Responsible Sourcing Scheme for Concrete

Project Background

With the release of LEED v4, building product manufactures will be faced with opportunities and challenges to contribute to the new Material and Resources Credit: Sourcing of Raw Materials. LEED v4 is encouraging the use of building products that have environmentally, economically, and socially preferable impacts. The new Responsible Sourcing credit rewards project teams for selecting products and materials verified to have been extracted or sourced in a responsible manner.

Responsible Sourcing Credit in LEED v4 (2 Points)

**Option 1: Raw Material Source and Extraction Practices (1 Point)** – To contribute, a manufacturer must demonstrate responsible sourcing by publicly releasing a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) report that includes disclosures from raw material suppliers that addresses extraction locations and commitments to long-term ecologically responsible land use and environmental responsible extraction and manufacturing practices. For this option a company must simply report on sourcing of raw materials and practices but does not need to demonstrate exemplary performance. Acceptable Option 1 frameworks for CSR include:

- Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Report
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- U.N. Global Compact: Communication of Progress
- ISO 26000: 2010 Guidance on Social Responsibility
- USGBC approved program

**Option 2: Leadership Extraction Practices** – In this option, a manufacturer must not only report on responsible sourcing practices but also demonstrate exemplary performance through third party validation with regards to sourcing of raw materials.

NRMCA Responsible Sourcing Programs

**NRMCA Green Star Plant Certification** – The NRMCA Green-Star Certification program recognizes concrete plants that have adopted and implemented an Environmental Management Systems (EMS) for environmental benchmarking and continual improvement. An EMS generally addresses environmental issues only and is one component of an RSS scheme. Visit [http://www.nrmca.org/operations/environment/certifications_greenstar.htm](http://www.nrmca.org/operations/environment/certifications_greenstar.htm)

**NRMCA Sustainable Concrete Plant Certification** – The NRMCA Sustainable Concrete Plant Certification (SCP Certification) program provides a quantitative metric to allow ready mixed concrete producers to demonstrate high performance in sustainable extraction and manufacturing practices including environmental, economic and social issues, similar to a traditional RSS scheme. The program provides specific guidance to assess extraction and production practices and identifies strategies that will

In the past, NRMCA has promoted Green-Star and SCP Certification as RSS schemes but to date USGBC has not accepted either. They have commented that the SCP Certification, with certain modifications could qualify at some point.

**Universal RSS Scheme for Concrete**

NRMCA is currently working with the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), to develop an internationally recognized RSS scheme for concrete that could potentially be accepted on multiple green-rating platforms including LEED v4. Many of the components of the Green-Star and SCP Certification programs will be incorporated into the RSS scheme.

**Benefits of the Project**

- Improving the image of concrete product manufacturers applying the scheme, thereby helping the concrete industry remain competitive in the green building sector and broadening the sustainability debate from focusing entirely on embedded energy;
- Continuously improving concrete’s sustainability performance by promotion of responsible best practices throughout the value chain;
- Recognition of sustainable practices in our sector within green building rating systems and within green public procurement government policies.
- Broad awareness and use of the RSS for Concrete by ready-mixed concrete (RMC) and precast concrete producers around the world;
- Broad recognition and awareness of the RSS for Concrete by all players on the value chain and all stakeholders;
- Increased transparency towards the marketplace;
- Continuous improvement and broad adoption of best practices.

**Project Schedule**

The project started in January 2014 and the program framework will be completed and launched in early 2015.