

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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### From the Editor

Things at USGBC are heating up again as a new draft of LEED is scheduled for release on July 1. Check out the [USGBC website](#) and the articles below for more information. Your feedback during the public comment period will help shape the next draft. You can also give feedback on the LEED Pilot Credits, including the new one for Certified Products. This credit applies only to non-structural products and materials, and [some speculate](#) that the LCA credit will be revised to apply only to structural materials. I encourage you to check it out for yourself.

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### PRODUCT NEWS

#### In Canada, Debate Over Who Sets the Rules for Green Aggregates

Because more consumers want green products, gravel maker Holcim Canada is looking to get a Socially and Environmentally Sustainable Aggregate certification for its products. The SERA standard is being developed by Environmental Defense Canada, but the Ontario Aggregate Forum is also working to develop standards for green-aggregate products. To learn more, check out this [The Guelph Mercury \(Ontario\)](#) article.

#### Lehigh Cement Uses Carbon Injection to Slash Mercury Emissions

California's Lehigh Southwest Cement is slashing mercury emissions. The company said it is the first in the state to utilize activated carbon-injection technology, which is expected to cut emissions 90% two years ahead of when the Environmental Protection Agency's new mercury-emissions standards go into effect. The Cupertino plant manager said at a news conference, "We take our responsibility to the community very seriously," according to this [San Jose Mercury News \(Calif.\)/Cupertino Courier](#) article.

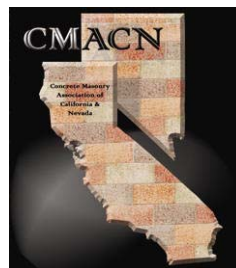
#### GreenAgg Set to Produce Coal Ash-based Cement, Cinder Blocks

GreenAgg Technologies plans to launch the country's first plant dedicated to deriving "green" products from coal ash. The King George, Md.,

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plant -- which previously belonged to Universal Aggregate Birchwood -- will convert coal ash into a lightweight aggregate to be used in cinder blocks, asphalt and cement, creating a 100% recycled product, according to this [Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post \(Texas\)](#) article.

### Safe Room Model Available

Safe rooms help protect families from injury or death due to the dangerous forces of high winds and tornadoes. Carolinas Concrete Masonry Association has an 8' x 8' scale model of a safe room available. Originally designed five years ago as an example of a safe haven for families along the Carolina Coastline's hurricane activity zone, the model was created using FEMA 320 as a guide along with the help of The Wind Engineering Research Center at Texas Tech University. For more information please contact [Byard Stevens](#), executive director, CCMA, or phone 336.852.2074.

### Brick's Durability Is Shown in Joplin, MO

From BIA News Online – Immediately after the horrific tornadoes ran through Joplin, MO, Brian Williams of NBC News ran a story that showed how intact brick buildings (a brick church specifically) helped save lives. While this exposure delivers a key message about brick's durability to millions of viewers around the country, we all know that this horrific event resulted in a significant loss of life and property. To see the NBC segment, visit [www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/#43160224](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/#43160224).

### Tornado Lessons Could Lead to Stronger Buildings

To most people, the leveled buildings, splintered wood and twisted metal created by tornadoes are sad remnants of the storms' destructive power. To structural engineers, they are clues. Read [MORE](#).

### USGBC NEWS

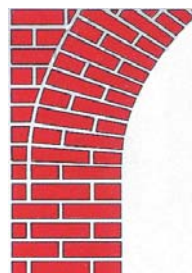
USGBC's LEED rating system is constantly evolving. From new additions to the LEED Pilot Credits, to revisions to the rating system itself, there are lots of changes on the horizon. Check out the links below for more information. ~Tina

### LEED Pilot Credit for Certified Products

The new LEED Pilot Credit #43 – MR Certified Products gives credit if at least 10% of the total value of all non-structural materials and products has an ISO Type I or Type III Declaration. It is unclear at this time as to why this credit applies only to non-structural products. To read more, check out



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[this article](#) at SustainableIndustries.com or read the discussion at this page on [LinkedIn.com](#). Details on each pilot credit are available for download at the [Pilot Credit Library](#). Questions can be directed to [pilot@usgbc.org](mailto:pilot@usgbc.org).

## LEED Second Public Comment Opens July 1

LEED is re-opening for second public comment on July 1, 2011. You are invited to [participate in that development](#). The rating system ballot is projected for Aug. 1 - 31, 2012, and release of the new rating system is projected for Nov. 7, 2012.

## GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Though the USGBC lawsuit isn't new, and the article is long, the article below has a good discussion on it. ~Tina

## USGBC, Others Seek to Change Tax Policy to Reward Green Buildings

The U.S. Green Building Council has teamed up with the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Real Estate Roundtable to write a letter to several key senators that contains proposed changes to a tax-deduction policy for energy-efficient buildings. The document contains principles that would encourage energy retrofits on commercial buildings, such as incentives for energy reduction and enforcement of efficiency measures. Read more at [GreenerBuildings](#).

## Lawsuit Highlights "Transformation" in the Building Industry

A lawsuit against the U.S. Green Building Council, which runs the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, has brought to the fore issues about energy performance in LEED-certified buildings and whether LEED is best standard for sustainable building design. Debate has ensued, standards are being rewritten and interest in sustainability has increased. "Regardless of any contentious issues, the transformation of the building sector is under way," says Edward Mazria, founder of Architecture 2030, in this article at [Miller-McCune.com](#).

## Are Green Buildings a Hazard to Your Health?

An Institute of Medicine report showed that untested green building materials could limit airflow in buildings. The report stated that temperatures, building material emissions, dampness and poor ventilation are factors that can contribute to health



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issues. Read more at [The Hill/Healthwatch blog](#).

### **OBEC Masonry Conference Includes Tips on Green Building**

Using masonry in building construction can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and waste, according to speakers at a recent conference organized by the Ontario Building Envelope Council. Bill McEwen, executive director of the Masonry Institute of British Columbia, said masonry is beneficial for indoor air quality and provides thermal mass, meaning that heat created during the day can be saved and used overnight, because masonry can moderate temperatures. Read [More](#).

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