

The Masonry Society

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

This edition is a little longer than usual due to the extra week of news included. If you remember, we published the last edition a week early because of closing and reconstruction of the TMS office. But now we hope to be back on track, publishing at the middle and end of each month. Thank you for your patience during this time.

I recently returned from the ASTM E60 Committee on Sustainability Committee Week. There was a lot of discussion related to product transparency and developments in reporting standards at the various subcommittee meetings. Some of these are mentioned in the links below. With the premier of LEED v4 just around the corner, this is an area we will continue to hear more about.

Lastly, as we enter the final stretch of 2013, we look forward to the coming year. Now is your opportunity to become a sponsor for the 2014 Sustainability E-News. If you value the information you find here, please consider financially supporting it. For more information, please [contact the TMS office](#).

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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

8 Historic Buildings that are Environmentally Friendly

MOTHER NATURE NETWORK

These historic buildings have been recognized for their outstanding environmental friendliness. No surprise, they are masonry buildings. [Check them out here](#).

An Ingenious Home Built to Battle Tornadoes

THE ATLANTIC CITIES

A tornado can dismantle the typical wood-frame house in four seconds. How do you design a tornado-proof home that doesn't feel like a bunker on good days, outside of those four terrible seconds? This was the task behind the "Designing Recovery" competition sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, Make it Right, the St. Bernard Project and Architecture for Humanity. Q4 Architects created a safe space within a home instead of a shelter underneath it, a kind of house inside of a house. The result is an idea that could be replicated anywhere in tornado alley: A highly indestructible 600 square-foot core of concrete masonry, hurricane shutters and tornado doors where a family could survive a tornado and live beyond it, with several more flexible rooms wrapped around it. To learn more, [click here](#).

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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Platinum Level



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

What We Can Learn From NYC's Latest Energy and Water Benchmarking Data

ECOBUILDING PULSE

New York City has released the largest collection of energy- and water-use benchmarking data in the country. So what does it show? [Read more.](#)

CODES, STANDARDS and MORE

The first link below is a good discussion on product transparency. The article mentions the new [Product Transparency Declaration](#) from Resilient Floor Covering Institute which focuses on user exposure rather than just ingredients. ASTM E60 considering a new task group based on this standard. ~Tina

Efficient Implementation of LEED v4 Depends on Firms' Approach

GREENBIZ.COM

Sustainable construction is expected to reach new levels of transparency with LEED v4 standards, and four business trends are expected to be more streamlined through global incentives to meet certain requirements, write Mikhail Davis and Melissa Vernon. [This article](#) emphasizes how LEED v4 will create an impact in "harnessing the power of transparency, using [life-cycle analysis] as a product differentiator, responsible sourcing of [all] raw materials, and hazard-based ingredients reporting," the authors say.

Making Sense of the New LEED

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

The latest version of the widely adopted green building standard is set to debut in November with the most thorough overhaul since its inception. [Here's what you need to know.](#)

Green Building Initiative Gains Popularity

THE PORTLAND TRIBUNE

The Green Building Initiative, a rival to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system, is gaining traction as it was recently declared to be nearly equal with LEED standards by the General Services Administration. The latest version of LEED standards "strayed from its original mission of promoting energy efficiency and environmental performance" by discriminating against certain building materials "without input from experts in toxicology or chemical safety, and without regard to the availability, safety or effectiveness of alternatives," according to the American Chemistry Council and [this article](#).

