

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

One of the shortcomings of the product transparency movement and hazard reporting is that many of the systems currently in place do not distinguish between hazard and risk. Risk is often defined as hazard times exposure. In other words, without exposure, there is no risk. The latest LEED interpretation addresses this issue as it relates to the use of silica, or sand, in grout and thin set mortar for tile specifically. Though silica appears on the California Proposition 65 list as a known hazard, in fact as used in mortars, it is harmless. (See the link below for more information.) One could make the same argument for mortar and grout used in masonry. This is an important distinction and should not be overlooked when evaluating any product as it is actually used.

I am happy to report that we recently received several new sponsors (listed below) and are now fully funded for 2015 - though additional sponsors are always welcomed. Our sincere thanks to all of our Sponsors!

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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 BUSINESS NEWS

The links below both feature super energy efficient buildings - one commercial and the other featuring residential construction. ~Tina

Seattle's Bullitt Center Named a "Living Building"

ENR

After nearly two years of operation to prove its worthiness, the 52,000-sq-ft Bullitt Center in Seattle-the first speculative office building to attempt full certification under the rigorous Living Building Challenge sustainability program-has been named a "living building." Last year, the six-story building, which is also the tallest living building, produced 60% more energy than it used. Read this [Engineering News-Record article](#).

"Passive" Construction Could Help NYC Reduce Energy Use

NY TIMES

New York City developers are beginning to embrace "passive house" construction standards, which are designed to maintain comfortable temperatures without powered heating or cooling systems. Passive-standard homes use a quarter as much energy overall, potentially allowing New York to dramatically reduce building-related energy use. "If everybody starts doing this, the effect on the environment will be just so significant," said Michael Ingui of Baxt Ingui Architects, in [this article](#).

Sponsors of TMS's Sustainability E-Newsletter

Click on the links below to learn more about each of these organizations who have graciously sponsored this E-Newsletter. The 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 a TMS Member

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Check out the link below for an important interpretation in LEED v4.
~Tina

New LEED Interpretations and Addenda Released **USGBC.ORG**

The latest addenda includes an interpretation for silica (sand) used in grout and thin-set. Interpretation ID#10414 confirms that silica (sand) used in this way meets the intent of the low-emitting materials credit even though silica appears on California Proposition 65 list. [Read more.](#)

Next 2015 NGBS Development Meeting June 18-20 **NAHB**

The next 2015 NGBS Consensus Committee meeting will be held June 18-20, 2015, at the National Housing Center, 1201 15th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. At this third in-person meeting, which will be open to the public, voting members will discuss and take formal action on all public comments made to the draft standard. They will also take formal action on the NGBS point system and all referenced documents/standards within the current draft. For all details on the 2015 NGBS Development Process and activity to date, [click here.](#)

ASTM Announces New Work Item on Building Resiliency Assessment

ASTM.ORG

ASTM Subcommittee E06.55 announces a new work item, WK49227 - New Guide for Building Resiliency Assessment. Brett Farbstein is the technical contact for this [new work item.](#)

PRODUCT NEWS

ASCE Releases New Guide for Permeable Pavement Design

American Society of Civil Engineers

[Permeable Pavements](#) is a comprehensive resource for the proper design, construction, and maintenance of permeable pavement systems that provide a transportation surface and a best management practice for stormwater and urban runoff including concrete masonry unit pavers, grid pavers and more.

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

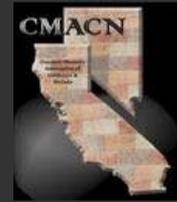
Several educational opportunities can be found below. ~Tina

12th North American Masonry Conference **Registration Open**

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

Registration is open for the 12th North American Masonry Conference (NAMC) and The Masonry Society (TMS) Spring Meetings to be held in May in Denver, CO. The NAMC is a forum for the exchange of scientific,

Platinum Level



Concrete Masonry Association
of California & Nevada



Western
States Clay
Products
Association

Gold Level



Masonry
Institute of
America



**



Silver Level

engineering, architectural, construction, evaluation, and repair information on masonry. For more information and registration for the NAMC [click here](#). Learn more about the [TMS spring meetings](#).

Sustainable Construction Materials and Technologies Conference

UNLV

The University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) has announced a Call for Papers for their 4th International Conference on Sustainable Construction Materials and Technologies to be held in August 2016. Abstracts are due no later than July 15, 2015. For more information, visit www.unlv.edu/scmt4.

Residential Building Design and Construction Conference

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

The deadline to submit abstracts to the 3rd Residential Building Design and Construction (RBDC) Conference has now been extended to May 6, 2015. The conference will be held March 2-3, 2016 at Penn State University, State College (University Park Campus), PA. For more information visit <http://www.phrc.psu.edu/Conferences/3rd-RBDCC>.

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