members of local Chambers of Commerce, and serve on boards for local and county planning, environmental commissions and educational foundations to address a range of community needs including economic development, biodiversity protection, water infrastructure, human and health services and disaster relief.

“We had the opportunity to visit the Ottawa plant in Illinois during the proposal process in our city. The plant was clean and orderly. I could tell that U.S. Silica runs a high quality operation.”

Kevin Riley, Alderman, City of Sparta
Our efforts in Sparta, Wisconsin, demonstrate our strong commitment to stakeholder engagement. In October 2011, the company began to explore to develop a new facility. Anti-mining efforts were already well underway in other communities and it was clear that an open and honest approach was essential to gaining local support. To ensure honest communications from the very beginning, U.S. Silica carefully implemented a variety of stakeholder engagement activities, including:

- Conducted thorough due diligence to better understand the concerns of area residents in regard to other mines.
- Proactively addressed those issues through clear, consistent communications.
- Performed door to door introductions to start building positive relationships.
- Established a single point of contact for all community issues with direct cell phone and email access.
- Organized an informal meet and greet at a farmhouse on the proposed property for elected officials and neighbors near the site. The meeting included:
  - Information packet about the company and the proposed plans
  - Large scale maps and visual boards to explain the site and proposal
  - Leadership team members present to talk and answer questions
  - On-site driving tours for those interested
- Incorporated many suggestions made by the community members during this meet and greet session.
- Conducted briefings with township, county and state officials.
- Conducted briefings with key businesses in the area and the local Chamber of Commerce.
- Interfaced with the local newspaper and other media venues; placed advertisements and submitted a letter-to-the-editor explaining the proposal.
- Continued personal dialogues with community members regarding their compelling ideas for site improvements.
- Hosted a community open house to share detailed plans before they were submitted to the Plan Commission and City Council for review. Meeting details included:
  - Leadership on hand for discussions
  - Detailed, large scale site plans visuals
  - Community relations video providing background on the company
  - Commentary/questions process for anonymous suggestions
  - Detailed Q&A materials for all community issues raised to date
- Met with numerous stakeholders in small group settings and one-on-one to answer questions and take comments.
- Kept an ongoing dialogue with active community residents on the approval process, meeting dates, opportunity for public input.

“At U.S. Silica, it is simple. Honesty is the best policy. In each city, town or neighborhood we enter, we are their guests. As one
of our community ambassadors, I know that you tell the truth to build trust.”

Jeff Jahn, Mine Planning and Development Manager

Implementing the combination of all these stakeholder engagement efforts resulted in a very positive outcome. U.S. Silica earned the trust of the community and the Sparta Plan Commission and City Council approved the approach and plans we developed. The relationships built then remain intact today. What we accomplished in Sparta, Wisconsin is what we strive to accomplish in every community we enter.

As the largest employer in many regions where we operate, our employees are part of the fabric of our communities—from little league coaches to local volunteers. We believe that each employee serves as a community representative of U.S. Silica. Their daily actions are crucial to enabling U.S. Silica to respond to the needs of our communities and customers as well as the needs of all other stakeholders potentially impacted by our operations and products.

“U.S. Silica is a great corporate neighbor that contributes greatly to various civic entities.”

Boyd Palmer, Executive Director, Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry
U.S. Silica supports and serves its diverse communities through a variety of ways — volunteerism, product donations, educational activities, consultation and financial contributions. We are proud to acknowledge the assistance that each of our offices and plants provide to their communities.

Click a location for more information.
Growth Through Commitments

At U.S. Silica, we are committed to taking action and honoring our word.

To advance our efforts in meeting our 2017 BOLD GOALS, we challenged ourselves in 2011 and set one-year targets to achieve in 2012. In this section, we have outlined our action plans—goals and associated targets focused on the areas of people, planet and prosperity.

“Sustainability brings people together. Whether we are planting trees or researching and testing new technologies to eliminate dust in our plants, the best part of working to meet our sustainability goals is seeing motivated employees come together to do it successfully.”

Laura Drahn, Plant Manager

People

2017 BOLD GOAL

U.S. Silica’s commitment to safety is steadfast. Our company has developed initiatives and training programs to help us achieve zero reportable incidents and zero lost time incidents—no one will be injured.

2012 Targets

- Within 7 days of receipt of a personal dust sample result exceeding U.S. Silica’s internal exposure limit, corrective action will be taken and the task will be re-sampled to verify the effectiveness of the action; Internal limit is 50% of the MSHA standard.
- Develop a Take Safety Home program at each plant.
- Develop a behavior-based safety program at each plant.

U.S. Silica believes it is only as strong as the communities in which it operates. To contribute to the health and prosperity of our neighbors and communities, U.S. Silica will actively seek opportunities to volunteer and engage in community activities and triple our annual donations to

- Establish and define what a contribution is and how to account for those contributions.
- Identify and support a signature charity across the corporation, including all the plant facilities. Fifty percent of all the donations raised will go to the signature charity.
predetermined charities. Non-profit organizations that affect and benefit the greatest number of U.S. Silica employees will be selected.

