

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Carbon Accounting

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SPONSORED EDITION

From The Editor

There's been a lot of activity within the masonry industry recently related to environmental product declarations (EPD). Previous editions of this newsletter have reported on the product category rule (PCR) update going on for concrete masonry products. And now U.S. and Canada brick manufacturers have published an [industry average EPD for clay brick](#). This is a big step forward for North American producers, and provides users with life cycle assessment data for a wide variety of brick products.

What about you? Is product transparency a focus your product selection decisions? Do you want more information on what goes into building products (i.e. Health Product Declarations) or information on environmental impacts, or is performance and durability more important to you? I'd love to hear your thoughts.

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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.

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

I've noted previously that some in the LCA world are beginning to take a closer look at carbon sequestration claims and wood products. The two articles below identify some recent efforts in this regard. ~Tina

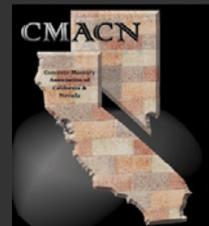
Mass Timber: Carbon accounting gaps, capitalism and catastrophe

NCMA

A [recent article](#) published by the Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association (CCMPA) argues that 'The World is on Fire' due to climate change. And in fact, drivers pushing mass timber construction have accelerated the problem. Through gaps in carbon accounting, support at the federal, state, and provincial levels, and a misleading narrative by the timber industry, many do not know the full extent of the impacts of deforestation on the environment. The article identifies recent studies, including one by the International Institute

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for Sustainable Development (IISD) found that there were significant gaps in carbon accounting for the timber industry, concluding that that "life-cycle assessment (LCA) is the right approach to measure carbon emissions, but more data, transparency and robust LCA standards are needed, especially with respect to accounting for biogenic carbon from wood products".

FSC embarks on forest carbon research

FSC.ORG

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is beginning a research project to quantify the additional benefits of FSC-certified forest management relative to business-as-usual forestry (at the regulatory floor) on forest carbon in priority landscapes of Canada and the United States, including the boreal, US Southeast and the Northwest. [Learn more.](#)

Architects urge shift to building for climate resilience

THE WASHINGTON POST (tiered subscription model)

Architects Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk are focusing on designing climate-resilient communities with architecture that includes fortification against extreme flooding caused by climate change. They say that a focus on adaptability will do more good than current green building strategies that only focus on climate mitigation. Read more [here.](#)

Concrete masonry saves more in latest regional cost study

SCMAONLINE.ORG

In the latest regional study dated August 2020 for the Charlotte, NC market, the load bearing masonry wall system with precast concrete plank floor system was 2% lower than conventional wood framing system and the light gage steel framing system. The relative cost of the most expensive framing system, the precast concrete wall and precast floor system, was 18.5% higher than the load bearing masonry wall system with precast concrete plank floor system. [Check out the full report](#) as well as those for other cities in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern regions of the U.S.

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

I don't often include links to past webinars, but the one recently hosted by ASTM International on buildings, communities, and resilience was well done and addressed many of the challenges and opportunities associated with building a resilient community. ~Tina

Recording: Buildings, Communities and Resilience

ASTM INTERNATIONAL

This [webinar recording](#) explores resilience from both the community and component aspects, and answers some questions about how codes and standards are helping to mitigate the risks associated with extreme weather events.

NGBS and energy performance

NAHB

With so many green rating systems available, understanding how each one compares to others is imperative for making a choice that works best for your project, climate zone and market. The recent release of the 2020 National Green Building Standard™ (NGBS) provides a great opportunity to conduct a side-by-side comparison, starting with energy performance — an easy element to measure. In exploring different certification levels under the NGBS, one approach is to compare how homes built to each level match up with different

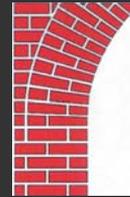
Concrete Masonry
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of
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Portland
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Silver Level



Southeast Concrete Masonry
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versions of the International Energy Conservation Code® (IECC®) adopted around the country. [Read more.](#)

Baltimore City Council to adopt the 2018 International Green Construction Code

GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

The city of Baltimore plans to adopt the 2018 International Green Construction Code (IgCC). In the realm of green building this is a big deal. In the more than 4,400 code adopting jurisdictions across the country only the town of Gaithersburg, Maryland has adopted the 2018 IgCC. Read more [here.](#)

New Green Building Tax Credit is a Progressive Effort

GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

Montgomery County Council unanimously approved legislation “to accelerate the construction of highly energy efficient buildings and green retrofitting of existing buildings.” Bill 10-20 dramatically upgrades the Maryland county’s existing green building real property tax credit, prioritizing energy reduction in the name of GHG emission reduction, in new and existing commercial and multifamily buildings and ensuring incentives are now given only for buildings that surpass requirements of the County’s building code. [Read more.](#)

GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

After several years of work, the Brick Industry Association has published an industry average EPD for clay brick. This is great news for the masonry industry! Check out the link below. ~Tina

Industrywide EPD for brick published

GOBRICK.COM

The U.S./Canada Industrywide Clay Brick Environmental Product Declaration (Industrywide EPD) has been completed, certified, and published and is available for download [here.](#) The Industrywide EPD is based on 2018 production data submitted by 13 brick manufacturers in the U.S. and Canada from plants in 14 states and provinces. The plants that submitted data used either the soft-mud or stiff-mud forming process to manufacture brick in either a tunnel or periodic kiln. The data set used for the Industrywide EPD includes data associated with the manufacture of nearly every currently active ASTM brick specification.

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

It's not too late to participate in the new Masonry Night School *Masonry 101* course! With 4 weeks remaining, there is a lot of good info still to be covered. Check out the link below. ~Tina

Register now for new Masonry Night School

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

TMS kicks off a new educational offering, **Masonry Night School**, with a 6 session *Masonry 101* course. This evening live webinar program will provide a comprehensive introduction to masonry materials and concepts for those who need a fast-track course, especially new designers and specifiers. Attendees can choose to attend 1 or more sessions, with discounts for registering for the entire course. [Click here](#) for more information and descriptions of each webinar.

ACI Concrete Conference on Sustainability & Durability

ASTM INTERNATIONAL

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The [ACI Concrete Conference on Sustainability & Durability](#) will take place November 16-17, 2020. Focused on issues of interest to concrete professionals from the Middle East and beyond, this free two-day virtual conference will bring together renowned experts that are currently working on research and practical applications to improve concrete sustainability and durability.

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