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From the Editor

As we all know, the market for new construction has been suffering for some time. Many building owners are looking at renovating existing buildings instead of building new. It comes as no surprise then that for the first time, the total square footage of LEED-certified existing buildings has exceeded the square footage of LEED-certified new construction, as noted in the article below. The most sustainable buildings are those that can be economically renovated and reused, but designing new buildings for durability and future renovation is an area that is still lacking recognition in LEED. However it is an area in which masonry excels. Masonry buildings provide robust, durable construction that makes them great candidates for future renovations.

On a different note, I would like to thank those of you that have pledged your support of Sustainability E-News for 2012 by being a Sponsor. This newsletter is funded entirely through the support of our sponsors and TMS members. However, our newsletter is far from fully-funded for 2012, so I encourage to you to [contact the TMS office](#) for more information on becoming a leader in Sponsoring Sustainability E-News in 2012.

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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.*

USGBC NEWS

USGBC continues to increase their offering of online resources by launching a website for third-party applications intended to make LEED project compliance easier using the LEED Online project management tool as well as a new online Project Profile Library. Read more about both in the links below. ~Tina

USGBC Launches App Lab Tool for LEED Projects

The U.S. Green Building Council launched its online App Lab, a platform of third-party applications that are integrated with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design data. The application is designed to provide project teams and administrators integration with the LEED Online project management system and address the certification process, according to this [TriplePundit.com article](#).

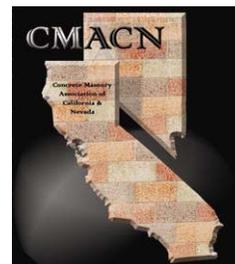
New Online LEED Project Profile Library

USGBC is improving and expanding its new online

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LEED project profile library beta. This library features stories told by diverse project stakeholders about lessons learned, challenges, successes, best practices, strategies, ROI, and more. These real-life project examples stand alone as educational resources and can be integrated into other USGBC programs, thereby advancing green building adoption and innovation. Check it out for yourself at <http://demo.usgbc.name/projects>.

Retrofits Create More LEED-certified Existing Buildings

The cumulative total of LEED-certified square footage for existing buildings currently exceeds that of new LEED construction for the first time, according to the U.S. Green Building Council. Read more in this [GreenBuildingPro.com article](#).

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

If you haven't visited it before LEEDUser is a website with lots of helpful information about LEED and more. Their latest offering includes an introduction to CALGreen, the California state green building code. I encourage you to check out their website and the link below. ~Tina

LEEDUser Offers Intro to CalGreen and LEED

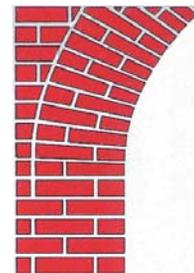
Many of the measures in CALGreen will look quite familiar to anyone accustomed to working with the LEED for New Construction rating system. For that reason, LEEDUser has developed this forum to provide practitioners in California with access to our "all-star" team of LEED experts. [Read more](#). Especially useful is the [Resources page](#).

Top 10 Trends for the Green Building Industry

The green-building industry will see continued growth in 2012 despite economic challenges in most developed countries, writes Jerry Yudelson in this [article](#). "What we're seeing is that more people are building green each year, and there is nothing on the horizon that will stop this megatrend or its constituent elements," Yudelson notes. He cites 10 things to look for during the coming year.

5 Tips to Help Protect Green Building Projects From Lawsuits

Two lawsuits in the U.S. have garnered attention and raise the question: Who is liable for failure to obtain LEED certification? In this [article](#), Danielle Stone, an associate at Blaney McMurtry in Toronto, offers five tips to address the question.



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How Green Practices Give Businesses a Competitive Advantage

When CBRE decided to "green" its worldwide operations in 2008, the benefits were clear: reduced utility costs and water usage, happier employees, a major boost to company reputation. It experienced an added bonus just three years later when it was named by Newsweek as the 128th greenest U.S. company — the only real estate services firm to make the top 500. [Read more.](#)

\$4B to Become Available for Green Building Investments

The White House recently announced that four billion dollars, equally funded by federal agencies and the private sector, will be available for green building investment over the next two years.

Contracts will be given to projects that can show the highest return on investment. To learn more, [click here.](#)

EDUCATION

Sustainability and LEED is Education Focus of ICON EXPO and NCMA CPU

The Precast Show taking place in Orlando, Fla., March 1-3, 2012 will include ICON EXPO and NCMA CPU education programs. Sustainability is the focus of several of the education programs, including a session on the Introduction to Green Building and the International Green Building Code.

For a tentative schedule, please [click here.](#)

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