

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Green Code News

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From The Editor

I think we are all probably breathing a sigh of relief as 2020 comes to a close. It certainly has been an unusual year with challenges of all sorts. The pandemic has increased the popular understanding of resilience, as we can all consider how our businesses, communities, and our country have responded to and recover from these events. As we look to the future, we in the masonry industry are tasked with helping others understand how masonry products possess many inherent qualities that can help provide resilient building designs and be part of more resilient communities.

Here's to a happier and healthier New Year!

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GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Study after study confirms that preventative measures to achieve resiliency save money in the long run. The study below is the latest.
~Tina

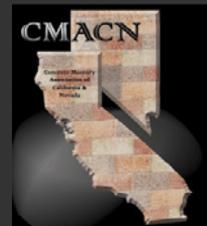
FEMA study shows building codes save

NCMA

A landmark study released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) shows that modern building codes lead to major reduction in property losses from natural disasters. The report, titled "[Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study](#)," calculates losses from three types of natural hazard (earthquakes, flooding, and hurricane winds) for each state and Washington, D.C. FEMA's modeling of the 18.1M buildings constructed in the United States since 2000 has

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found that the nation has benefited to the tune of \$1.6 billion in savings each year. These savings represent the cumulative losses avoided from property damage associated with using the International Codes or similar building codes during floods, hurricane, and earthquakes. FEMA projects that, by the year 2040, the nation will save around \$3.2 billion in savings per year. This adds up to almost \$133 billion in total losses avoided from 2000 to 2040.

Four goals to reshape buildings of the future

BUILDINGS MAGAZINE ONLINE

Climate change and lessons from the coronavirus pandemic will figure into and reshape construction of smart buildings, says Chris Collins, vice president of systems transformation for digital energy at Schneider Electric. Collins lays out essentials for future building under the headings of sustainable, resilient, hyper-efficient and people-centric in [this article](#).

Could solar energy help cut high-rise emissions?

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Huge areas of glass make skyscrapers look impressive, but mean they consume much more energy than other buildings and are responsible for high levels of carbon emissions. Incorporating novel organic solar cells in their design could help. One study shows that electricity used per square meter of floor area is nearly two and a half times greater in high-rise office buildings than in low ones. The same research shows that the gas consumed for the heating in skyscrapers is 40 percent higher than normal buildings and total carbon emissions are twice as high. [Read more](#).

2020 Energy Scorecard for cities

This year's American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) [2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard](#) rates an expanded list of 100 U.S. cities on their efforts to improve municipal energy efficiency performance, meet climate goals and advance renewable energy. The city scorecards, first published in 2016, are a complement to ACEEE's [State Energy Efficiency Scorecards](#) and rank cities based on 5 policy areas: local government operations, community-wide initiatives, buildings, energy and water utilities, and transportation.

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

While 250,000 green homes certified in the last decade is a significant milestone, it is a drop in the bucket compared with the over 7 million housing starts during the same period. ~Tina

NGBS Green program celebrates quarter-million milestone

BUILDERONLINE.COM

The National Green Building Standard (NGBS) Green program reached a key milestone in October with the certification of their 250,000th home since 2009. That home is one of 209 units at Alliance Residential's Broadstone Junction multifamily community in Norcross, Georgia. The community is an adaptive reuse of loft and flat-style apartments on 12 acres that previously had been a suburban office park. For the two renovated office buildings in the community that have been converted into residential units, energy use has been reduced by almost 30% and water use has been reduced by nearly 50%. Read more [here](#).

Updates to storm shelter and high-wind residential design standards published

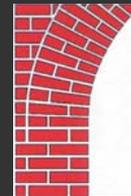
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New versions of both ICC 500, [Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters](#), and ICC 600, [Standard for Residential Construction in High-Wind Regions](#), were recently published by the International Code Council. Both standards are referenced in the I-codes (including the International Building Code). The updated ICC 600 includes a completely updated chapter on masonry design that accounts for changes that are reflected in recent building codes. NCMA staff were active in efforts to update these documents.

Discussion: The future of masonry construction

EULA

European Lime industry Association (EuLA) Science-Industry Roundtable on New Eurocode 6 is hosting a series of online conferences. A [recording of the preliminary session](#) includes discussion of the state of the global construction industry with a focus on masonry, the future of the industry, and masonry codes throughout the world. The first 24 minutes are of particular interest which give insights on trends and the future of construction.

ODDS and ENDS

Some interesting reads... hope you enjoy them. ~Tina

Slideshow: China's Imperial Kiln ruins inspire museum design

CIVIL ENGINEERING SOURCE

A new museum built using ancient design principles and a mixture of old and new brick highlights the Imperial Kiln ruins in Jingdezhen, China. It includes just less than a dozen brick vaults — some interconnected — that have been shaped in the traditional form of a kiln and nestled together in rows. Each of these new vaults is formed with slightly different curvature, length, and size. [Read more.](#)

Consuming responsibly series summary

DOVETAIL INC.

The 'Consuming Responsibly' series provides readers with information to stimulate thinking about evaluation of consumption choices, provides a basis and rationale for limiting adverse environmental and social impacts of purchases, and offers ideas as to how to satisfy needs while consuming less. This series seeks to influence consumption trends that ultimately result in lower environmental impacts of household consumption, including waste generation, and in more socially beneficial outcomes. [Learn more.](#)

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Register Now: *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.

To Subscribe, click [here](#).

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