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The Masonry Society

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

As I write this, the final public comment period for LEED v4 comes to a close. While LEED v4 strives to change things for the better, one area in which it falls short is simplicity. The new Materials and Resources (MR) credits are multi-part, complex, and difficult to execute. The new MR credit 4 for example, on building products material ingredients has 3 options, with 4 to 6 compliance paths in each option and then a regional weighting thrown in for 2 of the options. Keeping track of all this will require careful attention on the part of designers as well as manufacturers.

It is also important to note that 5 of the 13 points in MR are found in the building life cycle impact reduction credit. This credit too has multiple compliance paths worth varying point values. At the top, reuse of a historic or abandoned or blighted building is awarded 5 points. Many of the buildings meeting this credit are likely to be masonry buildings! Also included in this credit is whole building life cycle assessment (LCA) worth 3 points. The key to making legitimate decisions with this credit is having valid, accurate LCA data. This is an area that the masonry industry needs to be attentive to, to ensure that current practices in manufacturing with respect to raw materials, recycled materials, and energy use are properly accounted for.

It will be a few more months before LEED v4 is voted on by members, and even then LEED 2009 will continue to be used for several years. However, now is the time for manufacturers to get onboard with examining their supply chain and processes, as well as looking to reporting of material information. Done well, this process not only benefits the environment but also the company's bottom line!

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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/LEED NEWS

USGBC continues to expand the application of LEED, this time with a new guidance document related to historic preservation. Check out the link below. ~Tina

Preserving Historic Green Neighborhoods

USGBC

USGBC recently released a new guidance document, [LEED for Neighborhood Development and Historic Preservation](#), which outlines the synergies between the LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system and preservation of historic resources. It is intended both for sustainable development project teams interested in learning how to incorporate historic buildings into their projects and preservationists looking to rehabilitate a landmark in a sustainable way. It shows where the goals of green building and historic preservation overlap and explains in detail the ways, some obvious and some nuanced, that LEED-ND encourages historic preservation.

Assessment Tools for Green-building Investors

DESIGNBUILDSOURCE.COM

In response to the growing popularity of green building projects, the U.S. Green Building Council has unveiled two assessment tools that aim to aid investors in assessing the "sustainability and environmental friendliness" of real estate projects. The Green Building Information Gateway was released last fall, and the Green Real Estate Index will make its debut this fall. Read more in [this article](#) or [this interview](#).

USGBC Engages Chemical Supply Chain with New LEED v4 Option

A surprise addition to LEED v4's MR credit category could be seen as an olive branch to a chemicals industry that has been on the attack. Will it play along? [This blog](#) from LEEDUser.com offers some insights. You can also check out this related article from USGBC: [Refinements in Materials and Resources](#).

USGBC Introduces LEED Credit Library

USGBC

You know the problem – you want to know about a LEED credit, so you search through the USGBC website and dig up a PDF of the rating system. After scrolling through you find the credit you're looking for and go to work. But wait – does this credit have addenda changes? What version is this? Where's the LEED Online form? Isn't there a guidance document? What do the reviewer tips say? And where's that reference guide I bought? More digging, more searching, and who knows if you got it all? Now there is a new approach – the [LEED credit library](#). In the LEED library the first thing you'll see is the credit language, then, orbiting that language are the supplemental resources, the LEED Interpretations, educational tutorials, videos and reference guide material. If it's about the credit, it'll be on that page.

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Sponsors of TMS's Sustainability E-Newsletter

Click on the links below to find out more about each of these organizations who have graciously sponsored this E-Newsletter. Sponsors designated with an Asterisk(*) are also TMS Members at the following levels:

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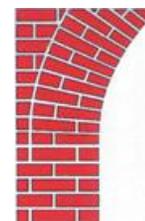
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As green building becomes more mainstream, new tools for managing the associated information are developed. Two of the links below discuss new software that is available, including one that incorporates Building Information Modeling (BIM). ~Tina

