

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

### From the Editor

I would like to begin the year by thanking our 2013 *Sustainability E-News* sponsors without whom we wouldn't have this newsletter! Your support is greatly appreciated! You can check them out in the links below. If you'd like to join their ranks, it's not too late! [Contact the TMS office](#) for more information.

January is often a time for predictions of trends for the coming year. You can find several in the links below. Personally, I think the movement toward transparency in products is going to continue to gain ground as LEED® and others encourage the use of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). And while EPDs provide valuable information to both the manufacturer and the user, I think one area that is lacking is *education* on what to do with them! The amount of information can be overwhelming, and since EPDs do not make *evaluations*, it is up to the user to do that. Hopefully we will see more guidance on EPDs offered in 2013 as well.

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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

First EPDs and now HPDs, or Health Product Declarations. Read more about both in the link below. ~Tina

#### **Product Transparency Enters the Supply Chain**

##### **ECOHOME**

Product transparency initiatives including Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and Health Product Declarations (HPDs) will play a large role in the future of green building. There's no doubt that product transparency will play a large role in the future of green building, it's just a matter of time before it pervades the supply chain. [Read more](#).

#### **CEMEX Fuels Cement Plant by Burning Tires**

##### **COURIER-JOURNAL**

Energy recycling like that being done at a CEMEX plant in Louisville, Ky., where old tires are burned for fuel, can be a "good thing," writes James Bruggers in this [blog](#). The technique has been found by local regulators to reduce air pollution and the plant's carbon footprint. Bruggers asks, however, whether it is better to recycle the old tires into new tires and other products or to use them as an energy source.

### GREEN BUILDING NEWS

**Experts: Expect Green-Building Expansion Globally in 2013**  
**SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES**

#### **Sponsors of TMS's Sustainability E-Newsletter**

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

Green building in the U.S. is expected to rebound this year, after Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design projects represented 20% of all new put-in-place construction in 2012, experts say. The greatest expansion of green building will be in retrofits, they predict. Other expected trends in green building for 2013 include automation of building management through the cloud, greater use of solar power, growing awareness of freshwater supply problems, the increasing presence of zero-net-energy buildings, and an acceleration of green building in places such as China, Singapore, the EU and Brazil, according to [this article](#).

### Some of NYC's Oldest Buildings More Efficient Than LEED-Certified Ones

**SUSTAINABLEBUSINESS.COM**

NYC's first-in-the-nation law that requires all buildings to disclose energy use is coming up with interesting findings. Some of the old ones are more energy efficient than the new ones. The old structures tend to have thicker walls, fewer windows and less ventilation, and also don't lend themselves to massive data centers that consume lots of electricity. It's also because of energy consumption by tenants. [Read more](#).

### Industry Groups Raise Issues with Proposed Changes to LEED

**ECO-STRUCTURE**

This piece reviews the work of the coalition of chemical manufacturers that are protesting the changes in LEED v4, but also includes a few new insights. "In the end, the USGBC and manufacturers seem to be asking each other for the same thing: transparency. Coalition members are reviewing LEED v4, but everyone who spoke to us indicated that the specifics of individual credits are less important to the group than the goal of moving LEED toward a development process that includes greater industry representation," according to [this article](#).

## GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

### Sustainability Trends to Watch for in 2013

**SHELTON GROUP**

This article shares trends to watch for in 2013 including corporate social responsibility (CSR) and green packaging. [Read more](#).

### 4 Ways to Find a CSR Initiative That's Right for Your Company

**SMALL BUSINESS TRENDS**

It's easier than you'd think for small businesses to get involved in sustainability initiatives, Kelly Spors [writes](#). But be warned: CSR can be addictive. "Once you start realizing how these initiatives lower your footprint, you'll likely want to keep doing more," Spors writes.

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