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The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

By now you've probably heard that LEED v4 was approved by USGBC members. It is interesting to note that many past supporters of LEED still expressed concern with the new version and voted against its approval. You can read more about the ballot results as well as updates to LEED Pilot Credits in the links below. This edition also features several articles on resiliency. Resilient construction is the newest buzzword, often used in the context of climate change and flooding. But resilient construction is more than that...it is also sustainable! Building to withstand the trials of Mother Nature means building for the long haul, using durable materials. Sounds like a good match for masonry to me!

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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 NEWS

The Brick Industry Association recently published a good summary of the changes found in LEED v4. You can check it out in the link below. ~Tina

LEED v4 Overwhelmingly Approved by USGBC Members LEEDUSER.COM

After three years of development, six public comment periods, and plenty of controversy, USGBC members voted to approve LEED v4. LEED version 4 has been approved by a vote of U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) members, with 86% of the voting body voting in the affirmative during a June 2013 ballot period. Approval of LEED v4 as the next version of the LEED Rating System clears the way for its launch during the Greenbuild conference in November. [Read more](#). You can also check out the [LEED v4 User Guide](#) for details.

LEED v4 Passes Ballot, Will Launch This Fall ECOBUILDING PULSE

After many months of debate over proposed revisions and an

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Platinum Level

unprecedented number of public comment periods, the latest version of the USGBC's LEED green building rating system, dubbed LEED v4, will go into effect this fall after it was successfully passed by ballot vote of USGBC membership, the organization announced this morning. The final overall vote was 86 percent in favor of adopting LEED v4. The minimum overall percentage of votes needed for passage was 66.7 percent. [Read More](#).

LEED v4 – Changes to Materials and Resources

BRICK INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

While there are many changes, the most dramatic occur in the Materials and Resource chapter. Check out [this link](#) for a summary of the most relevant changes.

New LEED Pilot Credits Added

USGBC

Several new and interesting pilot credits have been added to the [LEED Pilot Credit Library](#) in the past few months. All pilot credits are reviewed and approved by the Pilot Credit Working Group and the LEED Steering Committee before being added to the library. Are you interested in proposing a pilot credit? [Check out the pilot credit overview page](#) for more information.

Here are some of the new pilot credits available:

- Pilot Credit 81: [Green training for contractors, trades, operators and service workers](#)
- Pilot Credit 80: [Environmentally preferable interior finishes and furnishings](#)
- Pilot Credit 79: [Material ingredients product manufacturer supply chain optimization](#)

You can also view the Pilot Credit Material and Resource (MR) Guide [here](#). It helps to clarify the many calculations in the MR category.

Industry Reacts to LEED v4 Decision

ECOBUILDING PULSE

The USGBC membership vote in support of LEED v4 on July 2 ended many months of debate over updates to the green building rating system. Now, the conversation about what it all means is just beginning.

[Read more](#).

Mayors Renew Commitment to Green Building and Sustainability

USGBC

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) commended the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) for passing a slate of sustainability resolutions that renew its commitment to local green building and clean energy efforts that help spur economic savings and protect the environment. The 10 measures passed include the support of resilient communities, stronger building energy codes, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants and improving infrastructure. The resolutions represent a powerful endorsement of support for



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



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Silver Level

implementing a sound sustainability agenda and were strongly supported and encouraged by AIA and USGBC, which are working together to advance local green building policy as part of their six-year strategic alliance. [Click here](#) for more information.

GREEN / RESILIENT BUILDING

What better definition for a sustainable building than one that can withstand nature's fury? The articles below explore the idea of "resilient" building – something well-suited to masonry construction. ~Tina

Is Resiliency the New Sustainability?

BRICK INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

A new term has been creeping into our vocabulary recently and its use will continue to grow. The term is "resiliency" and it applies to both buildings and communities. Resiliency is the ability to prevent, protect against, respond to or mitigate anticipated events while being able to rapidly recover to normal. With the continual threats from nature in the form of wind, flood, fire or snow, it is more important than ever to design and construct homes and buildings that can absorb, resist or adapt to these extreme events. As an industry we must start to learn how to use this new lexicon to promote and sell our product. [Read more](#).

Better Building Practices Stand Alone in "Tornado Alley"

REUTERS.COM

Civil Engineer David Prevatt, Assistant Professor of Civil and Coastal Engineering at the University of Florida, is convinced that two homes in the Featherstone Community in Moore, Okla., that survived a direct hit from an EF5 tornado are still standing because they were built stronger than most in Oklahoma and the rest of "tornado alley" — the region stretching from Texas to Iowa that accounts for roughly a fourth of all U.S. tornadoes. "Oklahoma should follow the example of Florida after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and adopt a tougher building code to reduce damage in the future," said Prevatt in [this article](#). "This notion that we cannot engineer buildings economically to withstand tornado loads is a fallacy. Why should we be surprised if a house collapses if the load is four times more powerful than it was designed to withstand?"

Novel Idea: Build Units That Protect Occupants from Fire

CHRON.COM

The failure of many Texas cities to adopt zoning ordinances, development standards and building codes that require the use of masonry exterior walls and masonry fire walls contributes mightily to the fire problem in Texas according to [this article](#).

'Designing Recovery' Competition Launched in Three Cities

ECOBUILDING PULSE

An ideas competition launched at the Clinton Global Initiative calls for better design to reduce damage caused by natural disasters. Those rebuilding in New Orleans, New York, and Joplin, Mo., can enter for the chance to win \$10,000 and a spot in the ideas portfolio. [Click here](#) for more information.





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Bronze Level





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New Fed Buildings Need to be More Energy Efficient

THE HILL

The Energy Department recently released stricter energy efficiency standards for new federal buildings. The standards, which will take effect July 2014, are expected to result in source energy savings 18.2% above the current requirement for existing buildings. The DOE says that this translates to a cost savings of roughly "\$1.74 billion over 30 years," according to [this blog](#). The new requirements are in response to a more stringent building standard adopted by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers in 2010.

EDUCATION / EVENTS

Sustainability and Structural Engineering Research Summary Available

The Institute for Sustainability and Innovation in Structural Engineering (ISISE) has issued the [triennial report 2010-2012](#). ISISE is a Research, Development and Innovation Unit created in 2007 that involves the Structural Engineering Groups of the universities of Coimbra and Minho, Portugal. [Editor's note: This is a large download and may take some time to load. The report contains summaries of the sponsored research, several relating to innovations with building materials.]

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