

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

### From the Editor

Hard to believe, but May is almost here. For me, it's a month that just seems to fly by. Now is the time to register for the upcoming Spring Meetings of The Masonry Society and the 11th North American Masonry Conference. Both will be held in Minneapolis, MN this year, June 3rd through 8th. This is a great opportunity to learn more about masonry. Join with colleagues from around the world and embrace the mission of TMS to "advance the knowledge of masonry". To learn more, see the links below. Hope to see you there!

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### EDUCATION

The Spring Meetings of TMS are a great opportunity to get involved. Committees, including the Sustainability Committee will be meeting on June 3, immediately prior to the 11th North American Masonry Conference (NAMC). Check out the links below for more information and a recent article that features a TMS member. ~Tina

For information on the **upcoming meetings of The Masonry Society**, click [here](#).

The [11th North American Masonry Conference](#) will be held on June 5-8, 2011 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The themes of the conference include masonry in seismic regions and green technology.

### **Disasters Focus Research on Building Codes, Construction Practices**

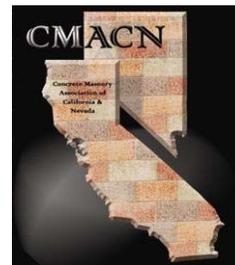
Building experts and researchers at an upcoming conference are expected to discuss and recommend better building codes and construction practices to ease damage from natural disasters. "The outbreaks of this week, particularly in the southeastern U.S., will probably result in changes to the code," said Olene Bigelow, a former official of the International Masonry Institute and TMS member. "Each disaster with which we are confronted provides us with more information to make building codes better." Read more in this [Finance and Commerce \(Minneapolis\)](#) article.

### **4 Easy Ways to Make Your Business More**

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

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## Sustainable

Going green doesn't have to be a risky business move, writes Lorna Li, a green-marketing expert. To reduce your risk exposure, try focusing on low-hanging fruit: switch to paperless e-publication of reports and forms, use suppliers who've demonstrated sustainable-business credentials and buy secondhand furniture and supplies. Read more at [TriplePundit.com](http://TriplePundit.com).

## GREEN BUILDING NEWS

### Green-Building Ratings Depend on Strong Certification Protocols

Green-building rating systems such as LEED are only as good as the eco-certification systems they're founded upon, warns Joseph Eckhardt. Incorrectly rated or labeled products may be less green than they appear, distorting buildings' overall rating. "Unfortunately, a rigorous green building certification can be undermined if underlying green product certifications are false or misleading," Eckhardt writes at [Environmental Leader](http://EnvironmentalLeader.com).

### List of COTE's Top 10 Green Projects Released

The 15th annual AIA Committee On The Environment (COTE) Top Ten Green Projects program celebrates buildings that not only use few resources but don't harm their sites, have healthy indoor air quality and connect to public transit. Read [MORE](#).

### LEED-certified Homes Reaches 10,000 Milestone

The 10,000th home to earn LEED certification was Tacoma Housing Authority's 91-unit development, Salishan 7 in Washington. Read [MORE](#).

### International Green Construction Code

April 14, 2011 edition of BIA News Online has good summary of the IGCC and how it impacts masonry construction. Read more by visiting [BIA News Online](http://BIA News Online).

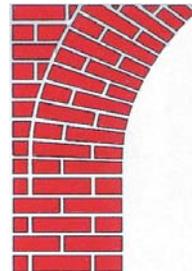
## PRODUCT NEWS

In my seminars I always like to talk about waste avoidance. To me, it's the best strategy, but one that is overlooked in LEED and other rating programs. Check out the article below for more on this approach. ~Tina

## Companies Redesign, Reuse and Recycle



[Masonry Institute of America](http://MasonryInstituteofAmerica.com)



[Western States Clay Products Association](http://WesternStatesClayProductsAssociation.com)

Gold Level  
\$500 to \$999



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### for "Zero Waste"

"Zero waste" is the catch phrase for corporate initiatives to reduce the waste stream and lower costs. That's according to Tom Wright, founder of Sustainable Bizness Practices. Although "zero waste" can mean diverting 90% of waste from landfills, Wright suggests that you examine product design, packaging and systems to create less waste from the start. Check out this video at [TriplePundit.com](http://TriplePundit.com).

### New Certification Program for Reuse and Recycling of Building Materials

A national recycling rate certification program for the construction and demolition debris reuse and recycling industry is being developed. The voluntary program is being developed by the Construction Materials Recycling Association and representatives from environmental non-profits, architects, academia, government agencies and the recycling industry. Check it out [here](#).

### Adopting a Life-Cycle Perspective

The most recent "Concrete Sustainability Hub Special Research Brief" discusses the reasons why the economic and environmental impacts of infrastructure should be evaluated using a life-cycle perspective. The coupling of two methodologies — lifecycle assessment for environmental impact and life-cycle cost analysis for economic impacts — provides decision makers with the tools to reach sustainability targets using cost-effective strategies. Read [more](#).

### New Eco-labeling Guidelines for Supply Chains

Five Winds, an LCA consultant, has announced new eco-labeling guidelines for supply chains. Click [here](#) to read more.

### Permeable Paving Systems Slowly Gain Ground

Permeable paving systems still represent only a small fraction of routine paving jobs such as patios and driveways, but demand is slowly increasing as their environmental benefits become more widely known. Building material suppliers are pushing to make permeable systems more useful for larger entities such as commercial parking lots. Read more at [The Columbus Dispatch \(Ohio\)](http://TheColumbusDispatch.com).

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The Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative, a unified



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group of 27 concrete associations, is launching "SUSTAIN -- Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative e-News and Views," a bi-monthly e-newsletter that provides recipients with timely information on concrete industry events and news six times a year.

[Sign up.](#)

### **Concrete Trends Reports Available**

The two March and April editions of the Concrete JSI Industry Trends Report include information on the U.S. EPA delaying greenhouse gas reporting rule, House passing bill that will block EPA regulation of greenhouse gases, researchers developing more durable concrete, Republicans trying to block EPA regulation of greenhouse gases, Democrats proposing legislation to fund infrastructure projects, EPA failing to properly assess fly ash risks, and more. You can obtain the current Report plus past archives under "Green Resources" at <http://www.concretejsi.com>.

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