At our company, employees are our greatest asset. They play a critical role in the success of our sustainability strategy. U.S. Silica will achieve 100% employee engagement in sustainability and corporate responsibility.

### Planet

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<th>2017 BOLD GOAL</th>
<th>2012 Targets</th>
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<td>We believe that we are all guests on this planet. As a respectful and responsible company, U.S. Silica will reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per ton of product by 20% using 2010 as a baseline.</td>
<td>→ Establish baseline for greenhouse gas emissions by source.</td>
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<td>→ Every quarter post a new article on the sustainability website and/or submit articles for the Hourglass magazine—a magazine produced by U.S. Silica and distribution to key stakeholder of the company.</td>
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As U.S. Silica continues to move forward on its sustainability journey, we commit to the conservation and preservation of water, energy and land.

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<th>2017 BOLD GOAL</th>
<th>2012 Targets</th>
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<td>→ Plant 1,000 native trees across all facilities to promote wildlife habitat and facility image.</td>
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<tr>
<td>→ Identify the best practice for energy use in pumping.</td>
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<td>→ Develop a template for facility water management and conservation plan.</td>
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To maximize the use of our resources and enhance the ecosystems where we do business, U.S. Silica will reduce, reuse or recycle 90% of all waste materials resulting from our operations.

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<th>2017 BOLD GOAL</th>
<th>2012 Targets</th>
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<td>→ Identify what qualifies as &quot;waste material&quot;.</td>
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<td>→ Quantify each waste stream.</td>
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<td>→ Determine the cost to implement a solid waste recycling program at each facility.</td>
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### Prosperity

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<th>2017 BOLD GOAL</th>
<th>2012 Targets</th>
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<td>Through innovation and hard work, U.S. Silica commits to increasing the number of product offerings and expanding into new markets to positively impact the environment for the benefit of all, including centered dryers that required less natural gas to operate—lowering greenhouse gas emissions—</td>
<td>→ Recruit technical staff capable of developing new products in the industrial and specialty markets, existing and otherwise.</td>
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<td>→ Utilize internal/external marketing teams to further identify new product opportunities.</td>
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and important components for solar products.

To demonstrate our dedication to economic growth and positive impacts, U.S. Silica will seek to enhance the quality of life and prosperity for our employees and communities where we operate.

- Continue U.S. Silica Scholarship.
- Partner with local educational institutions to create employment and educational opportunities through internships.
- Participate in the local Rotary or other community service organizations.

At U.S. Silica, we define sustainability as the integration of three pillars: People, Planet and Prosperity. We will continue to strategically and successfully grow our business, integrating triple-bottom-line thinking into our operations.

- Initiate operations excellence program by training 50% of site managers in advanced manufacturing techniques.
- Include sustainable initiatives in capital submittal/approval process.
Progression with Purpose

At U.S. Silica, we continue to build on our longstanding history of excellence by evolving our business to incorporate responsible practices at every turn.

In producing our first sustainability report, we identified seven performance themes that were material to us and are still material for this reporting period. As you review this section, note that the themes selected align with our strategic priorities, our company values and our stakeholder’s needs. We also continue to make progress on our 2017 BOLD GOALS by establishing 2012 targets.

In exploring each theme, we hope you gain a deep understanding of our approach, impacts, challenges and opportunities.
Responsible Operations

U.S. Silica is proud of our 112-year history, and largely credits our commitment to operating responsibly as the reason we have sustained our business.

At U.S. Silica, we know that operating responsibly is more than just simply complying with laws. We value and embody an approach that includes strictly adhering to regulations and codes of conduct, treating our stakeholders with respect, supporting and advancing the communities in which we operate, and protecting and conserving the earth’s natural resources and environment.

“We do business the right way. We customize solutions to meet the needs of our customers in the most responsible manner. As a private and now publicly held company, that is a guaranteed constant. Sustainability gives us a measuring stick to guide our operations and planning and be accountable for our actions.”

Brad Casper, Vice President of Strategic Planning

Operating responsibly also is critical to our ability to operate at all. Our communities and stakeholders must trust us before we can do business. This means actively engaging them around important issues, being transparent about our operations, and committing to give back. Again, our efforts in Sparta, Wisconsin demonstrate our approach.

Overall, we take corporate responsibility seriously—it is at the core of our company culture. All employees must comply with our Code of Conduct, which outlines our expectations on a range of issues such as sexual harassment and workplace violence. Our executive officers are held to our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct that prohibits corrupt or illegal activities and conflicts of interest. Each of our plants has developed a Sustainability Action Plan that aligns with our 2012 targets and is also specific to the community in which it operates.
Customer Service and Innovation

Strong customer service and a passion for innovation is what has kept and will continue to keep U.S. Silica at the forefront of our industry—it has allowed us to grow over time.

We strive to build and maintain trusted relationships with customers, vendors and suppliers, some of which have been sustained for more than seven decades.

