

The Masonry Society

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

This could be called the “EPD Edition”. As I pulled together the pieces for this edition, one thing that stands out is the number of articles on EPDs, Environmental Product Declarations. For years I’ve urged manufacturers to start looking at their processes and products, to understand where their impacts are, what uses the most energy, etc. Well, the time is here. With the changes to LEEDv4 and the demand for product data increasing, check out the links below and learn more about the hows and whys of EPDs.

I would also like to encourage you to consider becoming a sponsor of Sustainability E-News for 2013. The publication of this newsletter is entirely dependent upon sponsorships, and sponsorships are available at all levels. So if you are a regular reader, please consider supporting Sustainability E-News in 2013. [Contact the TMS office](#) for more information. And THANK YOU for your support!

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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.

PRODUCT NEWS – LCAs and EPDs

The articles below provide a good introduction to life cycle assessments (LCAs) and environmental product declarations (EPDs) – what they are, how to do them, and how they are used. Also included is news on recent product announcements. Read more below. ~Tina

Beginner’s Guide: How To Do An LCA For FREE

LINK CYCLE

This beginner's guide from LinkCycle is full of resources, tools, & data, including a step-by-step LCA spreadsheet. Visit: <http://www.linkcycle.com/beginners-guide-life-cycle-assessment-tools-and-data/>.

EPDs Try to Clarify How Green are Green Building Products **ECO-STRUCTURE**

In a market where manufacturers tout all kinds of environmental claims, it’s hard to decipher what’s really green. Now fairly common in Europe and parts of Asia, EPDs are relatively new in the U.S., but a groundswell toward certification is under way. [Read more.](#)

Environmental Product Declarations

DOVETAIL INC.

This [report](#) from Dovetail Inc. provides a good explanation of Environmental Product Declarations, better known as EPDs. The report examines what an EPD is, how it is developed, etc. with the goal of understanding and getting out ahead of this trend in green labeling.

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Platinum Level



[Concrete Masonry Association of
California and Nevada](#)



National Concrete Masonry Association
FOUNDATION

Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute Releases Version 3.0 of Its Certified Product Standard

Evolution continues for the Cradle to Cradle (C2C) Certified program, which evaluates and encourages the advancement of healthy and safe building materials. At a Nov. 14 press conference at Greenbuild 2012 in San Francisco, McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC) cofounder William McDonough, FAIA, announced the release of Version 3.0 of the C2C Certified Product Standard. [Read more in this Eco-Structure article.](#)

Cradle to Cradle Certified Announces \$250,000 Product Innovation Challenge

GOSTRUCTURAL.COM

It's a new era for the Cradle to Cradle Certified program. Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute announced details on version 3.0 of the certification, as well as a new [Product Innovation Challenge](#) with \$250,000 to be awarded to three winners at Greenbuild. Partnering with Make It Right, the Institute's goal is to drive innovation in safe and healthy building materials based on Cradle to Cradle principles.

CalStar Brick Releases Life Cycle Assessment

CalStar Products has released an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) of its brick, which details the results of an intensive, months-long life cycle assessment (LCA) conducted by architecture firm Perkins+Will. The LCA verifies the significant environmental benefits of the company's non-fired brick. The EPD is the first to be published within the brick category and is one of only a handful currently available in the greater building products industry. To learn more, [click here](#). To read the full CalStar Products Environmental Product Declaration, visit www.calstarproducts.com/epd.

Concrete Masonry Unit Among Top 10 Building Materials for 2013

BUILDING GREEN

Using CarbonCure's carbon-sequestration technology in Atlas' concrete masonry unit-block has caused the product to be listed on BuildingGreen.com's Top 10 building products for 2013. The product's use of the technology "improves their strength, reduces the amount of portland cement required, and speeds curing," according to [this piece](#).

LEED v4 Aims to "Push the Envelope"

SMART BRIEF

The proposed LEED v4 rating system from the U.S. Green Building Council has been criticized for its credits that encourage chemical ingredient labeling of building materials. However, Scot Horst, senior vice president of the USGBC LEED program, said at last week's Greenbuild that the standards would promote transparency in the green-building process, and Rick Federizzi of USGBC says "we are right" according to this [SmartBrief/SmartBlog on Leadership](#).



[Western States Clay Products Association](#)

Gold Level



[Masonry Institute of America](#)



Portland Cement Association



Silver Level



PumpMaster
MASONRY GROUT PUMP

San Francisco to Include Green-Building Labels on Real Estate Records

BIZ JOURNALS

San Francisco will start including green-building labels on its official real estate records. The "Green Labels" program will record green certifications that buildings have achieved, such as LEED or EnergyStar. "The Green Label information now maintained in our files is an important first step in the universal adoption of ecologically sustainable building practices," said Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting in [this article](#).

Green Building Outlook Strong for Both Non-Residential & Residential Sectors Despite Soft Economy

This [Construction.com article](#) reports that the U.S. green building market continues to accelerate, according to McGraw-Hill Construction's 2013 Dodge Construction Green Outlook report.

USGBC Unveils Web-based Tool on LEED-certified Buildings

DAILY COMMERCIAL NEWS

A web-based tool on buildings that have achieved LEED status was launched by the U.S. Green Building Council at the Greenbuild International Conference & Expo in San Francisco. The "Green Building Information Gateway" will allow users to track the progress of green-building projects and the teams involved with them. "The tool provides maps, analytics and insights that reveal trends, patterns and processes in green building practice," according to [this piece](#).

Green Building Study Reveals Widespread Commitment to Sustainable Practices

ECO-STRUCTURE

A [new study](#) released in advance of the 2012 Greenbuild Conference and Expo has found that while companies remain committed to constructing green buildings, fewer are likely to seek LEED certification.

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