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## The Masonry Society

### Sustainability E-News

Focusing on Carbon

**October 31, 2019**

**Volume 11, Number 20**

#### SPONSORED EDITION

#### **From The Editor**

Regardless of your political views, I think we can all agree that taking steps to minimize negative impacts on our environment are a good idea. This edition is filled with articles relating to reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency. Both potentially good for a project's bottom line as well.

Next week I will be in Scottsdale, AZ for the TMS [Annual Meeting](#). This is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge of masonry by attending the [General Education Sessions](#), meeting industry experts, and participating in the various committee meetings.

Christine "Tina" Subasic, PE, LEED AP  
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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**

Carbon is in the news a lot lately. Embodied carbon generally refers to a measure of the emissions associated with extracting, transporting, and manufacturing a product, often a result of the energy used. Zero (or net zero) carbon generally includes the energy associated with operating a building. Both are discussed in the articles below. ~Tina

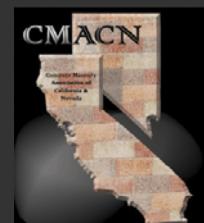
#### **Green-building advocates raise alarm on embodied carbon**

#### **ARCHITECTURAL RECORD**

From recent reports like "Bringing Embodied Carbon Upfront" to new tools like EC3, the Embodied Carbon Construction Calculator, how to decarbonize the materials and construction supply chain is a hot topic in the profession. [Read more.](#)

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## **Carbon Offsetting & Net Zero Carbon: What, Why, How?**

### **CIRCULAR ECOLOGY**

Carbon offsetting is rapidly rising in importance. The world's carbon emissions are increasing at an alarming rate and offsetting your carbon emissions is a powerful mechanism to help in the battle against climate change and global warming. To learn more about carbon offsetting, [click here](#).

### **Be a carbon hero with five easy tactics**

#### **STEVEN WINTER ASSOCIATES**

By completing an Integrated Design Process for a project, you get the five basic tools to optimize embodied carbon and operational energy use in your design. Target the early phase of the project because low-carbon design practices, especially when looking at embodied carbon, are the most efficient (as well as cost-effective) in the early phases of a project. [Read more](#).

### **Boston climate plan requires new city buildings to be carbon-neutral**

#### **UTILITY DIVE**

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh has revised the city's Climate Action Plan, which now calls for new city buildings to be carbon-neutral. The plan also requires standards to be created for the decarbonization of large buildings throughout the city according to [this article](#).

### **USGBC releases new brief on city deconstruction, salvage and reuse policies**

#### **USGBC.ORG**

Many of us have gotten used to the idea of recycling consumer waste. From our plastic containers to our office papers, recycling has become the standard in many areas of the world. But what about recycling your entire home? Deconstruction policies aim to make this practice a reality. Deconstruction is an innovative process that can salvage waste from demolition. A new brief now available from the USGBC Advocacy and Policy team, "[From Demolition to Deconstruction: City Salvage and Reuse Policies](#)," outlines important considerations for policymakers thinking about a deconstruction policy. [Read more](#).

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Reducing the energy used in operating a building often focuses on improving the energy efficiency of the building envelope. Certainly it is an important element in achieving a high performing building as demonstrated in the articles below. Designers should also consider mechanical equipment efficiencies, lighting, and plug loads to minimize energy demands. ~Tina

### **How Living Building Challenge projects meet strict energy requirements**

#### **LIVING BUILDING CHRONICLE**

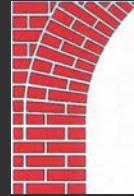
The Living Building Challenge's Net Positive Energy Imperative requires 105% of energy for building projects to be supplied by on-site renewables, writes Todd Mowinski in [this article](#). Projects meet this goal by reducing each building's energy demands wherever possible, including the use of ceiling fans, radiant floors and shading devices as featured in Georgia Tech University's Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design.

### **Minn. city uses drones to track buildings' heat loss**

#### **ENERGY NEWS NETWORK**



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Officials in Warren, Minn., are hoping to help the community identify energy efficiency opportunities with a project that uses drones and thermal imaging technology to identify heat loss in local buildings. City administrator Shannon Mortenson says the idea came from a partnership with the German city of Arnsberg under the Climate-Smart Municipalities program. Read more [here](#).

### **Survey: States taking energy seriously**

**ACEEE.ORG**

Massachusetts and California remain the most energy efficient states with policies and codes, but many others are catching up, according to this year's State Energy Efficiency Scorecard from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and [this article](#). Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska and Ohio have updated their codes in the past year while Maine, Nevada, New Mexico, New York and Washington have adopted 100% clean energy goals.

### **Energy legislation passed in Senate and House committees**

**USGBC.ORG**

[Read updates](#) on several pieces of legislative action from late summer.

### **GREEN BUSINESS NEWS**

#### **Corporate bottom lines benefit from sustainability**

**BLOOMBERG PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Corporate sustainability efforts are proving good for businesses, according to this [editorial](#). Nike, for example, has reduced waste but also reduced costs.

### **EDUCATIONAL NEWS**

#### **The Masonry Society Annual Meetings NEXT WEEK!**

**MASONRYSOCIETY.ORG**

It's not too late! Register now for the TMS Annual Meetings to be held in Scottsdale, AZ November 6 - 9, 2019. Join us for Educational Sessions on a variety of topics including LEED v4.1, as well as the meeting of the new Building Performance Committee. For more information and a full schedule of events, visit the [TMS website](#)

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