

# The Masonry Society

## *Sustainability E-News*

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### SPONSORED EDITION

#### From the Editor

The LEED rating system has been in the news a lot recently. With a new minimum energy performance requirement for LEED 2009 registered projects and a new pilot credit on use of legal wood, there is much debate about these new provisions. We've included several links below from various points of view to help keep you informed as part of our broader focus on sustainability generally. This is also the case with the links related to sustainable sites. Permeable masonry pavements are an excellent strategy that can be part of the SITES® rating system. Check out the articles below for more information. We hope you find them helpful.

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*NOTE: Inclusion in this newsletter is not an endorsement of the products and materials featured, nor have these products been evaluated by TMS or the editor. Furthermore, the views expressed in the articles featured are those of the article authors.*

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#### GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Building resilient is the latest design trend. The article below and the link under EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES provide information on solutions utilizing masonry for storm resistant designs. ~Tina

#### **Informing Building Design: Whole Building LCA**

##### **EDGE ENVIRONMENT (Australia)**

A Whole Building LCA helps you reduce the financial, social and environmental impacts of a building, as well as counting towards Green Star credits. In [this article](#) Edge Environment shares their reflections and recommendations from consulting for and conducting Whole Building LCAs.

#### **Building Resilient to Withstand Hurricanes**

##### **HUFFINGTON POST**

Reinforced concrete and concrete masonry walls can withstand high winds and protect occupants. At a minimum, safe rooms can be built as part of the structure to serve as shelter within the building during hurricanes and tornadoes. Walls constructed using masonry units, steel reinforcement

#### **Sponsors of TMS's Sustainability E-Newsletter**

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and grout are strong. When high winds occur, reinforced masonry buildings resist the pressures and flying debris that can knock down or damage less robust construction. By using stronger, more durable materials we can better protect ourselves and our communities when the next hurricane strikes. Strengthening our building codes and using resilient design techniques can allow essential services to continue through any recovery. [Read more.](#)

## Novel Digital Design with Brick

### MIT NEWS

Adaptive reuse poses a number of challenges for architects. They need to respect and often preserve existing structures while retooling them for entirely new functions. They need to work in materials that are either identical or compatible with those used in the original construction. And when the building slated for a refit is situated in a historic zone - something that happens frequently in adaptive reuse - they must also be mindful that design choices align with the neighborhood esthetic. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

## CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Lots of news related to LEED this month. The first article provides a good explanation of the substance of the new pilot credit on legal wood. This section also includes several articles with more information and impacts of the LEED 2009 energy update. ~Tina

## What the LEED Pilot for Wood Is and What It Is Not

### GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

The U.S. Green Building Council release of the new pilot credit MRpc102 - Legal Wood has generated much controversy. There may be no single subject matter more discussed with over the 15 year history of LEED than forest product certification. [Read more.](#)

## USGBC's Pilot Program Renews Debate Over Lumber Qualifications for Green Building Programs

### ECOBUILDINGPULSE.COM

This month, several groups' announcements and responses to those announcements involved whether the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is inching closer to letting any wood other than that certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) become eligible for points under the LEED rating system. Each group put their own spin on the announcement. [This article](#) provides a summary of their responses.

## A Closer Look at the LEED v3 Energy Update

### USGBC.ORG

Recently, USGBC members approved a ballot measure that updates the minimum energy efficiency requirements for LEED BD+C and ID+C v3 rating systems (including LEED 2008 Multifamily Mid-Rise). The change is effective for projects registering for LEED v3 certification (also called LEED 2009) using these rating systems on or after April 8, 2016. This update does not affect LEED 2009 O+M, ND or LEED 2008 Homes. Here's quick [summary](#) of what you need to know. Or check out [this article](#) from Building Design + Construction.

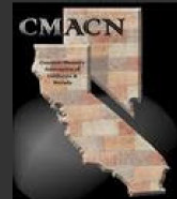
## Now is the Time to Revise Your Green Building Contracts

### GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

Today is the day to revise your contracts for sustainable projects. With the U.S. Green Building Council's recent announcement that all new projects registering for LEED 2009 will need to satisfy increased minimum energy

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## Platinum Level



Concrete Masonry  
Association of California &  
Nevada

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## Gold Level



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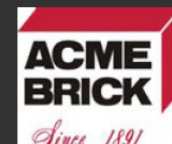


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## Silver Level



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performance thresholds, everyone involved with LEED projects should promptly review their contract documents. [Continue reading.](#)

## GREEN PROJECT SITES NEWS

USGBC is promoting the latest version of the sustainable sites rating system, SITES. We've included articles on SITES before, but if you're not familiar with it, the links below provide more information. Permeable masonry pavements and masonry products with recycled content can both be a part of SITES-recognized strategies. ~Tina

### Getting Started with the SITES v2 Rating System

#### USGBC.ORG

The Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) was created in response to an immediate need to shift our current development mindset to define and measure the performance of healthy ecological systems. SITES aims to weave development of healthy natural ecosystems with the landscape of daily human activity via the spaces and places we inhabit by providing a systematic, comprehensive set of guidelines to model development practices after healthy systems and processes. Learn more about SITES in [this article](#) or through USGBC's free [online courses](#).

### Is Your Project Eligible for SITES Certification?

#### USGBC.ORG

Your project team is interested in pursuing SITES v2-the most comprehensive program for sustainable landscape design-but how do you know if your project is eligible? With this handy list, you'll be able to determine if your project can achieve SITES certification. [Here](#) are a few things to keep in mind before your team registers a project.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Concrete Masonry Storm Shelters Offer Safety Solutions

#### NCMA FOUNDATION

With tornado season upon us, the strength of concrete masonry storm shelters can help keep people safe. Corey Schultz of Schultz Squared Architects developed two webinars, one for designers and one for concrete masonry producers, detailing the need and design considerations for storm shelters constructed with concrete masonry. Both webinars introduce two resources developed by Mr. Schultz, the Concrete Masonry Storm Shelters Design Guide and the Concrete Masonry Storm Shelter Case Study and Commentary. You can access the webinars [here](#).

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### Bronze Level



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