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# NEIGHBORS

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## Midlothian Earns International Environmental Certification

Ash Grove Cement Midlothian earned ISO 14001 certification in 2010. In fact, Ash Grove is on the verge of becoming the only domestic cement manufacturer to have its entire fleet of eight plants earn this designation. The company's new Foreman, Ark., plant is on track to earn it in 2011.

The certification, administered by the International Organization of Standardization (ISO), requires companies to adopt rigorous, systematic environmental management systems customized to the needs unique to their facilities and subject to continuous improvement.

Once such a program is implemented, certified third-party auditors



conduct an extensive audit to verify compliance with the ISO standards before certification is granted.

Achieving this international certification is the latest in a series of initiatives that reflect Ash Grove's commitment to good environmental stewardship – lowering emissions and other environmental impacts related to the company's operations.

Ash Grove's Energy Management (AGem) program was implemented in the first quarter of 2008. It is doing well towards reducing emissions and costs based on plant-specific benchmarks established when the program was conceived in 2007.

