

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

The focus of this newsletter as you all know is masonry construction – but I think it is important to occasionally let you know what other sectors in the construction market are up to with respect to sustainable design and green building. With that in mind, I have included a few links to new “green” programs for use in road and infrastructure construction.

Thank you to our newest sponsors! With your support *Sustainability E-News* is now about 75% funded for 2011. Sponsorship is available at all levels, so please consider supporting this valuable resource.

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GOVERNMENT NEWS

The federal government is one of the largest building owners in the U.S. Changes they make in the construction and operation of their buildings can have a significant effect on all of construction. Read more below about recent government initiatives. ~Tina

GSA Updates Construction Standards to Promote Energy Efficiency

The General Services Administration has updated six-year-old construction standards to require reductions in energy and water use for all future buildings. The standards call for a 30 percent reduction in energy use over a 2003 baseline and 20 percent reduction in water use, and mandate that building projects recycle at least half of all construction waste, and utilize at least 10% of recycled materials in their construction. Read more at FederalTimes.com.

New Push for Making Buildings Energy Efficient

President Barack Obama unveiled tax breaks and other proposals aimed at getting commercial-building owners to retrofit their structures to be more energy efficient, according to this [Wall Street Journal article](#).

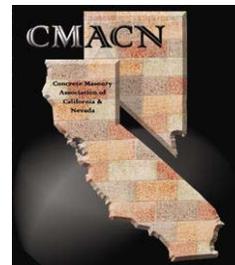
CODES and RELATED NEWS

As I’ve often said before, involvement in development of

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green codes, standards, etc. is extremely important. The ICC recently announced a reorganization and call for committee members, not only in the area of green building, but building codes in general. While the efficacy of participating in these new committees is unknown, it is certainly worth further investigation. ~Tina

ICC Committee Members Needed

The International Code Council (ICC) has announced a restructuring of their councils and committees and a corresponding need for committee members. For more information on the "Re-engineered Code Councils" and expanded "Code Action Committees" (CAC) visit the [ICC Committee and Councils page](#). The application deadline for most of the committee and councils is March 7th.

Beyond LEED: Sustainable Energy Assoc. Highlights 'New Standards' at Conference

We don't believe NESEA's role is to advocate for one energy standard, but we do think our members attend with information to share - and a willingness to learn - about what the next 'big ideas' in sustainability are. Everyone knows about LEED - but what else is out there? Learn [MORE](#).

USGBC Announces New Board Directors

USGBC has announced their new Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for articulating and upholding the vision, values, mission of organization. Click [here](#) to read more.

BUILDING NEWS

Green Suppliers Good for the Bottom Line

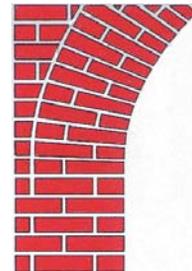
Companies that chart supply-chain emissions are finding reductions in costs and their carbon footprint, according to a report from the Carbon Disclosure Project. More than half of the companies that joined the CDP's supply-chain program saved money by doing so, the group reports, and about one-quarter of the companies' suppliers also reported savings according to this [GreenBiz.com](#) article.

Green Construction Must be Affordable for Consumers

The construction sector needs a greener business model to drive sustainability within the industry because "[g]reen is not sustainable until it is affordable," said Rick Davenport, director of sustainable construction at BASF's New Jersey



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Construction Materials



Bronze Level
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unit. "We've gone through wave and wave of green movements for 40 years now, and it seems to me the model isn't working" due to cost constraints on consumers, Davenport said in this [PlasticsNews.com](#) article.

6 Ways to Cut Costs and Boost Business by Going Green

Manufacturers and service companies are finding that going green can save them big bucks. Experts say it's best to start with baby steps, such as persuading employees to turn off their computers overnight, before moving to more ambitious measures. "When you start looking at your operations through the sustainability lens, you are able to see opportunities to reduce costs that you may have missed before," says Joe Santana, operations chief at Mi Rancho's tortilla factory, in this [The New York Times](#) article.

Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative Releases January Trends Reports

The two January editions of the Concrete JSI Industry Trends Report include information on Republicans threatening infrastructure spending, EPA pushing ahead with climate regulation, discovery of green additive for concrete, EPA beginning greenhouse gas regulation, Chamber of Commerce fighting EPA regulation, and carbon friendly concrete. You can obtain the current Report plus past archives under "Green Resources" at <http://www.concretejsi.com>.

"Carbon-negative" Cement Said To Equal Portland Cement

Novacem's "carbon negative" cement has received the material of the year award from Material ConneXion. Production of the magnesium-silicate cement "involves the absorption of CO₂," according to Novacem, thus making it carbon negative. The cement is said to perform and cost about the same as Portland Cement according to this [Jetson Green](#) article.

BEYOND BUILDINGS

While our focus remains on green building news, it is important to keep abreast of green developments in other arenas. The links below bring you the latest in efforts to develop systems for green roads and infrastructure.
~Tina

New System to Rate Sustainability To Launch This Summer



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The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, founded by a collaboration that includes the American Society of Civil Engineers, will develop a new performance-based rating system that will consider a project's social and environmental performance, economic benefits and long-term value. "Right now, government agencies lack a comprehensive measuring tool that will assess major infrastructure projects in terms of sustainability and other societal needs -- the new ISI rating system will fill this need," said ISI board member Jerry Stump. Read more at [Environmental Protection](#).

Illinois Uses Green Rating System for Road Projects

The Illinois-Livable and Sustainable Transportation Guide is a green building rating system that focuses on incorporating innovative sustainable practices -- such as bioswales and the use of recycled asphalt shingles for paving -- on state road and highway projects. Check out this [Engineering News-Record](#) article.

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