

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

September means back to school for many people, and it's a good time to think about your education! Keeping up to date is vitally important, and The Masonry Society, whose mission is "To Advance the Knowledge of Masonry", is your partner in education. The upcoming Annual Meeting offers a full day of educational topics as well as special seminars before the meetings to help you continue your lifelong learning. Check out the links below for more information.

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EDUCATION

TMS offers numerous opportunities for you to expand your knowledge about masonry, from Society meetings to seminars throughout the country. For more information on some upcoming events, check out the links below.~Tina

Registration Now Open for the TMS Annual Meeting

The Masonry Society will hold its Annual Meeting in beautiful San Antonio at the Menger Hotel, Nov. 10-15. An informative and interesting program has been being planned for your professional development and enjoyment. There will be numerous opportunities to learn about historic masonry, sustainability, new masonry and masonry systems of the future. Plan to attend these significant meetings today. Learn more at the [TMS Annual Meeting](#) webpage.

TMS Masonry and Sustainable Design Seminar Featured

Visitors at Phoenix Brickyard's Open House on October 6th will have the opportunity to attend TMS's seminar "The Role of Masonry in Sustainable Design and LEED". Attendees will also have a chance to tour the facility. To learn more, contact [Phoenix Brickyard](#). If you'd like to sponsor a seminar on sustainable design or one of several other masonry topics, contact [TMS](#).

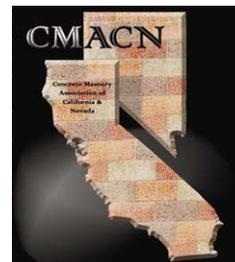
PRODUCT NEWS

Once again cement and concrete are in the news. Check out the links below for the latest, including a good

Sponsors of TMS's Sustainability E-Newsletter

Click on the links below to find out more about each of these organizations who have graciously sponsored this E-Newsletter

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article from MIT that highlights the need to look at the entire life cycle of buildings and products.~Tina

NCMA Recommending ASTM C90 Changes

NCMA's committees continue to review and update the provisions for loadbearing concrete masonry units contained within ASTM C90 to meet evolving market needs, including green building demands.

Revisions currently being pursued include:

- ... a change to reduce the minimum volume of webs required to connect the face shells of a unit. This proposed change has progressed through ASTM subcommittee balloting and review and is slated to be included on the next main committee ballot in September. This change, if approved, would allow webs to be substantially reduced – to approximately 25 percent of that required currently. The potential for material savings, increased construction productivity and higher energy efficiency is considerable.
- ... an increase in the minimum required compressive strength for loadbearing concrete masonry units from 1,900 psi to 2,000 psi. This small increase in minimum compressive strength has the potential for significant returns in design economy when coupled with proposed changes to design codes to remove the inherent conservatism built into the unit strength method of verifying specified compressive strength.

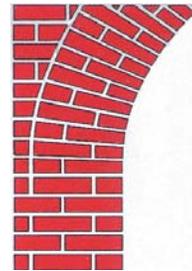
For more information, please contact NCMA Vice President of Engineering, [Jason Thompson](#) or check out NCMA's September 8th [e-news Brief](#).

PCA Publishes Report on Sustainable Cement Manufacturing

For more than a decade, cement manufacturers have been guided by seven principles that call on companies to meet market demands while using environmental responsible practices that minimize emissions, waste, energy consumption and the use of raw materials. Taken together, these principles help manufacturers to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of cement manufacturing and to find a balance between short-term priorities and long-term needs. For more information on cement's role in sustainability, see [PCA's Report on Sustainable Manufacturing](#).

MIT Study: Look at the Life Cycle Before Dismissing Concrete

Cement's carbon intensity can often lead to harsh judgments of concrete as a building material, but research from MIT's Concrete Sustainability Hub



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says that looking at every phase of the life cycle is necessary to a fair judgment. "Conventional environmental assessments often overlook one or more of these phases, leading to incomplete results and inadequate conclusions," the study said. For example, over the total life cycle, global warming potential for concrete is the same as, or lower than, designs in steel or wood, according to this [GreenBiz.com](#) article.

Low Carbon Cement

[Blue Crete](#) is a low-carbon footprint alternative to Portland concrete that uses a unique geo-polymer binding agent. According to their [website](#), it looks like, acts like, and works like Portland cement, but no heat is required in its manufacturing process, so it has much lower embodied energy. It is also produced from 90% post-industrial content.

British Company Creates Carbon-Absorbing Cement

A British company may have solved the problem of carbon dioxide production that occurs during the concrete-making process, according to this [TriplePundit.com](#) article. To create its eponymous new product, Novacem replaced the calcium carbonates used in traditional cement with magnesium silicates and used a low-temperature biomass production method.

MASONRY NEWS

Though the Washington National Cathedral wasn't designed as a "green" building, it was built to last longer than our lifetimes. Read more on the efforts to repair this stunning masonry landmark below.~Tina

Repairing National Cathedral Will Be "A Multi-Year Project"

It took 83 years and millions of dollars to build Washington's National Cathedral. Now, after the earthquake, there are cracks in the floors and flying buttresses and broken stone is scattered on its roof.

Repairing damages "will be a multi-year project and [cost] millions of dollars," says spokesman Richard Weinberg in this [Sun-Sentinel \(Fort Lauderdale, Fla.\)](#) article. To keep up with progress and news, visit <http://www.dcquake.nationalcathedral.org/>.

Corps Choose Masonry Heater as Sustainable Heat Source for Alaska Office

A masonry heater, an unconventional heat source with a long tradition of clean wood-burning in Europe, has been nominated as the 2011



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Innovation of the Year for its use in the Army Corps of Engineers Chena River Flood Control Project office facility in North Pole, Alaska. Read more about this sustainable use of masonry in [commercial application](#). To learn more about masonry heaters in residential uses, check out [this story](#).

LEED

10,000th Commercial Building LEED Certified

The U.S. Green Building Council has certified the 10,000th commercial building that met the organization's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating standards.

"Milestones like this -- 10,000 buildings or the soon-to-be 2 billion square feet of certified floor area or the imminent cumulative 10 billion square feet of projects registered and certified -- show the incredible impact that LEED has had on the building market," said Rob Watson, the man considered "the founding father of LEED," in this [GreenBiz.com](#) article.

LEED 2012 to Focus on Energy Efficiency

The updated LEED standards from the U.S. Green Building Council are aimed at helping certified buildings remain energy efficient by requiring owners to renew their certificate every five years and to disclose the energy performance of their buildings through a software program. "Our goal is to show that real leaders share data," said Scot Horst, the U.S. Green Building Council's senior vice president for LEED in this [FastCompany.com](#) article.

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