Working for Our Members Every Day
2016 President’s Report
The average price of a cubic yard of concrete in 2015 was $103.17, an increase of 5% from 2014.

For every cubic yard produced in 2015, the average member generated $8.63 in EBITDA, an increase of 31% from 2014.

In 2015, variable costs per cubic yard of concrete increased just 3.3% for the average NRMCA member.

As a result, contribution margin increased 13% in 2015 for the average NRMCA member.

The average NRMCA member increased production of ready mixed concrete by 4% in 2015.

Cement costs per cubic yard increased 8% from 2014.

Rising production caused a reduction of fixed costs per cubic yard of concrete of 1.5%.

Profit before taxes was $4.58 for the average NRMCA member, an improvement of $2.35 over 2014.
Advocacy on Industry Standards
NRMCA’s Engineering Division, with direction from the Research Engineering and Standards (RES) Committee, pro-actively represents the industry on standards’ committees to advance initiatives that benefit the industry and avoid adverse changes. The focus is to support performance specifications, quality, innovation and sustainability initiatives.

P2P
Most specifications for private and public projects are dated and include unnecessary prescriptive provisions. NRMCA has submitted comprehensive revisions to the AIA MasterSpec, the basis of design office specifications, to reflect the requirements in current industry standards such as ASTM C94, ACI 301 and ACI 318. NRMCA has developed an annotated presentation that can be delivered by members to local groups and has developed other resources like Specification in Practice topics and Guide Specifications to affect change.

ACI
- Several Code change proposals that focus on improving durability provisions and performance-based criteria are in the works for the next version of the ACI 318 Building Code.
- A new version of ACI 301-16, specification for structural concrete, has been released with important changes that benefit concrete producers.
- ACI Committee 329 is developing a guide specification on performance requirements for ready mixed concrete that will be based on the NRMCA documents. It has also finalized a tech note on removing cement content requirements in specifications. Case study sessions on success with performance specifications are planned for future ACI conventions.
- NRMCA participates on various other ACI committees that impact NRMCA members’ business.

ASTM
Two new material specifications benefit ready mixed producers – ASTM C1797 permits the use of finely ground mineral fillers, for self-consolidating concrete or other concrete property enhancements; ASTM C1798 addresses the reuse of returned fresh concrete as a portion of a new load. More than 10 revisions have been approved to ASTM C94. Other initiatives have contributed to improving standards on fresh concrete testing, strength testing, durability and quality systems of laboratories. Efforts continue to improve the quality of initial curing of strength specimens in the field. NRMCA has developed an annotated presentation on requirements for strength testing and the implications of improper testing. This presentation is supported with a pre-construction checklist on testing and additional resources that can be used by members to educate engineers, contractors and testing agencies at a local level.
Transportation Standards
NRMCA participates on committees of the Transportation Research Board, AASHTO Subcommittee on Materials and the National Concrete Consortium. NRMCA participates on an important initiative by the Federal Highway Administration to develop a specification for performance-engineered mixtures for pavements and transportation structures.
NRMCA’s technical advocacy that focuses on evolution to performance specifications and support of quality and sustainability initiatives can positively contribute in excess of $10 per cubic yard.

Quality Initiatives
Improving quality represents significant potential for improving profitability as materials cost represent 55% of the sales price. NRMCA provides comprehensive guidance on developing quality management systems and offers a popular one-day course. NRMCA establishes quality benchmarks based on industry surveys. Several companies are recognized annually with the excellence in quality award. Effectively implemented quality initiatives can contribute cost savings in the range of $10 to $12 per cubic yard.

NRMCA Plant and Truck Certification
This program represents a significant member benefit and is an important part of a company’s quality system. The program maintains about 2,800 certified plants and 20,000 certified delivery vehicles in its system. NRMCA is completing an electronic checklist for inspectors that will ensure correct submission and expedited processing of certification. Certified plants ensure accurate batching and conservation of materials, which in addition to reduced production variability represent potential savings of $2 to $5 per cubic yard.

