

The Masonry Society

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

Last month I encouraged you to participate in submitting public comments on the new LEED 2012 draft. This month's edition reminds us why we need to participate. LEED and other codes and standards continue to be adopted throughout the U.S. The difference this time is that the provisions in most of these standards are mandatory. Green building is now a requirement in many locales. And while in general this is a good thing, the language found in many of these standards often narrowly defines "green" and can stifle innovation. Your participation is essential if we are to create truly sustainable buildings.

Christine "Tina" Subasic, PE, LEED AP
CSubasicPE@aol.com

CODES and STANDARDS

This month includes several articles about recent adoptions of green building standards and codes, as well as a few links to articles about the challenges with these standards. ~Tina

ASHRAE 90.1 New Standard for Federal, Commercial Buildings

Commercial buildings, including federal and high-rise residential buildings, must now meet requirements in ASHRAE/IESNA's Standard 90.1-2007 energy efficiency standard, under recent rulings issued by the United States Department of Energy. To read more, click [here](#).

Adoption of IgCC Spreads Across U.S.

Safe and sustainable construction is gaining ground across the United States as more communities recognize the [International Green Construction Code \(IgCC\)](#) as a regulatory tool to increase energy efficiency and complement voluntary green building rating systems. Florida, Oregon and Scottsdale, Arizona, are the [most recent jurisdictions to adopt the IgCC](#), according to the International Code Council.

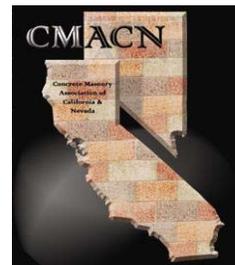
USGBC Tracks Progress of Green-Building Measures Across U.S.

The U.S. Green Building Council has conducted a study on the movement of more than 400 state bills that promote energy efficiency and sustainable construction. It found that more bills die than pass. "[B]ut good bills that do not advance should not be

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considered losses ... In many cases, introduced and deliberated green building bills go far to move the ball forward for the green building conversation," the organization reported in an executive summary of the study. Read more at [GreenerBuildings](#). To read the USGBC report, click [here](#).

Green Building Risks: What You Need to Know

Minimum green building standards promulgated by the International Code Council (ICC) and American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) may dramatically impact the U.S. construction and real estate markets. Read more in this article at http://www.dinslaw.com/green_building_risks/.

Understanding the Implications of Green Building Codes and Standards on the Concrete and Masonry Industries

The ACI Fall 2011 Convention will include a session on recent changes to building codes and standards that affect product selection, design and construction of concrete and masonry components. This technical session will explore trends and content in building codes and standards that may impact the construction of green and/or sustainable buildings. View a [listing of presentations](#) from this session.

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

The requirement to monitor energy use in LEED certified buildings certainly adds to the cost as the article below points out. But it really becomes a moot point when states and cities require energy disclosure. It's also essential if you really want to know how your building is performing. Read more below. ~Tina

Court Dismisses Lawsuit Against U.S. Green Building Council

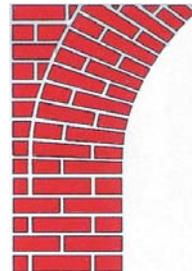
The United States District Court in New York City, NY, today dismissed in its entirety the lawsuit brought against the U.S. Green Building Council by Henry Gifford and others, holding that none of the plaintiffs in the action had alleged any legal interest to be protected by their lawsuit. Read [more](#).

LEED Monitoring Requirements Add Cost

There is an ongoing cost to LEED buildings. Property owners will be required to maintain the facility's sustainable performance and monitor its energy consumption. While some see this as burdensome, Kent Schwendy, senior vice president at engineering firm Fuss & O'Neill, takes a different



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view. "Monitoring is something you should be doing already," Schwendy said in this [Hartford Business Journal \(Conn.\)](#) article. "That's how you get your return on investment, by monitoring your building's performance into the future."

Several States Mandate Buildings to Disclose Energy Use

In a bid to push owners to upgrade their properties, several states and cities across the country are beginning to require disclosure of energy consumption numbers for commercial buildings. "It's hard to overstate how significant this is," said the U.S. Green Building Council's Roger Platt in this [USA TODAY](#) article. "It's like a 12-step program. You first have to admit you have a problem."

Benchmarking: Understanding Building Performance

Imagine trying to get directions without knowing the starting address. Or assembling a competitive sports team without holding tryouts to rank and compare athletes. You end up lost, unaware of how your competition is doing, and oblivious to how to achieve your goal. To get to where you want to go, you have to know where you are now. Benchmarking a building's energy performance is placing your building on the map. Read more about benchmarking in this Consulting-Specifying Engineer Magazine [article](#).

FSC Critical of LEED 2012 Material & Resources Credits

The Forest Stewardship Council's review of the LEED 2012 draft criticizes several of the new Material & Resources credits, including the proposed LCA credit. The masonry industry has similar concerns with the LCA approach proposed in the LEED 2012 draft. Read the FSC analysis at http://fscus.org/html_emails/leed_analysis.html.

An Abundance of Green Building Pprojects

Need a good dose of green? Read snippets that deal with the green construction industry -- from the User Test Bed Facility at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory where building technology will be tested, to a \$40 Energy Star light bulb to Turner Construction's 230 LEED-registered projects at [GreenBiz.com](#).

U.S. Could Save \$1.2 trillion by 2020 with Green Building

Green building that focuses on the energy efficiency of buildings and other green building efforts could



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help the U.S. save \$1.2 trillion by 2020 and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by about 1 gigaton per year, finds a study sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council. The council says millions of jobs could be added for green building initiatives and that over four years, \$500 billion could be added to the economy, according to this [International Business Times](#) article.

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