Industry-Friendly Green Building Standard Wins Big

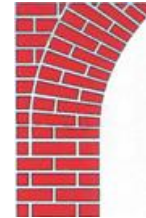
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

The US federal government, which has always recommended LEED, now equally supports the use of Green Globes. [Read more.](#)

Living Building Challenge Unveils Clearer Definitions, Standards for Net-Zero

TREE HUGGER

The [Net Zero Energy Building Certification](#) has been released by the Living Building Challenge to provide clearer definitions



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

Gold Level



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



Silver Level



regarding what net-zero really means and how it is to be achieved. "The Living Building Challenge is the toughest label in green building," [writes Lloyd Alter](#), whose article provides more details about what can be defined as a net-zero structure based on the certification's definitions

Updates in IECC Codes Achieve Energy Efficiency

TODAYS FACILITY MANAGER

The 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) includes better energy-efficiency standards for existing and new buildings, which will help building owners reduce expenses through energy savings, according to the New Buildings Institute. "The updates related to existing and historic buildings clarify and further extend the code's impact on the current building stock and will mean large energy savings growing over time," said Jim Edelson, NBI senior manager of codes and policy, in [this article](#).

Testing Surface Infiltration Rate of Permeable Unit Paving Systems

ASTM INTERNATIONAL

The ASTM International recently released C1781 Standard Test Method for Surface Infiltration Rate of Permeable Unit Pavement Systems. This test method is specifically designed for assessing the surface infiltration rate of new and in-service permeable interlocking concrete pavements and permeable clay brick pavements. The test uses similar equipment and methods in ASTM C1701 Standard Test Method for Infiltration Rate of in Place Pervious Concrete. The similarities between C1701 and C1781 make the test results comparable. [Read more](#).

GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

Several links below provide tips for businesses working on developing sustainable practices and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reports – and now that LEED v4 includes a credit that rewards CSR reports, manufacturers have another incentive to pursue them. ~Tina

Firms Find That Going Green is a Smart Strategy

THE GUARDIAN (LONDON)

Political leaders aren't making much headway when it comes to tackling environmental issues, but corporate bosses are picking up the slack, writes Keivan Zokaei [in this article](#). Firms such as Toyota, DuPont, Unilever and General Electric are making money by curbing waste and finding greener ways to do business, Zokaei writes. Environmental waste is the best proxy for identifying and eliminating economic waste. That's the secret of these companies.

What SMBs Should Know About CSR

GREENBIZ.COM

Workers at small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) typically have their hands full, so strong, committed leadership is a must-have for SMBs that want to implement lasting CSR initiatives, writes Dave Balser. "[C]ompeting priorities easily can get in the way without a top-down mission by the CEO and management team to talk, walk and live the sustainability message," [he writes](#).



Bronze Level



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Online Application for Measuring Impact Framework Launched

WBCSD

The WBCSD's Measuring Impact Framework, based on a 4-step methodology, helps companies measure, assess and manage the impact of their business activities on economic and broader development goals wherever they operate. The Council has launched an online application aimed at providing a handy step-by-step tool for companies applying the Framework. To learn more about this free tool, [click here](#).

Want a bonus? Help us go green, Seventh Generation Tells Workers

GREENBIZ.COM

Seventh Generation now links employee bonuses to the company's ability to meet sustainability goals, a move that officials say allows them to embed CSR into the company's culture. "With half of our company joining us in the past two years, setting goals that everyone owns helps connect new employees to our mission in a concrete way," says Reed Doyle, director of corporate consciousness, in [this article](#).

EDUCATION / EVENTS

The following links are provided for your information. Note that the webinars and their content have not been evaluated by TMS or myself. ~Tina

How To Do Whole-Building LCA

This free webinar, to be held Nov. 13th, 4 - 5 p.m. ET, is being presented by the Athena Sustainable Materials Institute. Topics covered include life cycle approach to sustainable design, and LCA in LEED®, Green Globes®, CalGreen and the IgCC. [Register here](#).

IECC Energy Review and Masonry Compliance Options

Changes in the Model Energy Codes, notably the 2012 IECC (International Energy Conservation Code) are creating challenges to masonry wall systems. This free webinar, by Trenwyth, reviews exterior envelope R-Value requirements and masonry wall compliance options. To register for the Dec. 5th, 12 - 1 p.m. ET webinar, [click here](#).

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