Quality Certification
NRMCA is streamlining its newly developed Quality Certification program to incentivize members to adopt quality initiatives and obtain certification that can make them a preferred provider in their local market. This is a program developed - by the industry - for the industry in support of the P2P Initiative.

Technical Education and Certification
NRMCA’s technical education and certification programs are recognized for the value they provide. In 2016, NRMCA technical courses were sold out with more than 300 industry personnel attending. NRMCA technical certifications establish industry-recognized credentials to member companies and their personnel.
NRMCA popular technical publications are used to educate industry personnel, their customers and other users. These include the Concrete in Practice, Technology in Practice and Specification in Practice series and other more detailed technical publications. Many of these industry publications were updated in 2016.

Research and Testing
NRMCA maintains an AASHTO-accredited laboratory facility that is proficient in most standard and research-oriented testing of concrete materials. The Laboratory represents two important member benefits: research performed develops technical data to affect changes to industry standards; members are eligible for 40% discounted fees for laboratory contract testing services. NRMCA research on performance and sustainability has the potential of saving at least $5 per cubic yard when implemented.
NRMCA research supports proposed changes to industry standards and the evolution to performance-based specifications and Code requirements. Research has covered durability, impact of specified cement content and optimizing concrete mixtures, chloride limits for concrete, use of recycled materials and other topics. In 2016 NRMCA research reports have been accepted for publication in prestigious journals with good potential for disseminating research results.

Regulatory Advocacy & Compliance Guidance
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Industry Non-Compliance for Electronic Logging Devices
Building on the numerous victories the NRMCA team scored on Hours of Service (HOS) regulations in 2015, this success continued into 2016, specifically with regard to the Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs). The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has finalized a rule requiring all commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers install and use ELDs in their trucks, such as mixer trucks, for compliance with HOS regulations. These units, mainly aimed at over-the-road, long-haul operations, are slated to needlessly cost the industry hundreds of millions dollars if the industry is required to comply. However, through carefully working with FMCSA to strategically adopt the HOS successes from 2015, NRMCA has managed to create a carve-out for the ready mixed concrete industry that would allow ready mixed concrete companies to NOT have to install and use ELDs if their drivers don’t pass certain achievable thresholds. This change will likely save the industry hundreds of millions of dollars, in part, tied to not having to purchase such equipment and the related maintenance, record keeping and continual monitoring.
Testimony Before DOT on Sleep Apnea Regulations

Last May, NRMCA testified before the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) during a joint public hearing on a potential rule making aimed at new regulations for screening commercial motor vehicle drivers, such as mixer truck drivers, for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). NRMCA opposes such a new standard, stating that “the current regulatory framework is sufficient to address drivers with OSA.” More pointedly, stating that in large part, there is a great gulf between what the current regulations say on medical disorders and how certified medical examiners actually evaluate drivers seeking a medical card to accompany their commercial driver’s license. Also noting, “…many different factors can lead to fatigue beyond OSA and many different factors can lead to crashes involving large trucks beyond OSA.”

Second Annual Regulatory Enforcement Survey Conducted

NRMCA successfully conducted its second annual survey aimed at gauging regulatory action within the industry. The survey compiles the information to determine regulatory trends on specific issues, issue types and geographic regions. This information, which was submitted anonymously and confidentially, will help NRMCA to better tailor its actions to address and/or combat any such issues and to keep a finger on the pulse of when, where, how and why regulatory agencies are targeting and/or levying enforcement actions against the industry. The 2016 survey highlighted the disproportionate levels of lack of enforcement actions and compliance costs compared to the large number of new regulations in the past 8 years, as well as the industry’s very apparent concern with environmental regulations. The third annual regulatory enforcement survey is now online to participate in.

