



## *Colonial Stone Works proves Granite State can be green too*

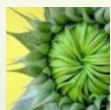
Colonial Stoneworks (CSW) was launched in 2010 by Adam Bennett, a New Hampshire native who worked in the automotive and landscaping sectors for years before turning full time to stonework. Run out of Bennett's home office, and serving the greater Manchester area as well as a large portion of Southern New Hampshire and the Seacoast region, CSW's whole business is built around "green hardscaping." Hardscaping generally refers to paved areas like streets & sidewalks, where the upper-soil-profile is no longer exposed to the actual surface of the Earth. In CSW's case, it refers to its use of granite. CSW strictly deals with natural stone such as granite, which is inherently greener than concrete (concrete, as a product, is CSW's biggest competition in the hardscaping space).

In contrast, concrete production requires mining for aggregate, then going to a factory for production. Subsequently, a large diesel-powered truck is necessary, as concrete must be rolled so it doesn't "set". In contrast, stone is already set, and doesn't require energy-intensive production once it's mined. CSW places a heavy emphasis on reclaimed materials, creating everything from custom walkways to stairs, stone walls to mailbox posts, fireplaces to facades. In a state with an abundance of granite -- one of the most oft-requested materials for hard-scaping projects -- Bennett is certainly in an ideal location. In fact, one of the biggest

sources for Colonial Stoneworks is a quarry in Milford that was one of the most heavily used of its kind between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

Bennett also gets some of his stone from local housing developments. When new housing subdivisions require cleared land, the process often unearths perfectly-usable stone, and Bennett puts this stone to good use (and keeps it out of landfills!) in his clients' projects. Bennett will also be offering a full snow-removal and plowing services during the winters, making CSW truly a company for all seasons.

Bennett uses biodiesel, blended by a neighbor of Bennett's, in all their diesel machinery and trucks, and they go out of their way to use all other gasoline-powered machinery sparingly. The company even set up their own on-site 500-gallon storage tank to store the biofuel, which means fewer trips to the pump to fill up. Furthermore, the company has instituted enforcement of weekly service and maintenance programs on all equipment and trucks to keep things operating at maximum efficiency, as well as having initiated a "no-idling" campaign. And to minimize unnecessary vehicle travel, Bennett communicates via phone for his initial customer contact.



## Bud

Green Report Card Score:

# 6.36 / 10.00

*Business has already taken substantial steps toward sustainable practices and is currently in progressive "sustainable motion."*

For his customers, Bennett recommends paperless billing and invoicing, drastically cutting down on unnecessarily wasting paper. When he's at his home office, Bennett uses recycled paper, although the amount is small since CSW communicates electronically whenever possible. Bennett is also a big believer in giving back to the community. He generously offered his alma mater, Windham, NH High School, to donate the necessary stone to veneer the bottom of the high school's roadside sign.

**GREEN DREAMS:** Colonial Stone Works is considerably more sustainable than many of his peers in the hardscaping industry, and owner/operator Adam Bennett intends to keep his company at the forefront in that regard. As far as future improvements, Bennett sees himself attempting to slowly green his home office/shop. For stone material that he cannot source locally, Bennett would like to either (1) source closer to New England if possible, or (2) conduct additional due diligence on the sustainability of his suppliers.