

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

### From the Editor

The tragic fire in Los Angeles that destroyed a wood-framed apartment building under construction last week was shocking in its scale, but was unfortunately not unique. As building codes rely more and more on sprinklers for fire safety and less on passive methods of fire resistance such as compartmentation and non-combustible materials, such tragedies are bound to continue. The fire resistance of masonry is indisputable. Just look at the photos after a fire - often all that remains is the concrete masonry stair tower or elevator shaft. Designing for sustainability should include design for resilience in the face of extreme events, including fire. Read more in the **PRODUCT NEWS** article below.

As we look toward 2015, *Sustainability E-News* is not yet fully funded. Without funding, this newsletter cannot continue. **Please consider becoming a 2015 Sponsor.** Your support is essential. Sponsorships are available at a variety of levels. [Contact the TMS office](#) for more information.

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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.*

### **CODES and STANDARDS NEWS**

The 2015 edition of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) has been approved and with it a new compliance path. Read more about the Outcome-Based compliance path in the article below. I encourage you to check out the links within the article as well. ~Tina

#### **2015 IGCC Approved**

##### GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

The 2015 version of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) has been approved. Following a nearly two year voluntary consensus process, the updated IgCC includes approved changes from the 2014 code change cycle. The 2015 version of this form code ratchets up, significantly, the energy performance requirements from the current version. Observers have suggested that a building constructed to this new code will be greener than a LEED 2009 building. [Read more.](#)

#### **Outcome-Based Compliance Path Approved for the IgCC**

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

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**ECOBUILDING PULSE**

The Outcome-Based option lets design teams quantify a completed building's energy consumption when using the 2015 version of the International Green Construction Code to comply with local building energy code. Check out [the article](#).

**Standard 189.1 Inches Toward LEED in New Revision****BUILDING GREEN**

ASHRAE 189.1, the Standard for the Design of High-Performance, Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential, considered an entry-level green standard, is now published in a 2014 version and is available for download. The 2014 version of the Green Building Standard responds to updates in ASHRAE Standard 90.1 and shows glimpses of future harmonization with LEED and IgCC according to [this piece](#).

**Baltimore City Recognizes NGBS Green Certification**

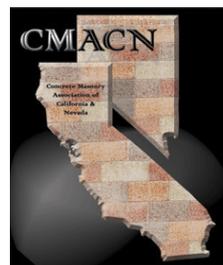
Effective April 1, 2015, all new and renovated commercial and large multifamily developments (4 stories and higher) in Baltimore, Md., must meet the newly-adopted Baltimore City Green Construction Code. The Code is comprised of the 2012 International Green Construction Code (IgCC) with local amendments, and the NGBS is a recognized alternative compliance path for multifamily buildings to satisfy the requirements. This alternative compliance option is significant for multifamily developers. Recognition of [NGBS Green Certification](#) is a significant shift from previous policies, which had mandated LEED certification.

**Commentary: Flexible Building Codes Could Increase Green Building****SOURCEABLE.NET**

The eco-friendly Bullitt Center in Seattle is "the most efficient office building in the world," according to Denis Hayes, CEO of the Bullitt Foundation. But to get there, builders had to work with the city on giving flexibility to building codes to allow for use of more green building principles. [The article](#) suggests that other municipalities should consider a similar approach.

**Raising the Bar for Sustainable Buildings****ECO-BUSINESS.COM**

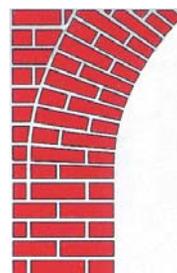
The Singapore Green Building Council's product certification scheme helps the building industry raise its sustainability standards and creates new business opportunities for its members. Products eligible for



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



National Concrete Masonry Association  
**FOUNDATION**



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

**Gold Level**



certification under the Singapore Green Building Product (SGBP) scheme, which was first launched in 2010, span across 17 broad categories including concrete, glazing, interior and exterior wall and floor finishes, mechanical and electrical equipment. Each item is analyzed for its overall environmental impact in five key areas, including energy and water use, resource efficiency, health-related impact, and pollution control. [Read more.](#)

### Codes, Standards and Rating System

ECOBUILDING PULSE

Are architects unaware of their legal obligations under licensure, or are they simply negligent? Check out [this article](#).

### PRODUCT NEWS

The article below on alternatives to flame-retardants misses a key point - selecting materials that are inherently non-combustible avoids toxic chemicals entirely! Masonry materials exhibit superior performance when it comes to non-combustibility - a point evidenced by the recent fires in LA. ~Tina

### Materials Matter

ECO BUILDING REVIEW

The article on [page 13](#) of this edition of [EcoBuilding Review magazine](#) reviews recent steps by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) to educate designers on materials and sustainability.

### New Research Identifies Alternatives to Flame-Retardant Building Materials

EDC MAGAZINE

Global architecture and design firm Perkins+Will has released new research in response to the need for architects and interior designers to develop a better understanding of flame retardants and their impact on health. Flame retardants in the built environment are associated with a range of health impacts including cancer, endocrine disruption and neurodevelopmental problems. The Perkins+Will white paper offers opportunities to design healthier buildings without compromising on safety. Read more [here](#).

### LA Fire Should Be a Wake-Up Call

CEMENT.ORG

The massive Los Angeles fire that consumed a huge apartment building under construction raises a key issue in urban development and the building codes that govern it: Why was a seven-story, high-density residential building in the heart of downtown Los



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Silver Level



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Bronze Level



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Angeles being built out of wood? “Common sense shows that buildings build of non-combustible materials are not the same risk of fire damage,” says Stephen Szoke, PCA senior director of codes and standards. “In every one of these fires that involved pedestal construction like this big one in LA, the lower portions and stairways and elevator shafts built of non-combustible materials tend to fair quite well. The photographs routinely show that it is only the wood portion that is missing.” Read more in [this blog](#).

## **EDUCATIONAL NEWS**

### **TMS Sustainability Brochure Available**

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

The Masonry Society (TMS) has announced the publication of a new brochure, "Masonry Is Sustainable" that discusses the many "green" aspects of masonry, beyond just LEED requirements. A link to the new brochure can be found [here](#).

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