2016 National Mixer Driver Championship – The Largest to Date!

Last year’s National Mixer Driver Championship saw the largest participation and field of drivers in the 11-year history of the program. The 2016 program saw a record-setting 82 drivers from all across the U.S. competing for the title of “Best of the Best” on what was a new and enhanced driving course. This year’s program, highlighting the industry’s best and safest drivers, ushered in some new changes to the competition for both drivers and spectators. Capping off the program was the drivers’ awards dinner which pulled in nearly 800 attendees to congratulate the 2016 winners at the world famous Nashville, TN, Wildhorse Saloon. NRMCA foresees the program to continue to grow in 2017 with more drivers, more spectators and more sponsors.

Regulatory Successes in 2017 with Trump Administration

Following Donald Trump’s Presidential election win, eyes are turning toward potential Trump Administration opportunities. Particularly, NRMCA’s OES Department is looking toward regulatory opportunities to both stall and vacate a host of erroneous, burdensome and costly industry regulations. While a three-pronged approach is likely required by lobbying the White House, federal agencies and Congress, NRMCA is hopeful for advantageous outcomes. Specifically, NRMCA will focus on freezing and overturning onerous rules including, but not limited to:

- Electronic Logging Devices
- Silica
- Waters of the U.S.
- Stormwater Limits
- Injury/Illness Reporting/Tracking
- Hours of Service
- Overtime
- Persuader Rule
- “Quickie” Elections
- Contractor “Blacklisting”
- Joint Employer
- Phase 2 Heavy-Trucks
- Ozone
- Truck Weights
- Speed Limiters
- Sleep Apnea
- Safety Fitness Determination
- Fall Protection
- Estate Tax
- Increased CMV Insurance

2017 Fleet Manager Course

Also new to 2017, NRMCA will be rolling out a brand new course offering. Again, with the increased activity the industry has seen lately there is a growing need to hire personnel with a focus on overseeing and maintaining growing mixer truck fleets all across the country. To address this need, NRMCA will be crafting and conducting a new course aimed at teaching specific industry personnel the ins and outs of what it takes to keep a fleet of trucks running and organized.

New Industry Safety Award

Sponsored by the Truck Mixer Manufacturers Bureau (TMMB), NRMCA’s OES Department and OES Committee will be creating and issuing a new safety award starting in 2017 aimed at recognizing an “Outstanding Achievement in Safety.” This award will be presented each year at the NRMCA Annual Convention to either an individual, company or other instance with a keen sense toward industry safety.
Educating the Industry

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Members cite NRMCA education opportunities as the primary reason for membership. With that in mind, association experts within their respective departments develop training content. Theories, facts and figures are linked to applicable “how to’s” for greater efficiency, higher profitability, reduced liability, greater customer value and better employee engagement. As a result, a producer’s short-term expense in staff training becomes their long-term investment in human capital.

Year in Review

Training and development to producers receives oversight from the Educational Activities Committee. It hosted 51 offerings in 2016. That equates to 23,931 hours of instruction to 2,261 attendees, a 27% increase over 2015. The largest majority of attendees, 32%, were in operations. Education occurs in many formats, face-to-face classes, online, instructor-led classes, self-directed classes, webinars and seminars at meetings. Each type can be broadly categorized in one of three areas:

1 Content that is industry-specific and offers foundation skill building competencies.

Classes

In 2016, formal, face-to-face classes whetted in competency-building were very popular. With a high instructor-attendee ratio, students’ efforts are supported as they learn about industry standards, as well as mandatory and compliance requirements issued by national, state and local specifiers and bodies like ASTM. Offerings included Plant Manager Certification (sold out five times), Technical Short Course (sold out twice), Safety Course (sold out twice), Environmental Course and ongoing Pervious Concrete Contractor Certification. Other included three Dispatcher Training Forums, two titles about roller compacted concrete, Handling Concrete Specifications, Low Strength Problems and Mixture Submittals and Improving Concrete Quality. All of these classes rotate their location year-to-year throughout the U.S. for participants’ convenience.