“We take pride in being technical advisors for our customers to help them create solutions to meet their needs.”

Michael Kilday, Director of Corporate Sales

We have a responsibility to our customers to provide safe, reliable and high-quality products that meet their specific needs and wants. It is also our duty to be honest and transparent with them, to help them make informed purchasing decisions, and to protect their privacy. Delivery of these products is a result of carefully planned and executed processes within our organization and with our partners. Mine planning and development, sales and logistics are all aspects of our business that we rely on partnerships to accomplish. Further, our plants use the principles of ISO9001 to ensure quality control.

In addition to providing quality products on time, we serve as a valued technical advisor to our customers. We invest in research and development, training and education, and allocate necessary resources to ensure our employees are on the cutting edge of our field. We also maintain active memberships in leading national and regional mining associations to advance our industry.
Health and Safety

Health and safety is of utmost importance to U.S. Silica as a whole.

Due to the nature of our processes, there are risks for workplace injury, as well as the potential for occupational diseases such as silicosis and other respiratory illnesses. We do our best to proactively mitigate these risks and manage them when necessary. We provide our plant employees with regular physical exams, and should an employee demonstrate early signs or symptoms of an occupational disease, we provide precautionary treatment through a third-party partner. Even one injury is one too many.

“Our strong commitment to the health and safety of our workforce and our communities is steadfast. It has allowed us to be leader in the industry. This commitment will be our legacy.”

Bob Dailey, Corporate Manager of Occupational Health and Safety

In 2011, workers at the U.S. Silica plant in Mauritertown, New Jersey successfully reached the milestone of working more than 1,000,000 hours without having a Lost Time Accident (LTA). The achievement of the miners at the Mauritertown facility stands out as an example of what can be accomplished by a group of people determined to work safely together. The Mauritertown facility is the first U.S. Silica mine to reach this safety milestone. In addition in 2011, at our Dubberly, Louisiana facility, the International Society of Mine Safety Professionals recognized U.S. Silica for exceeding 27 years without a lost time injury. Our leadership credits teamwork for the exceptional safety record.

An integral part of our health and safety program is our extensive set of policies and procedures that we strictly enforce to protect all of our stakeholders from harm. These stakeholders include employees, suppliers, vendors, and members of the communities in which we operate. Compliance with these policies and procedures is required by all employees. All plant managers are held accountable, and compliance is audited by both our corporate team and each site’s Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator. Our policies and procedures are frequently reviewed and updated when necessary to adapt to the evolving regulatory environment.

Because of our strong commitment to health and safety, our lost time incident rate has decreased from 1.22 in 2010 to 0.27 in 2011. Our total reportable incident rate has declined from 3.67 in 2010 to 2.17 in 2011. In 2011, we were the recipient of the Rock Solid Safety Award for the sixth time by the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers (IAAP), earning recognition for our hard work in health and safety.

We set several health and safety goals for 2012, including achieving zero reportable incidents and zero lost-time incidents. Tactics for this goal include:

1. Resolving overexposure dust samples less than 50% in all plants within 90 days.
2. Develop a “Take Safety home” program at each plant.
3. Develop a behavior based safety program at each plant.

During our next biannual meeting on health and safety, we will review our existing programs and provide additional training and
education around these important topics. Further, we aim to provide greater incentives and access to resources to promote employee wellness. Although we have a robust health and safety program, we recognize there is always room for improvement.
Respecting Ecosystems

U.S. Silica considers its impacts on every aspect of the environment when entering, operating in and exiting a community.

Whether it is the land, native plant and animal species, or community members, we are mindful of how our operations affect the ecology within our footprint.

As part of our goals for 2012, we committed to the conservation and preservation of water, energy and land. To do this we set the following targets:

1. Planting 1,000 native trees across all facilities to promote wildlife habitat and facility
2. Identify best practices for energy use in water pumping
3. Develop a template plan for facility water management and conservation

We have also committed to maximize the use of our resources and enhance ecosystems where we do business by reducing, reusing or recycling 90% of all waste materials that result from our operations. To do this we must first qualify what constitutes ‘waste’, then quantify each waste stream and determine the cost to implement a solid waste recycling program at each facility. In 2010, our Berkeley Springs, West Virginia facility saved more than $10,000 by recycling paper and plastic. At the core of our environmental management approach is our Environmental Quality Management Program (EQMP). Through the EQMP, we uphold our environmental policy with an emphasis on continuous improvement. Each plant is held accountable through internal and third-party audits, and completes an environmental self-assessment at least once a quarter. We also strive to share best practices across all facilities when feasible. Most importantly, we consistently remain in compliance with all relevant environmental regulations.

We use water from local sources to clean the sand we mine and to control fugitive dust. We protect this local resource through recycling and reuse of process water, and we also recharge groundwater aquifers and provide augmentation of local streams. We work to increase the quality of the water supply in the communities in which we operate through responsible discharge and the minimized use of chemicals at our plants.

