



The Bannerstone

Long before the wheel, before metal and before farming, hunters in eastern North America came up against a hard limit: the strength of their own arm. They didn't accept it. They built the atlatl, a throwing stick that lengthens the arm and launches a spear farther and harder than muscle alone ever could.

On those throwing sticks, many scholars believe, rode the bannerstone. Between 6000 and 1000 BCE, craftsmen pecked, ground and polished hard stone into balanced, twin-winged forms. To drill the center hole, they twisted a hollow river reed back and forth between their palms, with sand and water to cut into the stone. Some have been found lying beside atlatls in ancient graves. Whether they added weight or balance, or marked the owner's standing, is still debated. Either way, the Met counts them among the oldest finely sculpted stone objects in the Americas.



Bannerstone, Double-Bitted Axe. Archaic, 6000–1000 BCE. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Public domain.

A bannerstone is a small object with a big idea behind it. People found a way to gather the energy of their own bodies, store it and release it exactly when and where it was needed. That idea, using energy more wisely, has driven human progress ever since.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City holds a fine example in its collection. Its maker carved this **Double-Bitted Axe bannerstone** from shale and thinned its curved edges to about a millimeter. You can learn more in the Met's essay [Bannerstones: Ancient Indigenous Stone Carvings](#).



Our logo borrows its shape from stones like this one. It's our tip of the cap to mankind's long journey to make better use of energy.

WHAT WE DO

Since 2007, Bannerstone Energy has provided procurement, market development and technology vetting for renewable and traditional fuels, including feedstocks and byproducts.

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