

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Benefits of Going Green

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SPONSORED EDITION

From The Editor

One of the things about improving the environmental impacts of a business is that it often leads to economic benefits as well. This edition includes several success stories and a link to an 'owner toolkit' for addressing embodied carbon. What has your experience been? Has your business adopted 'green' strategies that ended up greening your wallet? Economics is an often overlooked part of sustainability, but it is an important one.

As I write this, the 14th Canadian Masonry Symposium has just come to a close. One theme that both of the keynote presenters spoke on was the need for flexibility and adaptability for the masonry industry to thrive in the future. Whether it's the influence of robotics or something totally different, construction as we know it is being disrupted, and our industry is challenged to adapt. Sounds a bit like resiliency, doesn't it? In the next month or so you'll be able to view recordings of the keynotes and abstracts from papers on this and a variety of topics from the conference at the [conference website](#). As we head into summer, it's also a good time to check out the new TMS [Masonry Education Hub](#). This new resource provides on-demand learning opportunities for a wide variety of masonry topics from sustainability to strength design and more. It's a great way to obtain continuing education credits and expand your knowledge of masonry from the experts!

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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

Oftentimes improving building energy efficiency is focused on adding more insulation. However, research shows the window-to-wall ratio (WWR) has the greatest impact on achieving energy-efficient and cost-efficient designs. Glass fenestration is often the weak link. ~Tina

Early-Stage Building Lifecycle Optimization

MIT CSHUB

A recently released research brief from the MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub (CSHub) documents the development of a plugin for life cycle assessment tools. Conventional building LCA tools

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generally require highly specified building models, which can prove challenging during the early design phase. To give designers and architects more flexibility, CSHub research assistant Jingyi Liu is developing a plug-in for existing design tools that allows users to estimate life cycle cost and carbon impact when only building geometry is specified. [Read more.](#)

STRUCTURE Magazine May focus is masonry

NCMA

Structure Magazine is focused on providing information to practicing structural engineers. The May issue is focused on masonry and stories include changes to masonry codes and standards, case studies on masonry buildings and helping engineers better understand masonry constructability. Read the digital version [here](#).

Coalition advocates for more resilient communities

ENGINEERING NEWS-RECORD (tiered subscription)

A coalition of more than 250 construction, architecture and engineering firms have sent the White House a letter detailing six net-zero carbon recommendations. The group has called for enhancing federal building standards, stimulating building reuse and upgrades, and promoting electrification, material health, healthy schools, and housing. [Read more.](#)

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Each time a new model energy code comes out, the U.S. government reviews it to ensure it results in more energy efficient buildings. The latest analysis demonstrates the greatest improvements occur on the residential side. ~Tina

The U.S. DOE analysis finds energy and carbon improvements with updated codes

ENERGYCODES.GOV

A [Preliminary analysis](#) released by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) finds that the residential provisions of the 2021 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) are 9.38% more efficient than the 2018 edition and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 8.66%. Similarly, the DOE estimates provisions of the ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2019 will achieve 4.7% greater energy efficiency and 4.2% reduction in GHG emissions in commercial buildings as compared with the 2016 edition. With this new analysis, the IECC has seen a 40 percent improvement in energy savings starting from the 2006 edition.

LEED updates language of credits to better reflect equity goals

USGBC

Equitable access to the benefits of green building have always been a critical part of the mission and vision for LEED. However, it is not always what comes to mind first when projects are seeking certification. In the April addenda, USGBC took steps to better communicate how projects can meet equity goals. Read more [here](#).

Green Globes standard for existing buildings out for review

THEGBI.ORG

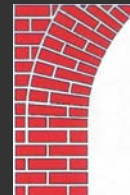
The Green Building Initiative (GBI) is pleased to announce the first comment period on [BSR/GBI 02-202x](#), Green Globes Assessment Protocol for Existing Buildings (new standard), or more commonly known as Green Globes for Existing Buildings. The draft standard supports assessment of sustainability, health and wellness, and



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resilience of existing buildings and will be refined through public participation over two to three years. [Learn more.](#)

GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

The articles below aren't masonry specific but they provide several good insights into how to make your business more sustainable and how many environmental changes also reduce costs. ~Tina

5 ways to make sustainability part of your strategy

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Sustainability and corporate social responsibility require a look at the entirety of a company's operations, even as distinct opportunities present themselves in packaging, energy use and carbon reductions, writes Nature's Logic CEO David Yaskulka. "[I]t's important to take a whole company approach to 'bottom-line it' -- so if you are not reporting holistically, now's a great time to start," he writes in [this article](#).

DFW finds sustainability also reduces costs

SKIIFT

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport has discovered that its sustainability efforts, such as consolidating rental car operations, installing a thermal storage system for heating and cooling, and recycling runway renovation debris, have also resulted in additional savings. "Over the period when we were reducing emissions, we noticed that a lot of the strategies that we employed not only reduced our emissions, but reduced our costs," said Robert Horton, the airport's vice president of environmental affairs and sustainability. [Read more.](#)

New resource from the Carbon Leadership Forum

CARBON LEADERSHIP FORUM

Corporate embodied carbon policies may vary depending on the company and its portfolio. For example, investors can set a policy to only invest in buildings with a certain embodied carbon intensity whereas tenants can set a policy to rent only from buildings below a certain embodied carbon threshold while creating policies for the design and procurement of their fit-outs. These policies can take different forms. Explore the [Owner Toolkit](#).

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

NEW Masonry Education Hub

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

The Masonry Society (TMS) has launched the [Masonry Education Hub](#), a Learning Management System that allows designers, professors, students, and other users to obtain on-demand masonry education. The Masonry Education Hub provides a central location for excellent and accessible training sessions on a variety of masonry topics. Currently over 40-course offerings are available for "on-demand" learning on topics including masonry basics, inspection, testing, codes and standards, and strength design of masonry.

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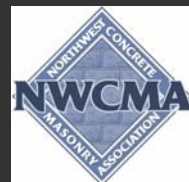
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