Conserving the biodiversity of the lands on which we operate is key to our environmental management approach. We create wide natural buffer areas around our facilities to ensure we not only protect community members, but also the native plant and animal species on and around our sites. We regularly monitor endangered species populations to minimize our impact to this class of wildlife and work with state agencies and other similar groups to preserve open spaces. Our Mauricetown, New Jersey plant works with State Fish and Wildlife to tag migrant ducks and geese on the property and to protect an endangered snake species in the region.

We work to continuously improve our process for measuring and managing our impact to
water, such as collecting rainwater and runoff water to recycle and reuse. While access to water is not currently an issue for most of our operations, we are mindful of regional concerns such as those related to the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer in Oklahoma. We remain committed to proactively managing water impacts and other risks related to biodiversity, and we will work diligently to improve these processes in the decades to come.
Energy and Emissions

Our operations require energy that create carbon emissions. We have committed to planting 1,000 native trees across our footprint to offset these emissions and improve wildlife habitat. Carbon emissions are a significant contributor to climate change, and present a range of business issues that not only impact U.S. Silica directly, but our stakeholders as well. Our largest greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) impact is from the delivery of our products which is typically shipped by truck, rail or barge. Our on-property fleet includes maintenance vehicles, haul trucks, forklifts, front-end loaders, and some company vehicles. Our production activities including screening, drying and grinding also use energy, generally electricity and natural gas. Our corporate office, laboratories and sales activities also consume energy.

We are always exploring innovative ways to reduce emissions.

Our Kosse, Texas plant is working to maximize clay solids to reduce its natural gas consumption. In 2010, our Berkeley Springs plant used 100% recycled oil in its primary dryer. Many of our facilities have been using recycled oil as a dryer fuel for several years.

Our Berkeley Springs Plant and Pacific Plant will be performing plant-wide electrical audits in 2012. The Columbia Plant and Mill Creek Plant have plans to transition to high efficiency lighting through new installations and major upgrades. At many of our plants, we are planning supplier sessions to help us understand and optimize our energy consumption through either equipment upgrades or more efficient operating practices. For example, where feasible, we are using premium efficiency Volvo motors that run on natural gas that are able to reduce fuel consumption by 25%.

Our Dubberly Plant in Louisiana installed a new fluidized bed dryer, resulting in a 20% reduction in natural gas consumption per ton of sand produced. Our Hurtsboro Plant in Alabama installed new valves on its dryers to reduce propane usage, and our Rockwood Plant in Michigan upgraded its processing equipment to include more energy efficient motors and dryers. Several of our plants are working with utility providers, regulatory agencies and municipalities to reduce energy usage during peak hours. Our Jackson Plant in Tennessee has been working with the Jackson Energy Authority to participate in a local demand response program for electricity and natural gas since 2008.

Our new facility in Sparta, Wisconsin demonstrates our commitment to sustainability in several ways. We are developing the facility under LEED® certified guidelines. Some features include making our rail ties from recycled iron which will last at least 50 years and mining by dredge to limit fugitive dust that may be emitted through dry surface mining.
Suppliers

Our suppliers are valued partners—they enable us to serve our customers to the best of our abilities.

We work together to achieve a shared vision of sustainable operations and corporate responsibility. We trust our suppliers and are continuously working to strengthen our relationships with them to sustain U.S. Silica and their businesses far into the future. Most importantly, we learn from our suppliers.

“U.S. Silica—they are a good customer of ours. They spend locally, and it really is nice to have a strong partner like that in town.”

Mike McGrogan, Owner, Handy Foods IGA, Ottawa, IL

The Procurement function is a key component to the success of U.S. Silica’s sustainability performance. Through partnerships with our key suppliers we are able to achieve financial and managerial stability, limit risks associated with environmental and health and safety regulations, and engage in waste reduction and recycling opportunities.

The Procurement group works within their community connections and takes an active role in fostering a sustainable economy. We continue to strive to understand the environmental impacts of the products we’re purchasing and find solutions with our suppliers to reduce or eliminate waste. Our partnership with Graphic Packaging is a good example of our supplier’s sustainability progress.

Graphic Packaging’s core products are paperboard and packaging which start natural and stay natural. They use fiber from managed forests to make their kraft board and reuse it again in their recycled boards. They are able to limit the fiber going to landfill and increase the benefits of paperboard packaging for the environment. Graphic also uses biomass fuels, a renewable energy source, to power their kraft mills.

“We work closely with our supply chain to encourage sustainability. We try to lead by example or learn best practices from our partners that have innovative and responsible ideas and initiatives. This approach helps us deliver the best results.”

Wendy Samp, Director of Purchasing
Economies and Communities

Our reputation means everything to us, especially our reputation within the communities in which we operate.

These relationships are important to us and we strive to positively contribute to these local economies. Whether it is hiring locally, donating to charity, volunteering time or educating stakeholders, we are committed to being the best community partner we can be. We have many stories to share from 2011, which are highlighted in our Features—Above the Fold section. There you will read about our donation of land for a new fire station, our employees volunteering weekly at a soup kitchen, our partnership to provide students hands-on experience in the business world and more. We open our facilities to many student groups and community members to educate them on our operations, including the importance of keeping out of active and abandoned mines.

