



Fact Sheet
How are Brick Manufacturers Environmentally Friendly?

- More than 80% of brick kilns are fired with natural gas, and several facilities use fuels of bio-based materials from other industrial applications and waste products. These including methane gas from landfills and sawdust from furniture manufacturers.
- With support from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Landfill Methane Outreach Project, BIA just concluded a study that evaluated every member's brick manufacturing operations for proximity to a landfill and its potential to serve as a source for future use.
- The brick industry has reduced the overall energy to produce a brick from an average of 4,000 British Thermal Units (Btu) per pound in 1970 to 1,239 Btu per pound today – *a reduction of almost 70%*. With clay brick's renowned longevity, no additional energy will be needed to make a replacement brick for many decades – if not centuries.
- Brick companies are adopting green building practices as part of their corporate identity. One new plant was designed to achieve at least a silver rating level according to the United States Green Building Council's LEED® rating system.
- Several companies have eliminated their need for municipal water. Additionally, many companies have undertaken comprehensive studies to reduce (or even eliminate) the water discharged from a facility into sanitary sewers or waterways.
- Brick manufacturers always strive to recycle material at all phases of the brick manufacturing process-
 - Unfired product is directly recycled into the process, if generated during brick extrusion or molding.
 - Fired product that do not meet quality assurance programs can be recycled back into the product or crushed and used as a ground cover
 - 95% of mined materials are utilized – resulting in very little waste.
- Brick manufacturers have added scrubbers to kiln exhausts to reduce emissions.
- Brick is made from local resources. In fact, there are at least two brick plants located within 500 miles of 49 of the country's top 50 metropolitan statistical areas.
- Mined pits are reclaimed so the resulting property can be used for a variety of functions, including lakes, wetlands, natural areas, development as residential sites and golf courses.