

## Peabody's Arizona Mines Celebrate Arbor Day With 'Planting on Mother Earth'

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Peabody Energy's Arizona mines today celebrated Arbor Day with the Puente de Hozho Navajo bilingual magnet school in Flagstaff. Each of the children was given a culturally significant ponderosa pine sapling and a student-designed T-shirt celebrating the "Planting on Mother Earth."

"The gift illustrates our belief in being responsible stewards of the land and its resources and is an opportunity to help educate the students about plants that have deep traditional and cultural value to Native Americans," said John Wasik, group executive for Peabody's Southwest operations.

Peabody's commitment to environmental excellence is driven by the company's mission statement, which says that when the mining is complete, we will leave the land in a condition equal to or better than we found it. This mission is turned into reality through an environmental committee headed by the company's president and the actions of a staff of corporate field environmental experts.

At the Black Mesa and Kayenta mines, more than 12,000 acres of mined land has been reclaimed to a condition that is typically 20 times more productive for grazing than native range. The reclamation of mined land includes a cultural plant program that restores more than 30 species of trees, shrubs and forbs used for medicinal and ceremonial purposes. The program is unique to the industry and has received several industry honors in the past five years.

The Black Mesa and Kayenta mines ship more than 13 million tons of coal annually to the Mohave and Navajo Generating Stations, which serve more than 3.5 million Southwest families. The mines employ nearly 700 workers and weekly inject nearly \$2 million into reservation economies in royalties, taxes, wages and benefits.

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