

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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### SPONSORED EDITION

#### From the Editor

The harmonization of the green building codes and standards continues with the latest edition of the [National Green Building Standard](#). This residential standard is now both an I-Code as well as an ASHRAE standard due to new partnerships in its development. This announcement builds on the Memorandum of Understanding between the International Code Council (ICC), ASHRAE and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for development of the next editions of the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) and ASHRAE Standard 189.1. Overall I think these efforts benefit the industry by reducing duplicative efforts in the code and standard development process and by minimizing conflicting requirements, making it easier for designers and owners striving for sustainable building designs and certifications.

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#### GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Consideration of the impact of buildings on the environment is only one aspect of sustainability. Two other important ones are durability of materials and economic impacts. The article below touches on both as it discusses some of the many benefits of concrete and masonry construction - its durability and non-combustible nature. ~Tina

#### **Study Finds Insurance Costs Lower for Concrete and Masonry Buildings**

##### **YAHOO FINANCE**

A new study of the property insurance costs for concrete, masonry and wood frame mid-rise residential buildings conducted by GLOBE Advisors and released by the Concrete Council of Canada reveals a substantial gap in the risks and insurance rates between the building systems. [Read more.](#)

#### **Case Study: Wakefield High School**

##### **CONCRETE MASONRY DESIGNS**

Wakefield High School in Arlington, VA, has earned a well-deserved reputation for academic achievement and vibrant music, theatrical and athletic programs. Bowie Gridley Architects have been using concrete masonry in their schools for many years. Concrete masonry was chosen to play several major roles in the new building at Wakefield. [Click here](#) to learn more.

#### **The Hidden Health Benefits of Green Buildings**

##### **ECO-BUSINESS.COM**

Yet another reason to invest in green buildings: they make occupants healthier, more productive, and improve their cognitive function. Green building advocates should focus not only on raising energy efficiency and reducing emissions in the built environment, but also improving the well-being of occupants, as this can unlock new economic and sustainability opportunities, said experts at the Green Cities conference in Sydney in [this article](#).

#### CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

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Concrete Masonry  
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## 2015 National Green Building Standard Approved, Available

### HOMEINNOVATION.COM

ANSI has approved the [2015 National Green Building Standard](#) (NGBS), and it's available as a free download from [BuilderBooks.com](#). Along with ICC and NAHB, ASHRAE co-sponsored the 2015 NGBS development. As a result, the NGBS is now both an I-Code as well as an ASHRAE Standard. The official citation is now National Green Building Standard ICC/ASHRAE 700. Read more about other news associated with the new standard [here](#).

## New LEED Addenda Available

### USGBC.ORG

The April 2016 quarterly LEED rating system and reference guide addenda are now available. To view the changes, [visit the addenda database](#) and search by 4/5/2016. Read more about the addenda at <http://www.usgbc.org/articles/leed-addenda-update-april-2016>.

## PRODUCT NEWS

Studies on cement and new concrete mixes continue. Both are an essential element of concrete masonry. The links below provide some of the latest research. ~Tina

## Research Shows Benefits of Carbonated Cement

### PHYSORG.COM

Instead of using water to react with cement, a new production process employs carbonation to give concrete its strength. Creating a reaction between the cement and carbon dioxide and calcium silicate could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce water consumption in construction. A recently published study of the technique shows the new product resists breakdown from salts better than traditional cement. [Read more](#).

## Locally Sourced Materials Could Help Reduce Emissions from Cement

### NEWS.MIT.EDU

Civil engineering professor Oral Buyukozturk at MIT wants to reduce the impact of building and design on the environment. He suggests that more locally sourced materials like volcanic ash could be used in concrete mixes, and he is developing a computer model "of cement paste for connecting nano- and microscale composition and structure with macroscale engineering properties." A solution will take multiple disciplines, he said in [this article](#).

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## Call for Papers for Masonry 2018 Symposium: Innovations in Collaborative Research, Development and Applications

### ASTM.ORG

The objective of Masonry 2018 Symposium is to gather and disseminate the latest information on all aspects of the innovations in masonry materials, design, specification, construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation. It will emphasize the application of ASTM standards to those areas, and their coordination with building codes, project specifications, and international standards. The symposium will be held June 26, 2018 in San Diego, CA. For more information, please visit <http://www.astm.org/C07CFP062018>.

## 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

Nevada  
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## Gold Level



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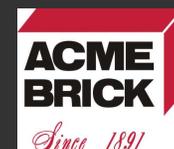


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## Silver Level



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Design Guide and the Concrete Masonry Storm Shelter Case Study and Commentary. You can access the webinars [here](#).

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