Schools Cite Health as a Top Reason for Going Green

BUILDING GREEN

The connection between sustainable school buildings and student performance can be difficult to quantify—but the idea that children learn more readily when they can see, hear, and breathe clearly isn't exactly controversial. This year, a full 89% of K–12 school respondents in a recent market survey conducted by McGraw-Hill Construction listed enhanced health and well-being among the most important reasons to build, retrofit, and operate greener schools. That number is up from 61% in 2007 and puts health nearly on par with operational cost savings among primary- and secondary-school officials. [Read the full article.](#)

Technology Helps AEC Firms Document "Green" Building

CONSTRUCTECH

As the interest in sustainable building grows, so too does the need for help to manage the documentation that invariably accompanies a project. For instance, SCS Global Services and GreenWizard are partnering on a solution to provide companies with a better way to locate and procure certified materials for LEED projects. Others are working together to "provide environmental and sustainability certification, auditing, testing, and standards development." [Read more.](#)

New Tech Tools Aim to Help Maximize Building Sustainability

CONSTRUCTECH

New technology tools from Scotland's Integrated Environmental Solutions are designed to help those in the AEC industry maximize how sustainably a building is designed. The toolset includes life-cycle cost and assessment and capital cost. There's also a BIM component, and the tools can be customized. "A major advantage of these tools is the ability to get rapid feedback on design options so you can assess and reassess right from concept through to detailed design," said IES Director Craig Wheatley in [this piece.](#)

How the US Could Double Energy Efficiency by 2030

GREENTECH MEDIA

Driven by technological improvements, strengthening policy, and behavior change, the U.S. economy is becoming less energy-intensive. But it could do much more according to [this article.](#)

U.S. Has Lowest Greenhouse Gas Levels Since 1994

POLICY MIC

Surprise! The United States is actually doing far better [in reducing](#) our greenhouse gas emissions than you may have realized. That is the takeaway from [a report](#) issued to little fanfare late last week. The Sustainable Energy Factbook report compiled by Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) for the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) concluded that U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide had fallen 13% during the past



Silver Level



Bronze Level



five years and that emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG emissions) had declined by 10.7% from the baseline year of 2005. [Read more.](#)

THE “OTHER SIDE”

Oftentimes green claims should be met with a healthy dose of skepticism. One size certainly doesn't fit all when it comes to sustainable solutions to building design or other green products. The links below remind us that there is almost always “another side” to the story. All are things I've talked about before. ~Tina

Joe Lstiburek on the Good, Bad, and Ugly Side of Buildings

INHABITAT

The building science pioneer talks about where buildings go wrong and what we can do about it in this [Inhabitat interview](#), including features older buildings got right.

Are White Roofs a Green Myth?

HUFFINGTON POST

White reflective roofing has its place in southern climates but its effectiveness as a green solution in northern states is being questioned. [Read more.](#)

An Argument Against the Electric Car

WALL STREET JOURNAL

Electric cars are not generally better for the environment than gasoline-powered cars, writes Bjorn Lomborg, because of the carbon emissions produced in their manufacturing and the coal plants that usually provide the electricity for charging. An electric vehicle driven for 50,000 miles will generally produce more emissions than a gas-powered counterpart, he writes in this [Wall Street Journal article](#).

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Masonry Symposium –Abstracts Due April 4th

ASTM INTERNATIONAL

Papers are invited for the Masonry 2014 Symposium to be held on Tuesday June 24, 2014 in Toronto, Canada. The Symposium is co-sponsored by ASTM Committees C01 on Cement, C07 on Lime, C12 on Mortars and Grouts for Unit Masonry, and C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units. To access the scope of the symposium, the publication requirements, and instructions to submit an abstract online, visit <http://www.astm.org/C07callforpapers>.

LEED v4.0 On Demand

GBRI

"LEED v4: Are you prepared for the change?" Check out this free webinar. Follow the link below to access the course and quiz and receive 2 free CE hours! [Click here to access.](#)

Sustainability Seminar at Structures Congress

ASCE

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has announced



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a Pre-Conference Seminar, “New Essentials for Your Sustainability Took Kit,” to be held Wednesday, May 1st from 1:00pm -5:00pm in Pittsburgh, PA. Topics include life cycle assessment, disaster resilience, and thermal bridging. For more information about the Structures Congress and this pre-conference seminar visit the [Congress website](#).

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