

The Masonry Society

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

As we enter the last quarter of the year, thoughts often turn to planning for the next. I would encourage you to consider sponsorship of *Sustainability E-News* in your budget plans for 2016. Sponsorships are available at all levels and are essential to the continuation of this resource. For more information,[contact the TMS office](#). Your support is most appreciated!

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GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Building energy use data can be a powerful tool in identifying areas for improvement as well as strategies that work. Montgomery County, MD has passed a bill requiring energy use benchmarking for government and certain privately-owned buildings. ~Tina

Energy Dept. Defines Zero-Energy Building

ENGINEERING NEWS RECORD

The Department of Energy has worked with architectural, construction and green building groups over the past 18 months to reach a definition of a zero-energy building. According to [this article](#), the department says it is "an energy-efficient building where, on a source energy basis, the actual annual delivered energy is less than or equal to the on-site renewable exported energy."

Benchmarking in Montgomery County, Maryland

USGBC.ORG

In May 2014, the Montgomery County Council adopted a bill requiring the county and building owners to benchmark energy use in certain

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nonresidential buildings of 50,000 square feet or greater with the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool. Under the legislation, many private, nonresidential buildings will be required to benchmark in phases over the next couple of years. Projects having a gross floor area of 250,000 square feet or more will be first, and are required to report their energy use data by December 1, 2016. [Read more.](#)

GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

The new Living Product Challenge really pushes the envelope for product manufacturers. It is the latest program developed by the International Living Future Institute (ILFI), a nonprofit best known for its role in administering the demanding green building certification system, the Living Building Challenge (LBC). Read more below. ~Tina

The New Living Product Challenge

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

Industrial goods made with processes that are socially beneficial and environmentally sound might sound unattainable. But this is the aim of the Living Product Challenge. To qualify for certification under the new standard products must be safe for human exposure at all stages of their lifecycle—from manufacturing through end of use. In addition, they must satisfy a host of other requirements, including being produced in a factory powered by renewable energy and with water supplied through closed-loop systems or rainwater capture. Read more [here.](#)

Researcher Finds Way to Make Cement Carbon-Dioxide Neutral

UCLA.EDU

Gaurav Sant, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of California at Los Angeles, has discovered a way to produce cement in which no carbon dioxide is released. Instead, it's captured and reused during the process, which is detailed in [this article.](#)

Insulated Concrete Blocks are Honored for Innovation

TECH REPUBLIC

The US Patent and Trademark Office and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History recently held the 2015 Innovation Festival in Washington, D.C. NRG's insulated concrete blocks, which are two concrete blocks with a layer of insulation between, were one of the featured products. The blocks' purpose is to increase a building's energy efficiency by putting insulation more toward a wall's middle. [Read more.](#)

GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

Manufacturers considering undertaking life cycle assessment (LCA) know that it is no small undertaking. But the best approach is to use the information gathered to identify areas that improve the environment while improving your bottom line. Read more in the link below. ~Tina

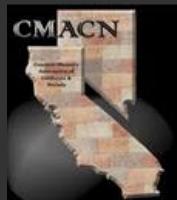
Use Life-Cycle Analysis to Find Your Next Big Opportunity

MIT SLOAN MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Many companies use life-cycle analyses to figure out the impacts of their products and processes -- but the smartest firms use their LCAs to help identify new opportunities, writes Gregory Unruh in [this article.](#) "Sustainability is ultimately about innovating new and better products that meet customer needs but also align with resource limitations," he explains.

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Data Collection for Life Cycle Inventories: Does Data Quality Really Matter?

LINKED IN

This [blog](#) post describes some of the challenges with sources of data and the different types of data used in life cycle inventories.

THE OTHER SIDE

Occasionally we feature an article that illustrates a contrarian point of view. The article below highlights the need to look at the whole picture when considering sustainable practices and why consideration of the full life cycle and impacts plays an important role in making informed decisions. Though it doesn't deal with construction or building products, the point is relevant to both. ~Tina

The Case Against Recycling

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The recycling industry is wasteful and ineffectual, and it will prove neither economically nor environmentally sustainable, writes John Tierney in this [NY Times editorial](#). You'd have to recycle 100,000 plastic bottles to offset the emissions from a single business-class transatlantic flight, and you probably wouldn't turn a profit in the process, Tierney notes. "How can you build a sustainable city with a strategy that can't even sustain itself?" he asks.

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

TMS Annual Meeting Features Educational Sessions and Masonry Day (M-Day)

MASONRYSOCIETY.ORG

The 2015 TMS (The Masonry Society) Annual Meeting will be held at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel October 16-20, 2015, in Indianapolis, IN. The Annual Meetings are a great opportunity to earn those required continuing educational hours with several educational sessions planned. As a special offering this year, thanks to the support of the International Masonry Institute and the Indiana/Kentucky Structural Masonry Coalition, TMS with the Structural Engineers Association of Indiana is offering a Masonry Day (M-Day) on October 16th, which full meeting registrants can also attend at no charge. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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