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**Corporate Sustainability Report – 2023**

**SUMMARY.**

Independent Limestone Company, LLC (ILC) wants to operate it business in the most responsible and sustainable manner that it can – that means to reduce its environmental impact and to treat its workers, vendors, customers and neighbors with respect. Certifying to the ANSI/NSI 373 Sustainable Production of Natural Dimension Stone (NSI 373) is a way to show the world that ILC is striving for excellence and constant improvement.

And while we know that we are not yet perfect, we are committed to reporting on our progress in a very public fashion. The materials below will give the reader a sense of our progress.

**ENERGY USE.**

ILC is committed to using as little energy as possible in both its quarry and its mill operations.

**Quarry.** Over the last 5 years from 2019 to 2023, our total energy usage in the quarry has decreased 8.9% from 146 to 133 kilowatt hours (kWhrs) per ton of stone produced. (kWhrs are a good way to common-size all kinds of energy use). Obviously, tonnage of production is a key variable as is production yield. Production yield depends heavily on color and grain variation in the ledges from which block is cut and is largely uncontrollable.

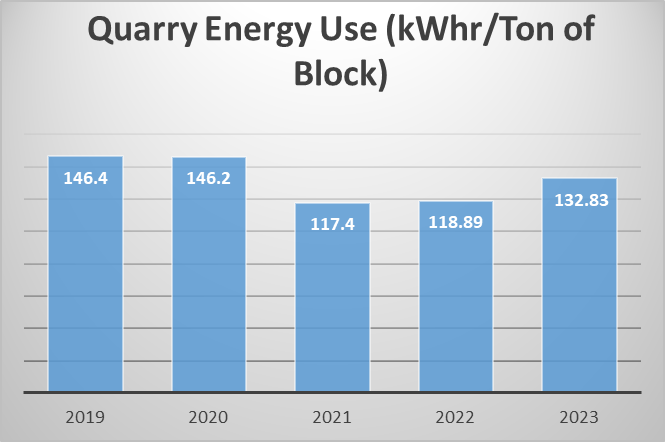


Figure 1. ILC Quarry Energy Use Per Ton of Dimension Stone. Source: “ 2023 ILC Quarry 10.1,10.2” --🡪”Graph2”.

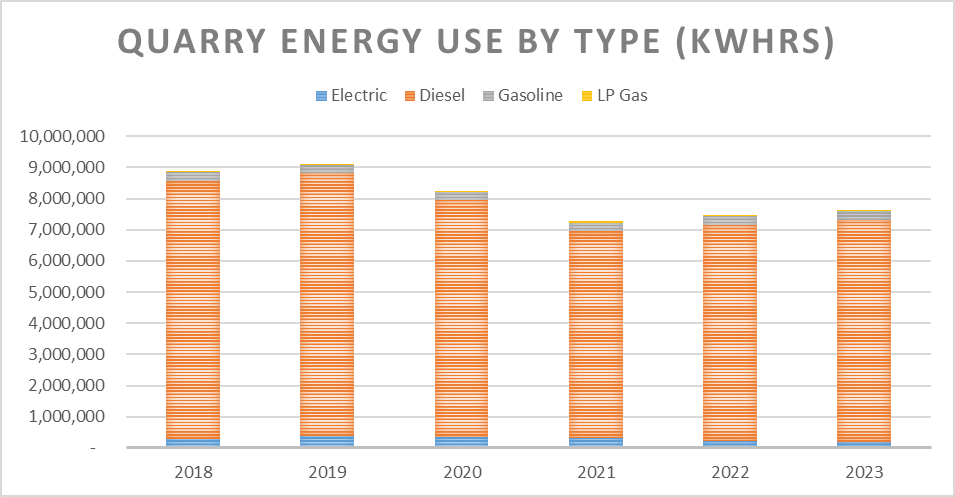




Figure 2. ILC Quarry Energy Use by Type of Energy (kWhrs). Source: “ 2023 ILC Quarry 10.1,10.2--🡪”Graph2”

ILC has set a goal of reducing its energy consumption per ton of stone produced by 1%/year over a period of the next 5 years. We increased absolute total energy use by 2.3% in 2023 compared to 2022 with good reductions in LP gas and electrical uses but small increases in diesel and gasoline. On a kWhrs/ton of production, our numbers were slightly up but well below the highs in 2019 and 2020 for the second year in a row.

