

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

### From the Editor

As we begin 2015, Sustainability E-News will begin its 7th year of publication! When it began in 2009, Sustainability E-News was conceived as a service for members of The Masonry Society (TMS). It featured articles on topics including sustainability, new building products, and other items of interest to the masonry industry. Since then, the distribution of Sustainability E-News has grown dramatically, now reaching far beyond TMS members. As a result, beginning with the January 2015 edition, the focus of this newsletter will shift, ever so slightly. While we will still feature articles on the broad topics of sustainability, and still have a focus on masonry, we recognize our audience is broader than just TMS members, and we will adjust content accordingly.

With that in mind, consider how you receive this newsletter. You can subscribe directly by clicking [here](#). We are also still looking for funding for 2015, so please consider becoming a [2015 Sponsor](#). Your support is essential and much appreciated!

Happy New Year!

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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**

The first two articles below are an interesting blend of old and new, materials and technologies. The first compares the performance of a traditional passive solar design with a new Passive House design. The second article features a new house that contains both solar panels and recycled brick. ~Tina

#### **Passive Solar Vs. Passive House**

ECOBUILDING PULSE

Architect Dennis Wedlick, a Vision 2020 chair for Building Design + Performance, unpacks the benefits of the rigorous Passive House approach to design and construction. He presents the research his firm BarlisWedlick Architects, in partnership with NYSEDA, is conducting using the Hudson Passive Project. Watch [the video](#).

**House Produces More Power Than It Consumes**

### **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
- \*\* designate Affiliate Members
- \* designate that at least 1 person is an Associate or Professional Member of TMS.

**Platinum Level**

WIRED.CO.UK

Norwegian architectural firm Snohetta has designed a house with a 19-degree solar panel roof that is energy-positive. The concrete and bricks just below the solar roof trap heat and cool air, helping to conserve energy. Meanwhile, online connections that allow remote management of energy-intensive appliances take advantage of plentiful power during daylight hours. [Read more.](#)

### Greening the Building Supply Chain' Report

IMS CONSULTING

The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) –Sustainable Building Climate Initiative (SBCI) has released a report on greening the building supply chain. To learn more, [click here.](#)

### **CODES and STANDARDS NEWS**

The article on the new NYC energy code includes an interesting graphic that illustrates the increases in energy efficiency with each new edition of the energy codes. I haven't verified the accuracy of the figure, but it certainly demonstrates the increasing stringency of newer model codes over the last 5 to 6 years. ~Tina

### NYC Adopts More Efficient Energy Code

URBAN GREEN COUNCIL

Effective January 1, 2015, New York city will be using the 2010 ASHRAE Standard 90.1 for all commercial buildings. According to [this article](#) the new code will be 10-30% more efficient than presently required by increasing efficiency standards for boilers and requiring more energy efficient lighting.

### LEED Certification Update

USGBC

[This page](#) shows LEED certification activity in October 2014, broken out by rating system and location, as well as newly certified LEED projects in the news.

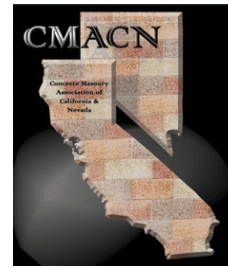
### **PRODUCT NEWS**

The first article below contains some interesting discussion in the comments following the article. ~Tina

### NGOs Weighing In on Lack of Credibility of Conventional LCAs

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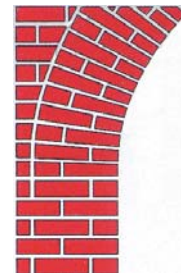
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are weighing in on the lack of credibility of conventional Life Cycle Assessments (LCA), which do not



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



National Concrete Masonry Association  
**FOUNDATION**



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

Gold Level



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



consider all relevant impacts to the environment and human health. For example, Sierra Club has concerns that current Environmental Product Declarations based in conventional LCA are pure greenwashing. [Read more.](#)

### Researchers Discover Secret that Preserves Roman Concrete

THE WASHINGTON POST

Volcanologist Marie Jackson of the University of California at Berkeley and other researchers are studying a mix of limestone and volcanic sand that has helped preserve the concrete construction of 2,000-year-old Roman relics like the Pantheon, Hadrian's Temple and the Baths of Diocletian. The researchers recreated the pozzolonic mortar recipe and studied its molecular structure via X-ray. According to [this article](#), they found that after the mortar hardened, strätlingite formed, which "prevent[s] the spread of microscopic cracks by reinforcing interfacial zones." In addition, the mixture cuts the carbon footprint.

## GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

### What's the Real Reason for CSR Initiatives?

HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW

Corporate Sustainability Reports (CSR) should, first and foremost, be about aligning a firm's social and environmental activities with its core business values, write Kasturi Rangan, Lisa Chase and Sohail Karim in [this piece](#). Everything else is a bonus. "If in doing so CSR activities mitigate risks, enhance reputation, and contribute to business results, that is all to the good. But ... those outcomes should be a spillover, not their reason for being," they argue.

### Have You Done Enough to Green Your Business?

TRIPLEPUNDIT.COM

Virtually every company could be doing more to operate sustainably, writes Hannah Corbett in [this article](#). Risk management strategies can be honed, supply chains can be redesigned, and employees can be more actively encouraged to embrace a culture of sustainable business practices, Corbett explains. "[E]ven if you think you have exhausted all the options for maximising your business's sustainability factor -- there is always something that can be tweaked or optimised," she writes.



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Silver Level



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\*

Bronze Level



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## **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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