

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

May 29, 2015

Volume 7, Number 10

### SPONSORED EDITION

#### From the Editor

As we head into June, summer is upon us. For the lucky ones, this means time away from the office for vacations. For others, it is time away from the office for meetings. In the coming weeks both ASTM and ASHRAE will be meeting. ASTM C15 Committee on Manufactured Masonry Units will be meeting in Anaheim, CA. Among the topics being considered at the [ASTM meetings](#) is whether C15 should combine with Committee C12 on Mortar. ASHRAE, the organization that develops Standard 189.1 for the *Design of High-Performance Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, will be meeting in Atlanta at the end of June. I will be attending the meeting of the [Standing Standard Project Committee \(SSPC\) 189.1](#). Topics on their agenda include updates to Standard 189.1, work on the comparison of Standard 189.1 and the International Green Construction Code (IGCC), and discussions related to how life cycle assessment will be included in the next edition.

Whether you are one of the lucky ones headed off to vacation or one of the others headed off to meetings, I hope your summer is off to a good start!

Christine "Tina" Subasic, PE, LEED AP  
[CSubasicPE@aol.com](mailto:CSubasicPE@aol.com)

*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

##### **2015 International Energy Conservation Code**

###### GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

The 2015 version of the International Energy Conservation Code is soon to be upon you. Many suggest that the IECC has much more impact on high performance building than has LEED. [Read more.](#)

#### GREEN BUILDING NEWS

As green building becomes more common such buildings may be easier to rent or sell, but don't necessarily command higher prices according to the article below. ~Tina

#### **Not All Sustainable Buildings See Value Jump From Green Features**

###### THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

More residential properties in New York City feature sustainable or green features, some of which real estate agents market as such to lure buyers, but not all upgrades translate into higher property values at sale time according to [this article](#). Conversions involving LEED certification

#### **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
- \*

are likely the best route for property owners hoping to see a value increase from their green efforts. Many methods exist for meeting this qualification, including the use of green roofing technologies.

designate that at least 1 person is a TMS Member

## The Truth About CSR

HAVARD BUSINESS REVIEW

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is supposed to be about social and environmental responsibility, and not about short-term performance. But the demand for profitability is putting pressure on companies to get results from every initiative, and the result is often a CSR program that serves neither the company nor society effectively. In this [Harvard Business Review article](#), the authors present a system for developing a CSR program across three theaters of practice-philanthropy, operations, and the business model-that's integrated and aligned with the company's values. [NOTE: Registration required for access to this article.]

## PRODUCT NEWS

Most of the time articles included under product news focus on masonry products and their constituent ingredients. This time we've also included a piece on a new insulation product that could make insulating cavity walls in northern climates much easier. Check out the link below. ~Tina

## Block Could Improve Energy Efficiency of Buildings

INDEPENDENT (IRELAND)

The Roadstone Thermal Liteblock, designed to be used at thermal bridging points, is said to retain up to three times as much heat as concrete blocks. The blocks, developed in Ireland by a CRH subsidiary, are also about 40% lighter than concrete blocks. [Read more.](#)

## Flipping the Switch

JOURNAL OF LIGHT CONSTRUCTION

To reduce energy loss in buildings, researchers at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory are collaborating with industry to develop a high-performance material that nearly doubles the performance of traditional insulators without a high cost premium according to [this article](#).

## ODDS and ENDS

The article below is a creative example of utilizing masonry in a way that maximizes its strengths. This large sculpture is made from granite blocks, and according to the article, was "designed and fabricated as a self-supporting structural system." This resource-efficient design capitalizes on the compressive strength of masonry to form dramatic arches. ~Tina

## MIT Unveils Memorial for Officer Killed by Boston Bombers

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

The Sean Collier Memorial, designed by the Boston architecture firm H?weler + Yoon, is both a poetic sculptural form and an amazing feat of engineering and technology. The granite masonry is self-supporting. [Read more.](#)

## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

### Call for Abstracts ECI Conference on LCA

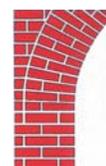
ENGINEERING CONFERENCES INTERNATIONAL

The Engineering Conferences International (ECI) has issued a call for abstracts for Life Cycle Assessment and Other Assessment Tools for Waste Management and Resource Optimization. For more information, [click here](#).

## Platinum Level



Concrete Masonry Association  
of California & Nevada  
\*\*\*



Western  
States Clay  
Products  
Association  
\*\*\*

## Gold Level



Masonry  
Institute of  
America  
\*\*\*



\*\*

To Subscribe, click [here](#).

To be a 2015 Sponsor, click [here](#).



Advancing the Knowledge of Masonry  
[www.masonrysociety.org](http://www.masonrysociety.org)



Silver Level



Bronze Level