“Although we have been active and engaged in some communities for more than 100 years, we never really talked about it. Today, we want to lead by example and demonstrate what good neighbors really can do.”

Jon Sheridan, Plant Manager

Most importantly, we have an open-door policy. We know that part of entering a community involves building relationships and earning the trust of our new neighbors. We seek opportunities to partner and participate in community events and activities to maintain these important relationships.

“In this economy, we are fortunate to have U.S. Silica in our region. They are creating new jobs with good salaries and benefits. The economists have said that for every dollar earned, it is spent seven times before it leaves the area—that is good.”

Mayor Scott Hurl, Peru, Illinois

Responsible Practices
Implemented in Rochelle, Illinois

- Working with the City to improve the rail system
- Dedicated easement to the City of Rochelle for future rail expansion projects
- Supports economic development through local job fairs
- Partnered with Rochelle Municipality Utility for energy efficient electrical service—usage of VFDs and soft starts for all motors larger than 75hp
- Using high efficiency electric motors through our the facility
- Providing fill dirt for construction of a local bike path
- Establishing a landscape buffer zone
- Making road
improvements to help assure safety for traffic by the plant

- Using environmentally friendly products during construction of the facility
At U.S. Silica we are in the business of being a good neighbor.

We are honored to be recognized for our accomplishments and we strive to raise the bar for ourselves year after year. A sampling of our awards and recognition include:

**Berkeley Springs, WV**

- 2009 Mountaineer Guardian Award, Quarry Division
- 2009 West Virginia Holmes Safety Association Award, Quarry Division
- 2010 U.S. Silica Sands of Time Award

**Hurtsboro, AL**

- 2010 U.S. Silica Sands of Time Award

**Columbia, SC**

- 2010 South Carolina’s Miner of the Year Award—Ron Slaton
- 2011 South Carolina Mining Association Safety Award for Outstanding Safety Achievement

**Dubberly, LA**

- 2010 Sentinels of Safety Certification of Achievement
- 2011 Sentinels of Safety Certification of Achievement
- 2011 International Society of Mine Safety Professionals (Exceeding 27 Years without a Lost Time Injury)

**Jackson, TN**

- 2009 and 2010 Safety Partnership Excellence Award Manpower of West Tennessee
- 2009 and 2010 Sentinels of Safety Award, Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association
- 2010 Pinnacle Award for Small Industry of the Year, Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce
- 2010 Bronze Award for Excellence in Community Relations, NSSGA
- 2010 Excellence Award for Community Service, U.S. Silica Company
- 2010 U.S. Silica Sands of Time Award

**Mauricetown, NJ**

- 2009 State of New Jersey Joint Resolution for Safety
- 2009 Sentinels of Safety Award
→ 2011-2012 Society of Mine Safety Professionals (1,000,000+ Hours without a Lost Time Injury)

Mill Creek, OK

→ State Mine Inspector’s Safety Award
→ 2011 Sentinels of Safety Award

Montpelier, VA

→ 2009 Sentinels of Safety Award
→ 2009 U.S. Silica Sands of Time Award

Ottawa, IL

→ 2009 and 2010 Rock Solid Safety Award, IAAP

Pacific, MO

→ 2010 Mine Safety Small Mill Division Zero LTA, Missouri Department of Labor Standard
→ 2011 U.S. Silica Sands of Time Award
Snapshot: 2011 Data Summary

For a quick glance at our facts and figures, we have provided the following snapshot of U.S. Silica’s 2011 and historical data.

### Prosperity ($ in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Sales</td>
<td>$191,523</td>
<td>$244,953</td>
<td>$265,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditures</td>
<td>$13,350</td>
<td>$15,241</td>
<td>$66,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Community Investment</td>
<td>$167</td>
<td>$161</td>
<td>$122</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Planet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (CO₂e metric tons)
   (lbs. per ton of product sold) | 209,766 | 243,669 | 247,653 |
| GHG Emissions (lbs. per ton of product sold) | 91.6   | 90.3  | 86.9 |
| Purchased Natural Gas (MMBTU/ton) | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.22 |
| Purchased Fuel and Propane (gallons/ton) | 0.27 | 0.24 | 0.20 |
| Purchased Electricity (kWh/ton) | 31.66 | 32.28 | 32.44 |
| Products Shipped via Rail (%) | 40%   | 45%   | 51%   |

### People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Employees</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Time Incident Rate (per 200,000 work hours)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Reportable Incident Rate (per 200,000 work hours)</td>
<td>1.98</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Participation in 401(k) Plan</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Payments ($ in thousands)</td>
<td>$111</td>
<td>$103</td>
<td>$135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Service Years (Total Population)</td>
<td>15.72</td>
<td>16.21</td>
<td>14.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover Rate</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 Greenhouse gas emissions include both direct and indirect emissions, and were calculated in alignment with the GHG Protocols. Direct sources include purchased natural gas, fuel oil and propane. Indirect emissions were from purchased electricity. Direct emissions from refrigerants were also included, and comprised less than 1% of emissions. Our newly established corporate offices in Frederick, Maryland; Houston, Texas and Shanghai, China sales office were not included in the 2010 emissions calculation. Metric ton = 2204.623 pounds.