The two online sustainability courses end with a third prep course to sit for LEED AP certification. Concrete Delivery Professional (CDP) Certification for mixer drivers is only offered online to not only make it easier to coordinate with drivers’ schedules but also keep costs low. With mixer drivers representing approximately 55% of industry employees, many companies use NRMCA’s Concrete Delivery Professional certification program to support their efforts to develop a professional force of drivers. Approximately 350 mixer drivers accomplished the certification in 2016, approximately a one-third increase over 2015.

2 Content that directly supports increasing producers’ profitability.

Classes

The four in the Certified Concrete Sales Professional (CCSP) series unpin the opportunity for attendees to directly tie their job activities to increasing business and profit margin. With skills-based content tied to sales strategy and goal setting, attendees are ready to meet the demands of customers as well as keep the producer’s bottom line profitable.

Webinars

NRMCA continually revises a series of quarterly webinars for sales managers’ strategic planning and coaching staff.

3 Practices that support building a strong team through employee engagement.

It’s no secret that satisfied and motivated workers means higher levels of staff retention and lower recruitment costs. While every NRMCA class includes a strong development component, in particular, the Front Line Supervisor class focuses on leadership skill building.

Developing Industry’s Leaders (DIL) Program

Annually, NRMCA sponsors a national cohort of the industry’s rising stars as nominated by their chief officers. In 2016, the program expanded the opportunity for the cohort group to engage with each other as well as industry senior officers. In March 2017, the current group will present their research on a national challenge the industry faces to members at NRMCA’s Annual Convention in Las Vegas. There are 24 participants/six groups—the largest ever.
Middle-level staff recruitment and retention
NRMCA’s STEPS Program entire purpose has always been to nationally recognize the industry’s mid-level employees who master a specific industry segment. In 2016, six achieved the industry’s most prestigious certification. The program was franchised to the Middle East, where 10 STEPS participants were certified.

Mixer Driver Recruitment & Retention Survey
In 2016, NRMCA released results from the second Annual Mixer Driver Recruitment and Retention Survey. It reported 51% of producers lost business due to a lack of drivers to deliver product. When delving further, the industry lost nine percent more drivers than it hired last year. In particular, half who left were new hires within their first three months. The results point more to retention being the challenge, not hiring. The survey will continue its efforts to give the industry facts to support this critical employee sector. The 2017 survey will be available the month of May, with results released in Fall 2017.

What’s New for 2017 for producer-centric education?

Classes
NRMCA will add a class for fleet managers and a leadership workshop for senior level operations managers. The Sales Manager class will also be resurrected post-recession.

Online learning
The 20-30 minute Online Safety Series will expand by one title. A similar program will be developed for mixer divers on wash water.

CONEXPO-CON/AGG
In 2017, NRMCA will sponsor 13 seminars in the Concrete track as well as make presentations in the Workforce Development, Safety and Technology tracks.

Developing Industry Leaders Program
The Educational Activities Committee will add opportunities for current and past participants to network and support their career growth.

Concrete Paving Promotion Design Assistance

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NRMCA promotional efforts supported by the Design Assistance Program (DAP) showed continued growth in delivering value to members and partners in 2015, with delivery of 163 pavement project recommendations to producers, specifiers and contractors. From 2012 through 2016, of the DAP projects with known outcomes, 62% were placed with concrete. NRMCA is continuing strong outreach to members in 2017 to further expand the DAP program impact.

Known Yards Influenced (KYI) has been established as a key promotion success metric that represents project yards placed that are known to have been influenced to go concrete through association efforts. In 2016, NRMCA’s paving promotion program recorded nearly 880,000 KYI yards, an increase of over 20% over 2015. At the end of 2016, over 2 million Potential Yards Influenced (PYI) had accumulated which represents projects that NRMCA has pursued but outcomes are not yet known.

