# USING EPDS TO INFORM DECISIONS AND MODERNIZE OPERATIONS

**The Road Forward**
**AsphaltPavement.org/Forward**

## A Commitment to Sustainability

An affiliate of an NYC based heavy civil infrastructure contractor, Green Asphalt LLC located in Long Island City, New York was envisioned in 2009 as an asphalt producer committed to making and constructing 100% recycled asphalt pavement mixtures.

In 2015, New York State approved Green Asphalt's R-0001, making Green Asphalt

## THE FIRST RECYCLED ASPHALT PLANT IN THE STATE.

In fact, the team had never produced a ton of mix but wanted to prove that the reuse of construction materials was possible. Knowing that they needed to develop, prove, and sell the vision to road owners, they began by building a plant with old parts. Working in conjunction with the City Department of Design and Construction, they began by placing temporary asphalt, then moved on to get a 100 percent reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) mix design approved. Finally, in 2015, New York state approved Green Asphalt's R-0001, the first recycled asphalt plant in the state. To this day, despite the ability to run conventional asphalt mixtures, Green Asphalt runs high RAP with the minimum amount of RAP used set to 50 percent.

## Quantifying Our Impacts

Emerald Eco-Label, NAPA's verified Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) tool, makes it easy to quantify the environmental impact of an asphalt mix. Created by industry professionals and stakeholders and evaluated by sustainability experts, the Emerald Eco-Label EPD tool was developed in conformance with ISO 14025, ISO 21930, and the Product Category Rules (PCR) for Asphalt Mixtures. These standards establish the principles and procedures for developing a Type III environmental declaration program and prescribe specific rules for asphalt mixture EPDs.

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# GREEN ASPHALT'S GREATEST TAKEAWAY IS THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY GAINED.

Green Asphalt is now making data-driven decisions, modernizing operations, and have better information to tell their organization's story. Their advice: **Start today.**

For Green Asphalt, the choice to participate in the program was an easy one, as creating EPDs aligns with their corporate sustainability goals, helped them understand their environmental record, and through publishing ensured they were accountable to their overall mission.

To begin, Green Asphalt started by using the Data Gathering Spreadsheet to identify the information required to enter in the software. They found that most data required was currently being tracked within their organization. The toughest challenge — accounting for 100 percent recycled asphalt in the materials! However, the team overcame that challenge by using NAPA (National Asphalt Pavement Association) staff as a resource, reaching out for best-in-class support, and thought partnership to successfully complete the process.

## Using Data to Make Decisions

With a 100 percent recyclable mixture, Green Asphalt's material sourcing (A1) and material transport (A2) values are understandably low. The biggest surprise they found was the manufacturing (A3) value. Due to operations being open year-round in a cold climate, the data showed a higher than estimated A3 number. The data is being used to inform the path forward. Now, the team is examining its operations, adding a new fuel meter, insulating the oil lines, tanks, and drum, has covered its fine RAP stockpile, and is conducting front loader operator training on stockpile management. These simple and effective techniques enable Green Asphalt to modernize the operations in a cost-effective way and continue the pathway toward being environmentally responsible and responsive to the EPD data gathered.

## Do Not Hold Back

The greatest takeaway for Green Asphalt was the opportunities gained from participation. They are now making data-driven decisions, modernizing operations, and have better information to tell their organization's story. Their advice, start today. Participants learn valuable information about their product and can understand methods to improve the bottom line.

In a world where the rate of technology implementation is changing swiftly, utilizing the tools available and making data-driven choices can differentiate companies.

**EMERALD ECO-LABEL EPD PROGRAM**

**EPD DATA GATHERING SPREADSHEET**

**EPD PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS**

**EPD PROGRAM FAQ**

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