2 Includes university and vocational program scholarships awarded to children of employees.

“After 100 years in business, U.S. Silica understands that sustainability means that we must continue to improve our operational effectiveness by developing and engaging our employees.”

Holly Bellmund, Director of Operations and Maintenance Excellence
Increasing Relationships

At U.S. Silica, we know our employees are critical to the success of our company.

In this section we will highlight the importance of each of our stakeholder groups and the roles they play in our sustainability journey.

“To each one of our stakeholders, sustainability means something different. It is our responsibility to make sure we understand every audiences’ definition and work hard to align our sustainability strategies with their goals and objectives.”

Brian Slobodow, Chief Administrative Officer

Employees
Our employees are crucial to the success of our company. They are the driving force behind our sustainability efforts each day as the ambassadors of our company. It is their time and talent and personal relationships that help us maintain our strong reputation within the communities in which we operate. Their ideas and dedication to growth and innovation are what separates us from our peers.

Communities
We pride ourselves on being a good neighbor to the communities in which we operate. Our commitment to improving their quality of life is demonstrative of our company character and culture. At U.S. Silica, we strive to be flexible and attentive, listening to our stakeholders’ needs and addressing them to the best of our ability. We have an open door policy, and we welcome dialogue with our communities in order to maintain our social license to operate for many decades to come.

Customers
Our 112-year history is a testament to the strong customer relationships we have fostered, some of which span more than 70 years. We are more than a sand mining company—we are an advisor to our customers to help them solve problems and make operations more efficient. We strive to be innovative through our research and development process while providing quality products and excellent customer service.

Consumers
The end user of our products is just as important as our direct customers. We are excited by the opportunities we have to provide raw materials for products that contribute to domestic energy sources including natural gas, wind and solar power. We also employ technology to allow stakeholders to share ideas to improve the industry as a whole.
Features—Above the Fold

At U.S. Silica, our sustainability message is told through our success stories at the local level.

We are only as strong as the actions we take to ensure our commitments remain focused on the wellness and safety of our people, the protection and conservation of our planet and continued prosperity for the company.

“With growth, comes the energy and perspectives of new talent across the company landscape. Coupled with our experienced and already highly skilled workforce, we have the perfect opportunity to continue our success by engaging our employees in sustainability and corporate responsibility.”

David Murry, Vice President of Talent Management

Community Relations at U.S. Silica

Columbia, SC—Dust Suppression Hopper reduces fugitive dust

Mapleton Depot, PA—U.S. Silica donates land for new Fire Station

Mauricetown, NJ—Continued excellence for our Stay Out, Stay Alive program

Ottawa, IL—IAAP presents U.S. Silica with its sixth Rock Solid Safety Award

Ottawa, IL—IMSA partnership gives students opportunity to solve important business issues

Ottawa, IL—McKinley Elementary School receives the gift of technology

Rockwood, MI—Keeping the streets clean
Community Relations at U.S. Silica

Strong community relations are at the core of U.S. Silica’s success over the last century.

It is the reason we have been able to not only sustain our business, but grow it to where it is today. We are committed to being good and responsible neighbors to the communities in which we operate, and strive to give back in any way we can. The following are just a few examples of how our employees practice our values every day.

For many years, the employees at the Mauricetown, NJ plant have donated time with their families to support the community. Recently, Boy Scout troops from Vineland and Cape May volunteered alongside our employees to beautify the local Mauricetown Park. Twenty-five Boy Scouts and eight troop leaders planted mums and mulch at the park entrance, pressure-washed the gazebo, painted trash cans, cleaned out overgrown bush from picnic areas, replaced broken picnic benches and tabletops, and donated a birdhouse. The Cape May Troop had never been to the park before, and were honored that the Vineland Troop invited them for a day of working together to enhance the quality of life in the Mauricetown community.

For the employees at our Jackson, TN facility, helping those in need is a way of life. Employees regularly serve meals at the local soup kitchen in Humbolt, and plant manager Larry McKibbin and his wife Mindy go above and beyond to be good neighbors. Larry and Mindy weave plastic bags to make sleeping mats for the homeless in the community, using over 700 bags to make one mat! The compassion of these employees makes us proud to have them representing U.S. Silica.

Employees at our Montpelier, VA facility participated in The Montpelier Center for Arts & Education golf tournament, coming in second place. Instead of keeping the prize money, they donated it back to the Center to help fund future programming. Other Montpelier employees collected donations for the local SPCA Pet Pantry in the form of food and toys so families in financial hardship will be able to feed their pets in times of need.