Concrete Promotion Effectiveness Tracking for NRMCA Partners
Over the past five years, NRMCA has developed an online-based systematic approach for measuring promotion effectiveness that has proven valuable for both members and promoters. As most state and local concrete promotion organizations lack an organized approach for measuring promotion effectiveness, NRMCA is now assisting Affiliates in setting up such a standardized system at no cost that is tailored for their specific needs. In 2016, the ready mixed association Ohio Concrete, with NRMCA’s help, set up such a system. Greg Colvin, president of the association, recently reported that benefits are already accruing through setting and tracking promotion goals and in sharing a “real-time” online overview of promotion efforts and successes with members. For more information about setting up PromotionTracker in your state, contact Glenn Ochsenreiter at glenn@nrmca.org.

Parking Lot Boot Camps
NRMCA’s Parking Lot Boot Camps are 10-hour, hands-on programs conducted by NRMCA staff over two days that provide approaches and key tools to enable individual producer sales teams to increase their level of success. Key member suppliers and the producer’s most important contractor customers are invited as well to create opportunities for collaboration that will expand sales for all. Attendees learn how to prospect, prepare bid proposals, handle objections and close
the deal. NRMCA provided one Boot Camp in 2013, four in 2014, five in 2015 and seven in 2016. NRMCA encourages members to schedule a boot camp with their contracting partners as promotion tracking clearly indicates that after a boot camp, producers will realize an increase in yardage produced and sold, directly contributing to their bottom line. Contact Brian Killingsworth at bkillingsworth@nrmca.org to schedule your boot camp.

**Collaboration with the American Society of Concrete Contractors**

Over the last three years, NRMCA staff has fostered relationships with staff and members of the American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC) in an effort to educate and collaborate on the concrete parking lot market. We’ve found that the members of ASCC are ideal partners in pursuing concrete parking lot projects because of their willingness to invest in marketing, equipment and personnel which are the necessary ingredients to be successful. Currently, NRMCA is identifying parking lot promotion partners, on a state-by-state basis, that ASCC members can contact when project opportunities become available. As a result of our collaboration with ASCC, there have been over 30 concrete parking lot projects that have resulted with concrete on the ground. Local Paving Senior Vice President Jon Hansen will continue to foster this relationship with ASCC in the coming year.

**Developing State Promotion for Local Paving Promotion**

NRMCA member Ash Grove and Local Paving Senior Vice President Jon Hansen have worked with other NRMCA producer members in Salt Lake City to establish a local ready mix concrete association with a promotion focus. NRMCA’s work with Ash Grove involves a targeted visual survey to help it understand the market share history for concrete and asphalt in parking lots over the past five years in the Salt Lake City market. Implementing a proven, undisputable process, the survey will help it understand where concrete has been strong and where it is not, as it develops its overall promotion plan. Similar market share research in other states (Iowa and Nebraska) has allowed parking lot focused promotion efforts to dramatically increase the market for concrete parking lots.

**Government Affairs**

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NRMCA Works with Congress to Create Two Congressional Caucuses

The Government Affairs team oversaw the creation of two new congressional caucus member organizations in the United States Congress. NRMCA staff worked with our pro-business, pro-ready mixed concrete champions to form the Resilient Construction Caucus which is dedicated to promoting the importance of building resilient communities through engineering techniques and standards to mitigate destruction brought on by natural disasters and possible national security threats and the Ready Mixed Concrete Caucus, which is dedicated to the production of ready mixed concrete and the daily operations of delivering our product. We will work with these congressional caucuses to pursue common legislative goals to advance the ready mixed concrete industry.

Hours of Service 34-Hour Restart Fix

NRMCA played an integral role in obtaining a legislative fix that permanently preserves the 34-hour restart Hours of Service rule change issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) on July 1, 2013. To this end, the team successfully lobbied to retain the “simple” 34-hour restart without the “bolt-on” restrictions (Sec. 180) passed in the year-end spending bill funding the federal government until the end of April. Also, included is “hereafter” language that we understand permanently retains the pre-July 2013 restart rule if the FMCSA’s study does not meet the criteria required by Congress – which it is not expected to do and language was included to remove the 73-hour cap.

