



GROWSTONE

what better plants are grown on

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**Growing Plants, Growing Jobs.
Something Beautiful is Growing in the Albuquerque Landfill.**

Albuquerque, NM – Looking around at the mountains of discarded glass piled up in the Albuquerque landfill it's hard to imagine that something beautiful can emerge from it. But that is exactly what is happening.

Growstone horticultural products, a maker of hydroponic substrates and soil growing amendments is finding success in the horticultural market. The mission and brainchild of two local eco-entrepreneurs, Growstone takes discarded bottles and re-engineers them into high performance growing mediums.

The success of Growstone has recently led to a 50% increase in their workforce. According to Don Gray, plant manager, "Orders for Growstone products have outpaced production leading to the addition of workers – and we foresee that growth continuing in 2012."

Mike Langone, CEO of Growstone, reported that they are working with the state as well as the National Guard to find qualified workers. "We are hoping to give jobs to returning veterans. We believe in the quality of the American workforce and the

(more)

quality of Made in America products. As a matter of fact, we just purchased a crushing machine from a local Belen, New Mexico company. It's important to us to go local whenever possible."

Everything about the plant, located right in the Albuquerque landfill, and the products created there are models of environmental consciousness. Glass bottles are first crushed, then milled into a fine flour-like consistency and "baked" in a kiln. No excess water or energy is used in the process. The results are lava-like porous growing mediums for hydroponic systems and soil aerators for in-ground growing that deliver superior air and water retention and rations so important for growing success.

Recent sales and research reports show how quickly this breakthrough technology has caught on. It not only shows the quality of American technology but the skills of the American worker – something Langone holds in high regard. "We are committed to growing our company and growing our workforce right here in Albuquerque."

Patrick Beare, VP of Sales, is proud of the progress Growstones have made in the horticultural industry. "Until Growstones came along," says Beare, "many growers used products like perlite and Hydroton which are strip-mined, causing catastrophic ecological damage, then shipped long distances to reach the market. Growstones produce better results not only for plants but for the planet."

Touring the production facility proved just how ecological the entire operation is. Gray points out, "We recycle everything we can here. We even use discarded tires from the landfill to make barriers to store and sort the crushed glass we use in the manufacturing process."

Growstones are an American success story. They are better for our plants, our planet and our economy. For more information on Growstone, go to www.growstone.com or call 505-897-1665.

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