U.S. Silica continues to be a proud sponsor of the National Concrete Canoe Championship. It is a competition hosted by the National Society of Civil Engineers that challenges teams of civil engineering students from across the country and Canada to research, design and construct concrete canoes to race across water.

We are also continuing our work with the Adopt-a-Highway program, as we have been for more than 12 years at our Pacific, MO plant. The program is a promotional campaign to encourage volunteers to ‘adopt’ a section of the highway which they are responsible for keeping clean.

These are a few examples of how U.S. Silica strives to be a good neighbor to the communities in which it operates. Our strong community relations have set us apart from our competitors. We have genuine concern for the quality of life of these communities and...
its residents, and work diligently to maintain solid relationships with them during the time we are there.
Columbia, SC—Dust Suppression Hopper reduces fugitive dust

Systems for loading whole grain sands at our Columbia, SC facility were in need of improvement to control fugitive dust. During an environmental health and safety meeting, employees from our Columbia facility learned about a new technology called a dust suppression hopper. A unit was purchased for the Columbia plant and our employees were pleased with the remarkable results. The hopper reduces fugitive dust significantly by minimizing the volume of air trapped in the sand during loading. The sand is poured into the hopper and held there until enough weight from the sand forces the hopper to move away from a spring activated plug, forcing sand to flow from the opening that this creates. This system upgrade is just another effort to make our operations more sustainable, load product more efficiently and improve the workplace environment for our employees.

Features
- Community Relations at U.S. Silica
- Columbia, SC—Dust Suppression Hopper reduces fugitive dust
- Mapleton Depot, PA—U.S. Silica donates land for new Fire Station
- Mauricetown, NJ—Continued excellence for our Stay Out. Stay Alive. program
- Ottawa, IL—IAAP presents U.S. Silica with its sixth Rock Solid Safety Award
- Ottawa, IL—IMSA partnership gives students opportunity to solve important business issues
- Ottawa, IL—McKinley Elementary School receives the gift of technology
- Rockwood, MI—Keeping the streets clean
Mapleton Depot, PA—U.S. Silica donates land for new Fire Station

Our Mapleton Depot, PA facility donated land to the Mill Creek Volunteer Fire Company in order for them to build a new fire station. The station was a $1.4 million project that received funding from the United States Department of Agriculture and Kish Bank. For years, volunteer firefighters fought with cramped spaces between gear and fire apparatus, which posed serious safety issues. With the new space, firefighters have sufficient room to get dressed quickly to respond to a call and have room to work on equipment indoors.

The new facility will house the five units of equipment owned and operated by the fire company. It features a new banquet hall that can seat up to 300 people and is available for residents to rent. All members of the fire company are thrilled with the new station. Fire company president Keith Bollinger said the project was something that needed to be done. "We had to do it. I am pleased with the construction company’s excellent work. The building also serves as a community center where benefit dinners and special receptions are held and local businesses use the space for training sessions."

Everyone involved in this project thanked U.S. Silica for donating the land. “Without their help, none of this would be possible,” said fire chief Mike Swanger. We recognize and value the firefighters who volunteer to serve the community.
Mauricetown, NJ—Continued excellence for our *Stay Out. Stay Alive.* program

For the past decade, U.S. Silica has educated more than 9,000 students from four area schools on the importance of safety, specifically the dangers of exploring active or abandoned mine sites. 2012 marks the 10th anniversary of the “*Stay Out. Stay Alive.*” program developed by MSHA and facilitated at our Mauricetown, NJ plant. As part of the program, representatives from our company speak to students and teachers about the dangers of exploring mine sites and the consequences of being trapped, as well as improvements to make our sites safer for our employees. We also speak to them about our sustainability initiatives and the innovation taking place in the mining industry, such as the use of alternative energy and recycled materials.

This program is a national public awareness campaign. Every year, many people are seriously injured or killed in recreational accidents on active or abandoned mine sites. This campaign is a partnership of more than 70 federal and state agencies, private organizations, businesses and individuals. At U.S. Silica, we take full responsibility for the safety of our mine sites and the safety of the people in the communities in which we operate, which is why we believe this MSHA program is so important. We look forward to continuing our partnership with MSHA and educating future students.

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Ottawa, IL—IAAP presents U.S. Silica with its sixth Rock Solid Safety Award

Our commitment to employee safety and health was recognized for the sixth time as the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers (IAAP) presented us with the Rock Solid Safety Award at its annual convention in May 2011.

"Nothing is more important to our company than ensuring a safe workplace for our employees," said Jon Sheridan, plant manager at U.S. Silica’s Ottawa facility. "We are proud to receive this prestigious award and we will use it as a reminder to keep safety our highest priority every day."

Established in 2002, the Rock Solid Safety Award recognizes members producing crushed sand, stone or gravel, as well as companies providing services to this industry. The IAAP is a trade association comprising of 96 mining companies in 69 counties producing more than 90% of Illinois' aggregate, as well as 128 associate member companies providing goods and services to the industry.

