

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Hazard Resilience

October 15, 2020

Volume 12, Number 19

SPONSORED EDITION

From The Editor

As you read this, the Virtual Annual Meeting of The Masonry Society (TMS) will be winding down. I hope you have been able to take advantage of the accessibility of the virtual format to take a closer look at TMS activities. TMS' Executive Committee and Board of Directors have been working over the past several years to increase the online offerings of TMS. Turns out the timing couldn't be better. Next week we kick off our inaugural TMS Masonry Night School with an introductory [Masonry 101](#) course perfect for those not too familiar with masonry or for those needing to brush up on the basics. The 6-week course will cover everything from masonry units, mortar, and grout to the basics of reinforcement and masonry assemblies. Be sure to mark your calendars and [register here](#).

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GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Resilience to hazards continues to be a hot topic and an important one to incorporate into better building designs. Studies have consistently shown the cost benefits of resilient designs. The NIBS Resilience Roadmap is a great tool to further these efforts. ~Tina

How to make the U.S. hazard resilient

MIT CSHub

In this brief [video](#), Concrete Sustainability Hub (CSHub) Executive Director Jeremy Gregory explains the cost and safety benefits of hazard-resistant construction—and how America can build more resilient communities.

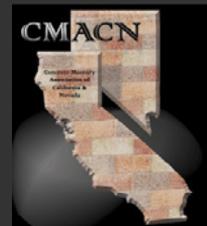
A roadmap to resilience incentivization

NIBS.ORG

Resilience is a national issue. Disaster losses across the country are growing about 6% a year, or 10 times faster than the population. Disasters like wildfires and floods are only increasing in frequency

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and volume, costing the U.S. an average of \$100 billion annually. A [new report](#) from the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) proposes to develop and demonstrate a set of public and private incentives to owners of buildings and other infrastructure to facilitate the upgrade of existing infrastructure and better design of new infrastructure. Previous studies have shown that pre-disaster mitigation activities save society much more than they cost, but people have not heavily invested in mitigation, partly because owners bear the cost but receive only a small part of the benefit. Creating incentives for investing in resilient construction may help all stakeholders share more fairly in costs, and increase the use of resilient materials and construction methods.

Technologies that will shape the construction industry

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Robotics and sustainable materials are among the top five construction innovations that will improve a project's productivity, decrease carbon emissions and keep personnel safe, writes Chris Smith in [this article](#). Other technologies that will change the construction industry include data sharing and cloud-based software and smart buildings, notes Smith.

NYC tops lists of US cities moving to cut emissions

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New York City leads other US cities with plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's 2020 City Clean Energy Scorecard. Out of 100 cities in the survey, only 20 have plans that are making progress. [Read more.](#)

[CODES and STANDARDS NEWS](#)

Peace of mind in wildfire country: Some common-sense advice

[NCMA](#)

Despite ever-longer fire seasons, people continue to live in areas that are prone to wildfires. While some take a fatalistic view, most will take active steps to protect their families and their homes. Architects and builders are testing new fire-hardening techniques on new construction, but these are expensive. There are, however, some common-sense strategies that can help protect new homes in wildfire-prone areas. One of these is to use non-combustible construction, and for walls concrete masonry is a good, cost-effective option. [Read more.](#)

[GREEN PRODUCT NEWS](#)

Greener products can include new materials or new processes, or reuse or recycling of existing materials. ~Tina

How Canada is moving to greener cement industry

[DAILY COMMERCIAL NEWS \(Ontario\)](#)

The Canadian cement industry is moving toward greener alternatives by replacing fossil fuels that power cement plants and by supplanting traditional portland cement with portland-limestone cement, according to Adam Auer of the Canadian Concrete Association. Auer outlines Canada's attempts to accelerate carbon reduction in the cement industry in [this article](#).

A look at recycled brick

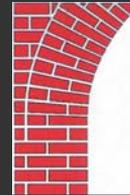
[MASONRY MAGAZINE](#)



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Chicago Common bricks were used to build up most of the Windy City. They are the rough bricks on buildings' sides and backs, made from the river's clay, and when fired they transform into a beautiful variation of yellows, pinks, and reds. But most importantly, they age impressively and beautifully. [Read about](#) two projects constructed with recycled Chicago Commons.

Process uses drywall waste to create bricks

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Researchers at Washington State University and DTG Recycling Group have developed a process that pulverizes drywall scrap, mixes it with water and binders, then presses it into bricks that can be made on- or off-site with existing equipment. The method holds promise for the 10 million tons of drywall discarded every year in the US. Read more [here](#).

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

TMS announces new Masonry Night School

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

TMS kicks off a new educational offering, *Masonry Night School*, with a 6 session Masonry 101 course. This evening live webinar program will provide a comprehensive introduction to masonry materials and concepts for those who need a fast-track course, especially new designers and specifiers. Attendees can choose to attend 1 or more sessions, with discounts for registering for the entire course. [Click here](#) for more information and descriptions of each webinar.

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