NRMCA Secures Language Promoting High Performance Concrete in Water Bill

NRMCA was successful in securing a study on the performance of “innovative materials” with the passage of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN). The WIIN is a $170 concrete-intensive water bill that authorizes the needs of America’s harbors, locks, dams, flood protection and other water resources infrastructure and also helps strengthen the nation’s economic competitiveness. It authorizes $10.6 billion in funding for 30 Army Corps of Engineers’ water infrastructure projects in 17 states, including drinking water infrastructure programs as well as waterways and flood control systems.

NRMCA’s study, among other things, includes high performance concrete formulation as well as other materials and emphasizes the need for identifying conditions that result in degradation of water infrastructure projects and the ability of these materials to reduce degradation. The study
further asks for identifying conditions and making recommendations on performance-based requirements of these materials. The study must be conducted by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences and the report issued to Congress in three years.

The WIIN also contains a provision that allows states to run programs to regulate coal ash, or coal combustion residuals and bans the EPA from trying to strengthen standards in the future. The provision preempts an EPA rule finalized in 2014 that established technical requirements for coal ash storage facilities.

CONCRETEPAC

NRMCA’s political action committee, CONCRETEPAC, placed its pro-business, pro-ready mixed concrete political stamp on the 2016 election, boasting its most successful fundraising year ever.

CONCRETEPAC invested $423,500 in the 2016 election – disbursing $348,000 in House races and $75,500 in Senate races to 122 contests in 45 states across the nation. CONCRETEPAC was able to max out ($10,000 total contribution) to 13 Congressional champions who are relentless supporters of the ready mixed concrete industry. CONCRETEPAC enjoyed a 95% win rate on Election Night.

CONCRETEPAC hosted or co-hosted more than 40 events for our champions in Congress, working with our industry partners and friends to raise roughly $1,000,000 for candidate committees.

This success was possible because of the commitment and generosity of our members. $510,720 has been raised to date during the 2015-2016 election cycle (a 15% increase from the 2013-2014 election cycle) from 410 individual contributors. CONCRETEPAC also raised more corporate sponsorship funds than ever in 2016 - $92,000 (a 10% increase from 2015).

CONCRETEPAC has a powerful war chest balance of $335,000 heading into the 115th Congress, which will be needed to accomplish our ambitious legislative agenda of creating a Concrete Majority in Congress.

NRMCA Fights Timber Innovation Act

The team was also successful in creating the Stop the Timber Innovation Act Coalition, a coalition of 28 industry and labor organizations led by NRMCA, with the common goal of preventing the Timber Innovation Act (TIA) from becoming law. The TIA unfairly accelerates the use of ‘mass timber’ by authorizing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide federal funding to place cross laminated timber as the material of choice in tall building markets; fund a Tall Wood Building Prize Competition at the USDA; fund grants to state, local and private sectors for education, R&D, promotion and marketing; and fund technical assistance programs for architects and building designers in mass timber applications in tall building structures 85 ft. and above.

The Stop the TIA Coalition opposes the TIA because it will give the wood industry a market share advantage above all others in tall building structures. We also believe Congress shouldn’t pick winners and losers at the taxpayers’ expense. It should be promoting fair competition in the marketplace, which will drive innovation while reducing consumer costs for all material selection in the built environment. We also argue that the wood industry already benefits from the federal softwood lumber check off program, which makes the authorization of new programs duplicative.

Building Better Codes

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The US Green Building Council officially launched LEED version 4. While the rest of the construction industry looking for solution to material transparency, the ready mixed concrete producers now can leverage the advanced NRMCA sustainability programs fully to help project teams achieve certification (see Sustainability Section).

NRMCA maintained voting status on the Green Globes rating system revision and successfully adopted an emphasis on resilience and acceptance of NRMCA sustainability initiatives, including EPDs in the first draft. The RMCREF funded MIT’s Concrete Sustainability Hub will support NRMCA in the second comment period to deliver critical findings on urban heat island effect.

