

The Masonry Society

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

As we approach the final quarter of the calendar year, it is time to start thinking of the new year. *Sustainability E-News* is looking for sponsors for 2012. Can we count on you? If you are a regular reader, I urge you to consider a donation or sponsorship to ensure continued publication for the coming year. This resource is only possible through the generous efforts of our sponsors (THANK YOU!). I urge you to [contact The Masonry Society](#) office to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

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PRODUCT NEWS

It seems like every month there is a new "masonry" product under development. Read the latest below.
~Tina

Drexel to Investigate Plant-Based Block

An alternative to standard concrete block made with industrial waste and plant fibers gets a nudge forward with Drexel University looking to study the product. MaqCrete's formula, which received a 20-year patent in 2002, consists of post-industrial waste and/or bio-based plant fibers mixed with Portland cement but uses about 25 percent less cement than a conventional masonry unit. MaqCrete is 30 percent lighter than masonry block, with an R-23 insulation value. And it's fibrous, so screws have something to grip onto. [Read more.](#)

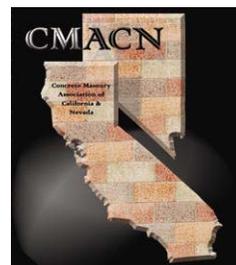
Blocks and Bricks From Recycled Ash

Carbon-negative blocks and bricks have been developed by U.K.-based Encos, and they slash greenhouse-gas emissions by an estimated 160% for blocks and 120% for bricks according to a press release. Made from "incinerated sewage sludge ash" bound together by oil derived from plants that have absorbed carbon dioxide, the oil undergoes a process that converts it into a binder that does not require water. Encos is producing the odorless blocks and bricks, which have passed U.K. industry strength, heat and cooling standards. Read more at [SmartPlanet.com](#) or at [ConstructionEnquirer.com \(U.K.\)](#).

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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Researchers Look at Recycled Lime Sludge for New "Green" Cement Mix

Lime sludge from the Yuma Desalting Plant in Arizona is at the heart of a research project aimed at creating lighter and stronger cement. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Yuma Area Office and Envirock have entered an agreement to develop new formulations. They'll be looking at "a type of cement that can contain up to 95 percent of a wide variety of industrial and post-consumer waste streams, including lime sludges, sewage sludges, brines, mercury wastes, Class C and F fly ash, and wood wastes," according to this [The Yuma Daily Sun \(Ariz.\)](#) article.

Could Magnesium Be the New Secret Ingredient in Cement?

There is a race on to develop greener, stronger cement. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology says it has done so, but hasn't released the recipe it used. However, U.K.-based Novacem, U.S.-based Sriya Green Materials and Australia-based TecEco are said to be considering adding compounds that contain magnesium to the cement mix. "Novacem and Sriya may be closer to the market, but the MIT group has significant support from the cement and concrete industries," writes Korky Koroluk in this [article](#).

Concrete JSI Trends Report

The most recent editions of the Concrete JSI Industry Trends Report includes information on House considers delaying EPA cement rules, congress close to extending highway funding program, costs of fly ash regulation on road construction, EPA delays storm water rules, MIT weighs the lifecycle impacts of concrete, and more green building news. You can obtain the current Reports plus past archives under "Green Resources" at <http://www.concretejsi.com>, or [here](#).

FOR MANUFACTURERS

The links below provide insight for manufacturers trying to navigate the "greening" of their products. ~Tina

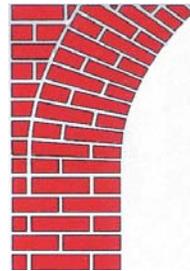
Examining Your Impact

This [article](#) from Green Source magazine July-August 2011 edition shares how "green" manufacturers examined their environmental impacts.

Look at Your Products' Whole Life Cycle for



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Real Savings

Focusing on your suppliers' practices or your product packaging is good, but looking at the full business life cycle is the key to really going green, writes Melissa Vernon. That means thinking about your product's manufacture all the way to its disposal and being clear about the energy and water requirements over its useful life. "Understanding the impacts of the whole life of a product is the key to getting the complete picture," Vernon writes in this [article](#).

Building Products Label Aims to Provide Transparency

Do you know how your building materials are made? Do you know their effect on the environment? It might be easier to learn if Construction Specialties and Perkins and Will get their way. They've designed a "nutritional" label that "pull[s] together all the content information available on a product and summarize[s] its environmental impacts," according to this [GreenBiz.com](#) article.

Companies use "Treasure Hunts" to Find Eco-Savings

Some firms are sending their employees on "treasure hunts" in which workers tour company facilities in search of areas for energy and efficiency savings. Originally developed by Toyota, the tactic has helped General Electric find more than \$150 million in energy savings over the past decade, and a company division helps its customers organize their own treasure hunts. [Read more](#).

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 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.



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