

The Masonry Society

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From the Editor

Have you made any resolutions for the new year? Now is a good time to consider the year ahead and set goals for yourself and your business. We hope that Sustainability E-News helps you to keep goals of staying informed in the area of sustainable design and masonry. Are we providing you with what you need? Take a moment to [let us know how we're doing](#), and what we can do to help you keep on top of this wave we call sustainable design.

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GREEN BUILDING EDUCATION

Ever wonder what exactly Green Globes is and how it differs from LEED? Learn more at the free webinar series featured below. It's just one of the many avenues to learn more about sustainability and green building. ~Tina

Learn More At Green Globes Certification Free Webinars

The Green Building Initiative (GBI) invites you to join their free webinar series on Green Globes Certification. Learn more at <http://thegbi.org/live-webseminars/>.

Want to Learn More About LCA?

You may have heard about companies using life cycle approaches and tools to quantify sustainability, or differentiate their products. Perhaps you've seen buzz words like "environmental product declarations" or "product footprints". What do these mean, and why should you care? Join Five Winds International at "The ABC's of LCA", a session at Greenbiz.com's upcoming State of Green Business Forum 2011 in San Francisco (Feb 2/3), Chicago (Feb 9/10), and Washington DC (Feb 16/17). Experts will share tips, trends, and intel on strategies. Learn [more](#).

BUILDING NEWS

The first link below isn't about green building per se, but it is about masonry. And making buildings more durable IS making them more sustainable. ~Tina

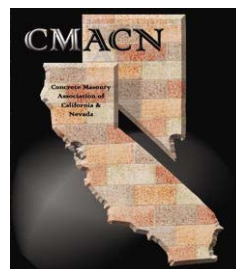
Haiti Works to Improve Construction Standards

Engineers in Haiti are learning about confined masonry to build stronger and more durable structures along

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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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with other simple building techniques to better withstand earthquakes. More durable construction is essential "because it is very, very clear that within the life of a lot of the building stock they are going to build back, it will experience a seismic shaking comparable to what we saw in the city last year," said researcher Simon Day, a tsunami and landslide expert, in this [National Public Radio](#) report.

IES Sponsors 2nd Annual BrickStainable Competition

The BrickStainable Competition's goal is to pursue sustainable building design solutions that exploit the unique properties of brick masonry construction as well as seek new ideas in the development of this age-old material. Read more about this competition conceived by Potomac Valley Brick, a distributor in Rockville, MD, by clicking [here](#).

Using Bioclimatic Design to Build a Passive, Sustainable Dwelling

Bioclimatic design help conserve resources while facilitating the use of the local climate around a dwelling to construct a green home or building that is passively sustainable. Some of the concepts of Bioclimatic Designs include using solid walls instead of glass. Read [more](#).

Developers Pair BIM and LEED for Successful Green Building

Two top building trends are pairing up, as building information modeling technology is making green building easier by letting developers make better decisions for energy efficiency early in the design process. LEED requirements -- including water efficiency, material reuse and indoor environmental quality -- are inextricably tied to the database of information that BIM provides. Read more in this [GreenBuildingPro.com](#) article.

GREEN BUILDING CONTROVERSY

Green building and sustainable design are not easy to define or agree on as links below remind us. ~Tina

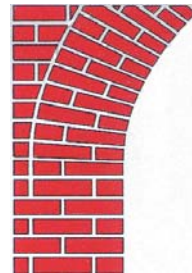
Should Green Buildings use Recycled Coal Ash?

One group hopes to take building materials that contain recycled coal ash (fly ash) off the table for certification and out of the walls, cement, carpeting, flooring, roofing, pipes, paint, and kitchen counter, basically everything. Read [MORE](#).

Builders Take Green Codes to Courts



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Green building codes are facing challenges in the courts as some builders and building component manufacturers push back on such programs. One of the first such challenges occurred in New Mexico, where a consortium of HVAC product manufacturers challenged the Albuquerque Energy Conservation Code. A judge ruled that a "prescriptive compliance path" that mandated use of HVAC equipment of particular energy-efficiency standards was more stringent than federal law and so struck down that part of the code. Attorney Chris Cheatham, LEED AP, expects the industry will see an increase in code litigation this year. Read more in this [GreenBiz.com/Greener Buildings blog](http://GreenBiz.com/Greener_Buildings_blog).

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