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## The Masonry Society

### *Sustainability E-News*

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**SPONSORED EDITION**

#### From the Editor

We all know that the architecture, design and finishes in a space can invoke certain feelings. Cathedrals inspire awe and remind us how small we are. Nature centers often are designed to connect us with the outdoors, and leave us feeling relaxed and refreshed. A new study featured in GREEN BUILDING NEWS below demonstrates that sustainable design can also inspire eco-friendly behavior. Now that is an inspiring thought!

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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.*

#### GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Documenting green building features and performance often goes beyond LEED. The first two links below feature new efforts to record "green" performance. ~Tina

#### **Appraisal Institute Releases Enhanced Form to Help Appraisers Analyze Green Home Features**

##### **APPRAISAL INSTITUTE**

Earlier this month, the Appraisal Institute released an updated form intended to help analyze values of green and energy-efficient home features. The Institute originally issued its [Residential Green and Energy Efficient Addendum](#) in September 2011, as an optional addendum to Fannie Mae Form 1004, the most widely used form for mortgage lending purposes. Form 1004 devotes limited attention to energy-efficient features, so green data usually doesn't appear in the appraisal report, or it is included in a lengthy narrative that often is ignored. The updated five-page green addendum, which reflects input from both NAHB and USGBC, now allows appraisers to identify and describe a home's green features, from solar panels to energy-saving appliances.

**Building Benchmarking: The Next Big Thing**  
USGBC

#### **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:

- \*\*\* designate Sustaining Members
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#### **Platinum Level**

Recently, the city of Minneapolis became the latest city to lead by example in improving building performance by requiring the benchmarking and disclosure of energy and water usage for the city's public and commercial building stock. USGBC supports benchmarking initiatives through the [Mainstream Building Benchmarking Campaign](#) and applauds the city's move. [Learn more.](#)

### Green Designs Could Influence People to Act More "Sustainably"

#### DESIGN BUILD SOURCE

Sustainable infrastructure designs could promote eco-friendly behavior, according to a study by psychology students at the University of British Columbia in Canada. "With urbanization rapidly increasing globally, the design of new sustainable infrastructure can be a remarkable tool for creating new sustainable norms that may be essential to elicit sustainable behaviors," the study notes. "We believe that intentionality and mindfulness in the design process of sustainable spaces will bring about intentionality and mindfulness in the thoughts and actions of people using the space." Read more in [this article](#).

### Big Wood: A Vision for More Sustainable Skyscrapers

#### INHABITAT

Architect Michael Charters has developed "Big Wood," a model for a large-scale timber skyscraper that could be built along the Chicago River in the city's South Loop. The mixed-use complex, with "acres of green roofs" would "serve as a sustainable alternative to standard building materials," writes Mark Boyer. "Similar to the rapid innovation in building technology that occurred in the early 1900s, 'Big Wood' is positioned to be a catalyst for a new renaissance in high-rise construction, changing forever the shape of our cities," Charters said, in this [Inhabitat article](#).

## RATING SYSTEM NEWS

### The 2012 National Green Building Standard is Here...

#### GREEN BUILDING ADVISOR

And it's not half bad, according to the Green Building Curmudgeon. [Read more.](#)

### NAHB Research Center Becomes Home Innovation Research Labs

The NAHB Research Center [changed its name](#) to Home Innovation Research Labs, effective February 12, 2013. Why would a company with a nearly 50-year history decide to make a move like this? To enhance the value its brand and certification mark provides clients in the increasingly competitive residential marketplace. Nothing in this name change alters the company's relationship with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) as its independent subsidiary; its access to industry segments as a result of that relationship; or its unique research, testing, and third-party certification expertise.



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



[Western States Clay Products Association](#)\*\*\*

Gold Level



[Masonry Institute of America](#)\*\*\*



Silver Level

## Sustainable Federal Buildings: What's the Law?

### BUILDING GREEN

Anyone who has ever filed an income tax return knows how extravagantly fussy the U.S. federal government can seem. Your yearly struggles over tax deductions pale in comparison, though, with the workaday world of a federal civil servant. Take green building requirements: there are a lot of them. Even if you're not a government employee, you need to have a passing understanding of these requirements. Read this article [this article](#) to learn more.

## Study Encourages DOD Continued Use of Sustainable Rating Systems

### ENGINEERING NEWS RECORD

The Defense Department's adoption of certification systems such as the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and the Green Building Initiative Green Globes should be standard practice, according to a National Research Council study. The review supports the idea that "green-building" rating systems lead to better building performance, said Lane Burt, USGBC policy director. However, it also suggests the agency improve how it evaluates the performance of those "green" buildings. [Read more.](#)

## BUSINESS NEWS

I often look to other industries for lessons on how we might improve. The two links below give some insight on what others are doing. ~Tina

## Retailers, Wholesalers Band Together on Chemical Safety in Products

### GREENBIZ.COM

Companies such as Staples, Wal-Mart and the British drug firm Boots are working with wholesalers to identify and eliminate potentially hazardous chemicals from products before facing the prospect of a recall. More than 100 companies are members of the Green Chemistry and Commerce Council, founded eight years ago to encourage cooperation in making products with safer chemicals and materials, according to [this article](#).

## J&J Managers Go Green Without Breaking the Bank

### GREENBIZ.COM

Companies such as Johnson & Johnson are finding ways to align financial and environmental priorities, with managers focusing on "win-win" projects that reduce environmental impact while also cutting costs, write Samantha Putt del Pino and Alex Perera [in this blog](#). "Now ... other companies must get on board and scale these approaches so that financial practices and environmental goals are better aligned," they write.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## Sustainability Seminar at Structures Congress

### ASCE



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## Bronze Level



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The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has announced 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](#).

### **Concrete Sustainability Conference**

#### **NRMCA**

The National Ready Mixed Concrete Association's 2013 Concrete Sustainability Conference will be held May 6-8, in San Francisco. The conference, which is co-sponsored by ASTM International, will provide the latest advances, technical knowledge, continuing research and solutions for sustainable concrete manufacturing and construction. Experts will present on the latest developments related to design, specifying, manufacturing, testing, construction, maintenance, and research of concrete as it relates to sustainable development. Visit the [conference website](#) for more information.

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