Research from the CSHub was instrumental in developing a modeling tool to assist direct building promotion efforts. The tool allowed the Building Innovations team to quantify the whole life cycle energy savings and environmental impacts for a local developer in Maryland.

New research Project Fail-Safe by the National Association of State Fire Marshalls (NASFM) was initiated by the RMCREF. The first deliverable on code analysis and literature review was completed in 2016. Next the research team will compute fire modeling and ultimately develop a Safety Layering Risk Assessment tool to be used by fire service. This is the first step to developing a safety rating systems for buildings.
Sustainability

NRMCA is dedicated to educating and preparing members when responding to market-driven environmental and social transparency demands. The primary driver is for influencing AEC that concrete is the sustainable material of choice in the green building marketplace.

The key performance indicators are categorized into four elements, including: 1. Environmental disclosure, 2. Ingredient disclosure, 3. Responsible sourcing and 4. Whole building life cycle analysis. It should be noted that these elements are heavily influenced by the LEED rating system which officially became required November 2016. These categories align with green building market drivers and are summarized below:

1. Environmental disclosure:
NRMCA, with member participation, has continued to position the concrete industry as a leader in disclosing the environmental footprint of concrete products. The actions within the KPI include industry participation regarding the industry-wide EPD (IW-EPD) and manufacturer specific EPDs.

Industry-wide EPD
In 2016, the IW-EPD was revised, i.e., version 2. This value tool supports members who don’t have the resources or determining the long-term benefits to develop their own EPDs. The results were 18 additional companies (26% increase) and 319 additional plants (14% increase). It is undetermined when a 3rd version of the IW-EPD will be conducted, but current participation is over 50% of the 2020 goal.

Company specific EPD:
2016 realized a slight increase in company-specific EPD, whether through NRMCA as the EPD program operator or another program operator. The concrete industry has verified 2,138 (4% increase) mix designs from 13 (8% increase) companies.

Over 70% of concrete product EPDs have been verified through NRMCA’s program.

For 2017, trends indicate that EPD development will continue as NRMCA receives AEC inquiries regarding environmental product disclosure and members inquire about the process to develop and verify EPDs. The PCR will expire in November 2017; therefore, significant time will be spent renewing the PCR.

2. Ingredient disclosure:
In 2016 NRMCA published the Material Ingredient Disclosure and Reporting document. The report was the culmination of a 2-year project with Arup, a professional engineering firm. The release of the report was accompanied by several webinars to NRMCA members with 100 in total participation. The project was funded by RMC Research & Education Foundation. In 2017, additional education efforts will continue. A proposal will be developed to determine next steps in approaching members regarding disclosing mix ingredients or other methods to position the industry as a leader in ingredient disclosure.
3. Responsible sourcing:
NRMCA continued to influence the development of a global responsible sourcing standard. The Concrete Sustainability Council has advanced the standard to NGO stakeholder review and comment. Six NRMCA members piloted the responsible sourcing standard and provided feedback. NRMCA member assessment pilot scores were in-line with other regions, indicating an existing infrastructure to address responsible sourcing. The responsible sourcing standard will be launched in 2017 and significant time will be spent developing the infrastructure to govern the certification system for NRMCA members.

4. Whole building life cycle analysis:
As the DAP program continues to penetrate the AEC influencer, WBLCA is a value service to support project design. NRMCA, supported by work at the MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub, has enhanced its WBLCA service with the MIT Handshake tool. This tool allows a non-concrete building design to be energy (BeOpt) and LCA (Athena Impact Estimator) modeled to deliver an optimized concrete design. In 2017, NRMCA will continue becoming adept in utilizing the MIT tool for DAP support. Additionally, all efforts that supported the IW-EPD v2 project will populate the Athena Impact Estimator, giving users of the WBLCA tool up to date concrete environmental data.