

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Better Design

November 30, 2020

Volume 12, Number 22

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From The Editor

AIA has come a long way since issuing their [2030 Challenge](#). Notably they've developed a variety of resources for designers and others on sustainability and resilience topics under the heading [Blueprint for Better](#). Topics include design for adaptability and reuse, building performance, project benchmarking, and more. It's a website worth exploring along with other online resources published by AIA.

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GREEN BUILDING NEWS

There are many tools out there to provide life cycle assessment (LCA) and Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) information. Deciding on which to use is difficult. The second article below notes work to harmonize and benchmark in the area of whole building LCAs. ~Tina

AIA Framework for Design Excellence

AIA

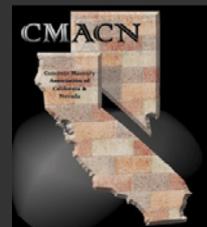
The [AIA Framework for Design Excellence](#) defines ten important measures that architects, clients, and civic leaders can use to set meaningful project goals and targets for climate action, including designing for equity, energy, change, and more. This resource and others on a variety of topics can be found [here](#).

Whole-building LCA Guidelines and Benchmarking Initiative

ATHENA SMI

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Concrete Masonry
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Nevada ***

The Athena Institute is working to harmonize the practice of whole-building life cycle assessment (WB-LCA) and develop robust WB-LCA benchmarks. This work fills two big gaps in the technical infrastructure that supports WB-LCA. The guidelines will improve quality, consistency and comparability of WB-LCA results, which in turn enables benchmarking. The benchmarking system will provide a statistically valid basis for comparisons, which in turn supports LCA-based policy like embodied carbon regulations. For more information, see a detailed description of the initiative [here](#).

What is the Difference Between LCA, LCI, LCIA and LCC?

BUILDING ENCLOSURE ONLINE

As the building design and construction industry adopts a more holistic and comprehensive approach to assessing materials and resources for environmental impact, interest in life-cycle assessments (LCA) has risen and the market has become saturated with transparency documentation such as environmental product declarations (EPDs). However, even a cursory review of an LCA study may yield a dizzying array of seemingly similar acronyms. Perhaps you have observed LCA, LCI, LCIA and LCC and wondered what the difference is among them. [This primer](#) is a pared down summary of what each of these related acronyms refer to.

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

I've often discussed in this newsletter how sustainability is more than just consideration of the environment, but also includes economic and social impacts. The link below showcases the USGBC's commitment to the social equity part of the sustainability equation. ~Tina

USGBC All In: Building Equity Together

USGBC

[USGBC All In](#) will serve as the roadmap for how USGBC will lead on equity and includes a series of commitments and actions that the organization will make to ensure we work with our stakeholders to address social, health and economic disparities, while we continue to listen, learn and evolve as an organization.

GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

I've been reading a lot lately about the efforts of the cement industry to reduce their carbon footprint. There are a myriad of ways it's being done, and the article below highlights some recent coordination efforts. ~Tina

PCA to establish carbon neutrality roadmap

CONCRETE PRODUCTS

The Portland Cement Association is facilitating the development of a [carbon neutrality road map](#) to help producers achieve carbon neutrality across the concrete value chain in the next 30 years. The goal is to produce the document by the end of next year.

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

2022 Masonry Symposium: Advancing Masonry Technology

ASTM INTERNATIONAL

Papers are invited for the 2022 Masonry Symposium to be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. The Symposium is co-sponsored by ASTM Committees C01 on Cement, C07 on Lime, C12 on Mortars and Grouts for Unit Masonry (Lead Committee), and C15 on



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Gold Level



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Spec Mix **

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ACME Brick ***



Manufactured Masonry Units. The Symposium will be held at the Hyatt Regency Seattle, Seattle, WA, USA in conjunction with the standards development meetings of Committees C01, C07, C12 and C15. To participate in the symposium, authors must submit a 200 to 300-word preliminary abstract using the online [Abstract Submittal Form](#) no later than **December 20, 2020**.

Registration coming soon for next Masonry Night School: *Strength Design of Masonry*

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

Mark your calendars for the next in our Masonry Night School series: [Strength Design of Masonry](#). Richard M. Bennett and John M. Hochwalt, authors of TMS's newest and best-selling [new guide Strength Design of Masonry](#), will present a six-session Strength Design of Masonry Night School **beginning February 3, 2021**. This course covers topics such as the design of beams and walls (for in-plane and out-of-plane loads), seismic detailing, and design of connectors. It will provide in-depth instruction for anyone interested in designing more efficient masonry structures using strength design of masonry.

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