

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

Did you submit your comments on LEED 2012? I did. Now we just have to wait and see how the dust settles. The US Green Building Council [website](#) indicates the voting period for LEED 2012 will begin August 15. If you opted in to vote, you should receive an email with updates on the voting period. In the meantime, use the next few months to take advantage of the several educational opportunities found at the end of this newsletter.

Christine "Tina" Subasic, PE, LEED AP
CSubasicPE@aol.com

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.

PRODUCT NEWS

Fact Sheet Available on ASTM C90 Update

In late 2011, ASTM C90, the material specification for hollow loadbearing CMU, was modified to permit the cross-webs of units to be configured in different ways to meet specific project needs and performance requirements. The National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) has created a Fact Sheet to provide a short review of how this new flexibility on unit configurations can benefit your next project. The Fact Sheet can be downloaded from the Resources page of the [NCMA website](#).

New Lime-making Process Eliminates Carbon Emissions

A new way to heat lime to turn it into limestone to produce cement emits no carbon dioxide. Researchers at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., found that heating the lime with sunlight and electrolysis gives off oxygen along with carbon or carbon monoxide, depending on the temperature. Though the process is not ready for commercialization, Stuart Licht, lead researcher and chemistry professor at GWU, believes it can be scaled up and could result in producing lime at less expense. [Read more.](#)

GreenStone: Unleashing Bottled-up Innovation

Scott McCombs, founder of Realm of Design in Henderson, Nev., has created a building product called GreenStone made from recycled glass bottles crushed into granules and mixed with fly ash and other materials. The product could take the place of concrete in buildings, beams, columns, and a host of other structural forms, says McCombs, in this [Las Vegas Review-Journal article](#).

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency is an important aspect of sustainable building design. The following stories include new requirements as well as a study to determine if LEED buildings are actually more energy and water efficient. ~Tina

Database Aims to Push Buildings Toward Sustainability

An online database developed by Honest Buildings aims to push architects, contractors and building owners and managers to make buildings more energy-efficient, writes Derek Top. The site contains data from 350,000 commercial and mixed-use buildings, as well as information from energy-efficiency programs such as Energy Star and

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Click on the links below to find out more about each of these organizations who have graciously sponsored this E-Newsletter

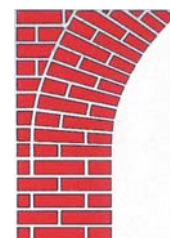
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[Concrete Masonry Association of
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various green-building codes. The database includes information on benefits realized from energy-efficiency initiatives according to this [GreenBiz.com article](#).

Spotlight On Net Zero Energy Codes And Standards

Net Zero Energy Codes and Standards-are they the next step in the code development cycle? It appears so if you look at what the City of Tucson, AZ, and its county, Pima County, have developed over the past two years in Arizona. Recently released by both municipalities is the "Net Zero Energy Standard," an optional compliance path for builders of new residential and commercial buildings. [Read more](#).

Boulder, CO, Considers Commercial Energy-Efficiency Requirements

Unsatisfied with the energy reductions achieved through voluntary incentives, Boulder, CO, is considering creating a mandatory energy-efficiency program for the commercial and industrial sector. The program would be similar to Boulder's SmartRegs program, which introduced energy-efficiency requirements for rental housing, according to [this article](#).

Are Minnesota's Green Buildings Really Saving Money?

This summer, a study will be done by the Minnesota chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council and EnergyPrint, an energy consulting firm, to determine if the state's 150-plus LEED-certified buildings are actually efficient in their energy and water use. While individual buildings have been studied before, this will be the first time it's done on a regional basis, said Sheri Brezinka, executive director of the state's USGBC chapter, in this [TwinCities.com article](#).

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

This edition includes an article that refutes one from last edition on the Army and LEED. Just another reminder that while we try to provide you with links to accurate news, the opinions expressed in the featured articles are those of the article authors.
~Tina

Army: No, We Are Not Abandoning LEED

Blogger Chris Cheatham of the Green Building Law Update raised alarms about LEED's future earlier this week with this eye-popping headline: "[Army Abandons LEED Certification](#)," but [LEEDUser.com](#) has confirmed that losing the Army is not currently one of them.

Five Facilities That Embraced Green Building

Five corporate headquarters that reflect a growing sense of stewardship for the environment are listed in this article. The Google Campus in Mountain View, Calif., used eco-friendly building materials, while New York City's Hearst Tower was made of 90% recycled materials. The exterior of Whole Foods Market Corporate Headquarters in Austin, Texas, was sheathed in white cast stone combined with fly ash to minimize the urban heat island effect. Read more at [ConstructionDigital.com](#).

Building Reuse Study Released

[The Greenest Building: Quantifying the Value of Building Reuse](#) provides the most comprehensive analysis to date of the potential environmental benefit of building reuse and retrofit. Produced by the Preservation Green Lab of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, in partnership with Cascadia Green Building Council, this groundbreaking study uses lifecycle assessment to evaluate the impacts of both new and existing buildings. Findings from the study show that when comparing buildings of equivalent size and function, building reuse almost always offers environmental savings over demolition and new construction. The report's key findings offer

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policy-makers, building owners, developers, architects and engineers compelling evidence of the merits of reusing existing buildings as opposed to tearing them down and building new.

Virginia Demonstrates Renewed Commitment to Green Government Buildings

The [High Performance Buildings Act](#), effective July 1 of this year, is an important next step in the Commonwealth's continued appreciation for government buildings that are designed to not only use less energy, water and other resources, but also provide dividends back to Virginians in the form of healthy buildings, locally-sourced materials and operational cost savings. [Read more »](#)

Green Construction Can Lead to Healthier Building Occupants

Sustainable construction methods can help alleviate a phenomenon known as "sick building syndrome" by improving indoor air quality and limiting the use of toxic materials, writes Frank Deluca, CEO of DCL Equity Partners, in [this article](#). He outlines ways to make buildings sustainable and healthier through features such as natural lighting and operable windows.

EDUCATION

There are several opportunities over the next few months to expand your knowledge of sustainability, masonry and more. Check out the links below. ~Tina

TMS 2012 University Professors' Masonry Workshop

The Masonry Society's University Professors' Masonry Workshop (UPMW) is rapidly approaching. The UPMW will be held on June 12-14 at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California. The workshop will feature classes on a variety of topics including durability and sustainability of masonry. To learn more about the UPMW, visit <http://masonrysociety.org/html/education/workshops/UPMW/index.htm>.

TMS Annual Meeting Provides Numerous Educational Opportunities

Mark your calendar for [TMS's 2012 Annual Meeting](#), which will be held on September 13-18 in Greenville, SC. A full slate of presentations and activities is planned. We hope you'll be able to join us as we celebrate TMS's 35th "birthday" as a professional society.

Resilient Buildings Workshop: Integrating Materials, Systems, Resilience and Sustainability

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative invite you to attend the Resilient Buildings Workshop: Integrating Materials, Systems, Resilience and Sustainability. The workshop is free of charge and will take place at the National Building Museum on Oct. 18. The Resilient Buildings Workshop is a collaborative effort between federal government and private sector. To learn more, [click here](#).

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