"Illinois’ aggregate mines lead the nation in safety," according to Steve Richetta, Mine Safety and Health Administration’s North Central District Manager. "This award’s criteria are a blueprint for achieving accident-free years."

U.S. Silica has been a leader in its industry for the past 100 years, specifically in safety, and we expect to continue this leadership. Employee health and safety is of the utmost importance. It is core to our culture. We want each employee to go home to their families every night—anything less is unacceptable.
Ottawa, IL—IMSA partnership gives students opportunity to solve important business issues

Last spring U.S. Silica partnered with the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) to develop a new program that challenges grade school students to solve real-life business issues. About 150 students from area LaSalle County schools visited our Ottawa, IL facility for a tour to help them identify solutions that would enhance our sustainable operations. At the beginning of the year, teachers used our sustainability initiatives to develop curriculum where students designed unique approaches for making our Ottawa operations safer and more efficient.

“The partnership with IMSA is a perfect opportunity to engage area students with the work we do each and every day, while also hearing their fresh perspective and new ideas,” said U.S. Silica Ottawa Plant Manager, Jon Sheridan. “This project is a great match with the science and engineering work of our employees and together with IMSA we can really engage in innovative ideas to ensure a sustainable operation.”

U.S. Silica trained 18 teachers from seven schools as part of a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) program. PBL provides a framework for students to engage in critical thinking, problem-solving and collaborative skills, in addition to gaining knowledge on specific topic areas as they explore strategic solutions for real-life business issues.

“It is interesting because I am learning right along with the students,” said Missy Brown, a seventh grade science teacher from Northlawn Junior High School. “This is a great way for them to use the skills they learn in the classroom and develop solutions that benefit their own community.”

This partnership is a natural fit for U.S. Silica as it coincided with the unveiling of our 2011 sustainability initiatives of ensuring a stable business model, investing in local communities and maintaining environmental stewardship across our footprint. We recognize that students are our future workforce and leaders of this country, and we are proud of our work with IMSA. We look forward to fostering this partnership for many years to come.

IMSA, is a three-year residential public high school located in Aurora, Illinois. It has been consistently ranked at the top of the nation in standardized test scores and by Newsweek as one of the top ten high schools in the country for math and science. IMSA graduates have moved forward to become leaders in a variety of fields.
Ottawa, IL—McKinley Elementary School receives the gift of technology

Building on our belief that students are the future of our workforce, our Ottawa, IL facility donated $8,000 worth of state-of-the-art technology equipment to McKinley Elementary School. Teachers demonstrated the new technology at an open house last year. The equipment includes three sets of LCD projectors and other advanced technology such as MimeoTeach, which transforms whiteboards into interactive smart boards. The technology also includes a MimeoView camera that allows multi-dimensional images to be projected on-screen. Additionally, U.S. Silica donated media carts for the teachers to transport equipment from one classroom to the next.

“The equipment will provide countless opportunities for interactive, engaging and enhanced instruction,” said McKinley Elementary Principal Julie Prendergast. “U.S. Silica has truly been a community partner, and we are grateful for the support they have given us and our students.”

U.S. Silica has previously partnered with McKinley Elementary, sending representatives to read to students as part of the school’s Celebrity Reading Week. We’ve been committed to the Ottawa, IL community for a long time, creating 50 new jobs for residents in the last year, as well as providing new outdoor signage for the local YMCA to showcase their new logo and donating money to Lincoln Elementary School for new playground equipment.

“We think it is critical to support the communities we call home,” said Jon Sheridan. “We are more than a business—our plant and our employees help to make up the Ottawa community, and we are committed to doing our part to make sure it remains a good place to live and work.”
Rockwood, MI—Keeping the streets clean

U.S. Silica donated $30,000 to the city of Rockwood, MI to offset the cost of street cleaning equipment that the City of Rockwood will share with the City of Gibraltar. “It is important that businesses are good neighbors to the people who live and work in the City of Rockwood,” said Mayor Dan Guzzi. “U.S. Silica is an important partner and on behalf of the City of Rockwood, we thank them for the donation.”

“We think it is important to contribute to the well-being of the communities we call home, and we are happy to make this investment in the City of Rockwood,” said Ted Glennon, plant manager at the Rockwood facility. “We are committed to doing our part to ensure Rockwood remains a good place to live and work.”

U.S. Silica has been in the Rockwood community for more than 60 years, making contributions and providing jobs to residents. Many of our employees volunteer their time to local commissions and boards, youth activities, fire and rescue and other service organizations. Like all of our facilities, our Rockwood plant is committed to maintaining sustainable operations in the community by using recycled water in our mining processes and preserving wildlife habitats through the reclamation process.
Advancing Communications

U.S. Silica recognizes it can only grow by soliciting feedback from its stakeholders and learning from their valuable input. We aim to continually improve our communications internally and externally by taking into consideration the thoughts and ideas from our key audiences.

Please take a moment to complete this brief survey about our report by clicking here. We look forward to receiving your valued comments.

In addition, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sustainability@ussilica.com.