Off-road diesel consumption, our primary energy usage (91% of total quarry energy usage in 2023), will be reduced by monitoring heavy equipment traffic, improving efficiencies in engine performance and reducing haul mileage. Overburden removal accounts for much of diesel use and our development efforts were high in 2023.

Pumping water onto and out of the production ledges (the big saws which cut the limestone into blocks need water to lubricate the sawing process) accounts for most of electricity use (4% of total energy in 2023).

**Mill.** Energy use per ton of finished products (primarily treads, slabs and paving) has been relatively stable in the last four years. Note that the relative energy for processing finished production is less than the energy for extracting raw block in the quarry (about 130 kWhrs/ton for block and 103kWhrs for each ton of finished product.

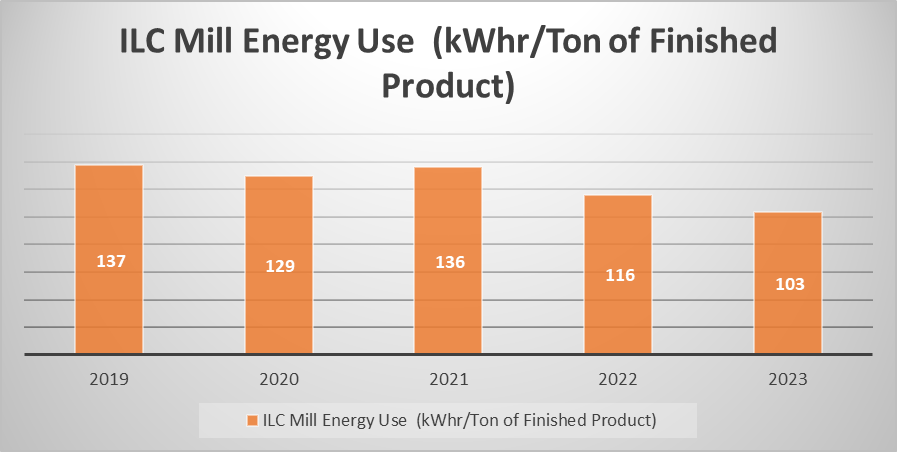
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Figure 3. ILC Mill - Energy Use Per Ton of Finished Production. Source: “ 2022 ILC Mill 10.1,10.2”🡪”Charts”.

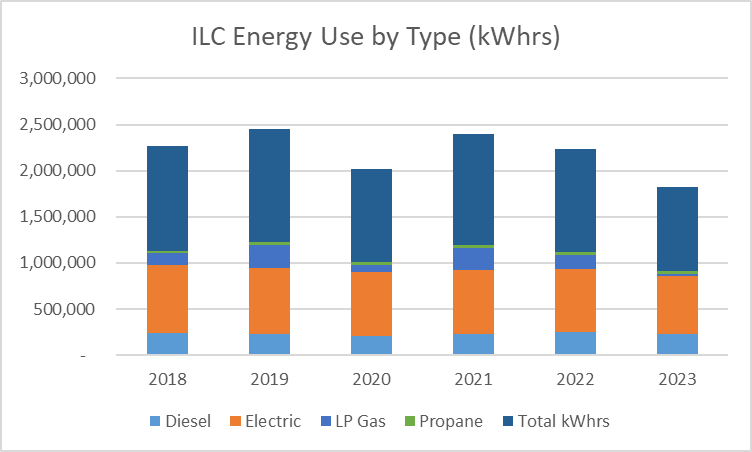




Figure 4. ILC Mill - Energy Use by Type. Source: “ 2023 ILC Mill 10.1,10.2”🡪”Charts”.

