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## Oldcastle Precast's Chesapeake Region Co-sponsor Educational Earth Day Event with the U.S. Coast Guard in Baltimore, Maryland

BALTIMORE, Md. (MAY 2017) – This year's Earth Day marked the 47th celebration of its kind since 1970. On April 21, 2017, Oldcastle Precast's Chesapeake Region co-sponsored an Earth Day Educational Fair with the U.S. Coast Guard Yard, located in Baltimore, Maryland.

The U.S. Coast Guard Yard hosted their Earth Day Educational Fair to continue to educate the community and reduce pollution from stormwater runoff. By constructing stormwater filtration planters on their campus, the Coast Guard has been reducing its carbon footprint on the Chesapeake Bay and protecting the environment, its members and the community they live in.

In January 2017, the Environmental Section of the U.S. Coast Guard Yard reached out to Oldcastle Precast's Stormwater solutions group for ideas on how to treat stormwater run-off on such an industrial and tightly packed campus.

After discussions and in support of the U.S. Coast Guard's Earth Day celebration, Oldcastle Precast volunteered and supplied three BioMod planters (precast concrete stormwater retention and filtration units). The BioMod planters allow for a larger volume of stormwater runoff in a smaller footprint than traditional landscape rain gardens. These improved units remove pollutants via filtration and assist in the U.S. Coast Guard's compliance with the requirements of Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to mitigate runoff.

Oldcastle Precast's Edgewood, Md. and Fredericksburg, Va. facilities provided two at-grade precast concrete bio-retention planters and one above-grade planter designed to capture, retain and filter stormwater runoff. A 4-foot by 24-foot by 16-foot bio-retention planter was created near Parking Lot #20 to collect runoff from the street and parking areas. The run-off was diverted to the retention system by means of a parking lot channel created by the site contractor.

Secondly, a planter measuring 4-foot by 25-foot by 6-depth was built adjacent to Building 40 for retaining and filtering the stormwater from the roof. This is a process called rooftop disconnection, where the Stormwater does not actually runoff, but is intercepted and decreases the amount that runs off.

Thirdly, an above-grade level planter, measuring 4-foot by 10-foot by 6-foot-depth, with 5 feet of the structure above grade, was constructed beside Building 42 in order to handle roof runoff which is piped to the retention planter.

Jointly, Oldcastle Precast and the Coast Guard created the planter design volume (stone depth and soil depths) following the State of Maryland's Stormwater Manual Chapter 5 ESDv design specifications.

The U.S. Coast Guard Yard Earth Day Fair was a remarkable success. The Coast Guard's environmental industry partner companies and organizations set up booths and focused on pollution prevention and environmental education. Various volunteers from partner companies as well as students from Monarch Academy, a local charter school, installed the BioMod planter components and attended environmental educational presentations on the parade field near the Earth Day cookout.

Accordingly, Chris Gorman, Oldcastle Precast's Stormwater Manager for the Chesapeake Region gave a presentation to the students, volunteers and Coast Guard staff regarding the science and engineering behind the BioMod system.

The charter school students also toured the Yard, planted shrubs and learned valuable lessons about environmental stewardship.

"Earth Day is a very good opportunity to do something great for the environment. Partnering with the U.S. Coast Guard's Earth Day Educational Fair, providing the BioMod planters and volunteering was a small gesture towards creating a healthy environment for the future," said Doug Bruhns, Regional General Manager of the Chesapeake Region for Oldcastle Precast. "It's definitely a group effort. Environmentalists facilitate a lot of things, but we need the participation of others. We need everyone to get involved to make it work, protecting our future and the environment. I would personally like to thank each Oldcastle Precast volunteer and our precast plants for their hard work and dedication to the environment."

One of the most significant, yet unrecognized types of water contaminants are storm water pollutants. When it rains, storm water runs over yards, streets, roads, highways, parking lots, parks, and playgrounds, carrying with it everything in its path, including debris and pollutants. Eventually, the water will travel to a stream, either over land or via a storm drain. Storm drains are frequently located alongside streets and parking lots. Unlike sanitary sewers that divert water to a treatment plant directly from your home, storm drains lead directly to surrounding lakes and rivers without any type of treatment. All the debris and pollutants that were picked up by storm water runoff end up in our lakes and streams.

*About the U.S. Coast Guard Yard*: The Baltimore Yard is the U.S. Coast Guard's active maintenance and repair facility for its Atlantic Fleet. This historic facility since 1899 has served as regional headquarters, ship yard and depot. Currently the Yard employs over 1,500 personnel to overhaul and recondition all ship equipment and systems from the propellers to defensive systems.

*About Oldcastle Precast*: Oldcastle Precast is the clear choice for building products and services for North American infrastructure projects. We are a leading provider of engineered product solutions nationwide to a number of market sectors including: Water, Communications, Energy, and Transportation.

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