

The Masonry Society

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

I write this from the ASTM E60 Committee on Sustainability meetings in Tampa this week. It is interesting in light of the articles we've included on recycling in this edition and last that recycling and waste have been discussed in the several of the task group meetings here. Standardizing definitions and classifications of waste and recycling is important work. We will keep you posted on the progress!

As a reminder, it's time again to consider your support for this newsletter. For information on sponsoring Sustainability E-News in 2016, [contact the TMS office](#). Your support is most appreciated!

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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 article below reinforces the benefits of energy modeling early in the design process as the most effective way to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. ~Tina

Why Aren't There More Energy-Efficient Buildings?

GBRIONLINE.ORG

Data from an initiative to make architecture more sustainable shows progress, but there's still a long way to go to make a dent in climate-change risks. For the fifth year running, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has crunched the numbers on its national sustainability challenge, the AIA 2030 Commitment. Architects who sign up pledge to strive to meet an ambitious energy-efficiency target in their designs—a 60 percent reduction in predicted energy-use intensity (pEUI, or the amount of energy they expect their buildings to use) from baseline levels. A report on the program shows mixed results. Read more [here](#).

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CODES AND STANDARDS NEWS

LEED ventures into new territory with a Pilot Credit on health and safety and proposes a somewhat controversial increase in energy efficiency for LEED 2009. Read more below. ~Tina

USGBC Pilot Credit Focuses on Safety and Health

USGBC.ORG

USGBC recently released a new pilot credit aimed at encouraging Prevention through Design (PtD) practices. The pilot credit was developed in partnership with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the U.S. federal agency that conducts research and makes recommendations to prevent worker injury and illness, as part of an effort to explore the nexus between occupational safety and health and sustainable building practices. Prevention Through Design, a one-point LEED pilot credit, is available in the LEED credit library for LEED v4 and LEED 2009 BD+C project types. Read more about the [LEED Pilot Credit](#).

LEED 2009 Energy Updates: Public Comment Period Open

USGBC.ORG

To ensure that LEED 2009 keeps pace with international and regional energy code adoption, USGBC is proposing an increase to the minimum energy performance thresholds for LEED 2009. The proposed changes are based on user and volunteer feedback and will offer a smoother transition to LEED v4 while also ensuring that LEED-certified projects continue to exemplify leadership in energy performance. [Read about the proposal](#). Read Green Building Law Update's commentary on the proposal [here](#).

Second Public Comment Open for 2015 Version of NGBS

HOMEINNOVATION.COM

Interested parties can comment on the changes that have been approved by the 2015 NGBS Consensus Committee and incorporated into the current draft. This public comment period commenced on October 9th and comments will be accepted through November 23rd. See the full news release on [Home Innovation's website](#).

Vicki Worden on the New Green Globes and Her Commitment to the Mission

GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

Stuart Kaplow, green building attorney, had an opportunity to speak at length with Vicki Worden, the Executive Director of Green Building Initiative. [Check out his blog](#) to hear this thought leader in the green building movement has to say.

GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

EPD Available for Slag Cement

ASTM.ORG

Slag Cement Association (SCA) and ASTM International have developed an SCA Industry Average Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for slag cement. This document provides verified information on the environmental impact of slag cement, a recovered material from the steel-making process. The information can be used to quantify reductions in the environmental impact of concrete mixtures achieved by use of slag cement. [Get the EPD](#).

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Western
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Institute of
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Alternative Fuels Being Used More Often in Cement Production

CONCRETEPRODUCTS.COM

The US Labor-Energy Input Survey by the Portland Cement Association shows that cement production has become more efficient. The survey indicates it took an average of 4.4 million Btu to produce 1 ton of cement in 2014. That's a decrease of 1.1% from earlier years. The survey also found that alternative fuel use increased and is now used for 15% of cement production. Labor productivity increased 2.6% in 2014 from 2013, greater than the increase for manufacturing and farming. [Read the article.](#)

GreenScreen and LEEDv4

GREENSCREENCHEMICALS.ORG

A new report by Clean Production Action offers guidance for using GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals method to meet the LEED v4® requirements. The newly-released "How to Use GreenScreen® for LEED v4" provides an overview on LEED requirements and defines terms that are critical for meeting them. "The 'How to' guide is the outcome of a unique collaboration of manufacturers and users to provide clear guidance for meeting LEED requirements," said Annie Bevan, Certification and Operations Manager at Green Circle Certified, LLC. [Read more.](#)

Sustainable Minds Announces New Material Health Overview Standard

LINKEDIN.COM

Sustainable Minds has introduced the SM Material Health Overview - the next in its suite of Transparency Products. The SM Material Health Overview (MHO) is a strategic marketing and lead generation tool for building product manufacturers to inform safer and healthier purchase decisions. [Read more.](#)

RECYCLING FOLLOW-UP

The two articles below are a follow up to the one on recycling that appeared in our last edition. ~Tina

USGBC NY Chapter Takes a Close Look at Recycling

URBAN GREEN COUNCIL

Do the staples that hold together magazines get recycled, too? And what about plastic bags? A behind the scenes tour of the Sunset Park Materials Recovery Facility opened eyes (and noses) to the steps between the disposal of recyclables and their journey towards reincarnation. [Read the recap.](#)

Is Recycling as Awful as the New York Times Claims? Not Remotely

GRIST.ORG

[This article](#) follows up on the one that appeared in our last edition and takes the other side.

SEEKING AWARD ENTRIES

Wisconsin Masonry Alliance

The Wisconsin Masonry Alliance has announced a call for entries for their Annual Design Competitions. These highly respected competitions recognize design excellence in masonry and hardscape projects, highlighted and promoting the industry and products used. The Excellence in Hardscape Competition includes categories for residential and commercial permeable paver projects. [Click here to submit a hardscape](#)



Silver Level



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[project online](#). Or for more information, [click here](#). Deadline is November 20th, 2015. The Excellence in Masonry Competition includes a category for energy and environmental preservation. The deadline for submission is December 18, 2015. For more information, [click here](#).

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