Our goal for energy reduction is to reduce our per ton kWhrs use by about 1% per year. In 2023, our use per ton of production declined 11% from 116 (in 2022) to 103 kWhrs/ton and 18% in absolute usage (see Figure 4 above). And that was on top of modest declines in energy usage in 2022. In 2023, we had big drops in total electricity used and in LP gas deliveries. We are delighted to see that electrical usage is still headed down because electricity accounted for 68% of all energy used. We are continuing to look at ways of using renewable solar generated electricity to replace the relatively dirty coal powered electricity of the local grid.

**EXCESS PROCESS MATERIALS and SOLID WASTE.**

**Quarry.** Excess process materials (EPM) are all rock that we do not sell or reserve for regrading and rehabilitation of quarried areas. We make every effort to maximize the sale of block from our ledges by carefully handling the materials to prevent breakage in the quarrying process. However, limestone is a natural material, laid down over time with all the variations that a million years can bring. Due primarily to color and grain choices, we sell only about 20% of the stone we quarry. The remainder is moved to our grout pile. About 50% of the overburden (limestone materials above the marketable seams) is crushed into aggregate.

Due primarily to the variations in the reserve formations and the recovery rate we get, ILC generated about 8 tons of EPM for each ton of production, up 14% from 2022. We generate nominal quantities of solid waste and recyclable consumer products – almost all of our solid waste is scrap steel which we sell and recycle. All waste oils and hazardous materials are professionally disposed of through licensed third parties. As seen below, we have little solid waste at the quarry.



Figure 5. Quarry EPM and Solid Wastes. Source: “2023 ILC Quarry11.1-.4 =>”11.2,11.3,11.4”

**Mill.** EPM at the Mill are the parts of the block that are unused (about 40% of the raw materials) and the fines from the sawing processes that are flushed into sedimentation ponds by the process water flowing through the Mill.

As can be seen above, in 2023, we had a small decrease in both solid waste per ton of finished production compared to 2022 but a large increase in EPM/ton of production. The EPM increase seems to relate to lower quality materials given to the Mill.



Figure 6. Mill EPM and Solid Wastes. Source: “2023 ILC Mill 11.1-.4 =>”11.2,11.3,11.4”

**WATER.**

All the water used in our operations is rainwater or snow melt that we collect on-site. After use for washing, cooling or crushing stone, we recover over 99% of this water for re-use in both the quarry and the mill.

**SITE MANAGEMENT.**

We own over 500 acres of land including about 160 acres of active quarry and mill operations. The remainder of this land is reserved for future quarry use or as buffering open space from residential developments occurring in the Bloomington area.

**Ecosystem boundary areas** have been established on some of the parcels that will not be quarried in the foreseeable future. These areas managed to preserve the ecosystem services that the natural open space provides to the surrounding area. ILC management restricts equipment use on these areas as well as inventory storage or mechanical transit. See ecosystem map below.

ILC management is committed to minimizing the ecological impact of its operations on the land, water and air resources around the quarry and mill operations. Roads and quarrying areas are sprayed regularly with water trucks during dry conditions; we take great care that no storm water runoff can get into the Clear Creek watershed and have recently spent large sums of money improving our storm water containment and management systems.

**LAND RECLAMATION.**

ILC has reclaimed large sections of the quarry where limestone resources have been exhausted, including the land where both the Mill and the Quarry office are located. ILC has a plan that includes removing infrastructure and regrading, encouraging natural reseeding and repopulation of local flora and fauna for areas that no longer produce dimension stone.

**SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**

ILC is a responsible member of the Bloomington community. All its workers are paid a fair wage and salaries under a strong union contract. Health and safety regulations are rigorously followed and all employees are trained under a detailed Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) course of study with annual updates required. Personal protective equipment including ear, eye and toe protection (steel toed boots!) are mandatory and ILC has an admirable safety record. ILC even pays for the boots and other PPE needed.

ILC also contributes to non-profits in the community, giving both money and stone to local charities.

**CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT.**

ILC tracks all supplies that have complex chemicals in order to protect its employees and general environment. ILC has reduced its hazardous chemical materials over the last several years and attempts to eliminate them from their supply chain.



Figure 7. Ecosystem boundary areas.