

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

In an effort to keep you informed of the latest news and trends in the area of sustainability, from time to time this newsletter features stories that may be controversial or at least questioned by some. This includes articles on materials other than masonry, as well as topics related to “green building” in general. Every article featured is reviewed for potential interest; however articles are not evaluated at length. Those included, are, in our opinion, things you should be aware of, whether or not we agree with them. As a result it is important to note that inclusion in this newsletter is not an endorsement of the products featured or the views expressed. As a reminder of this, all future editions will feature the note found below.

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LCA

Use of life cycle assessment, or LCA, continues to expand. The links below include work undertaken by the state of Washington to create a database of building-related LCA and related tools and an article on eco-labels for the building industry and beyond. Keeping track of all the different labels is a challenge, but there is one website that tries to make it easy – ecolabelindex.com. ~Tina

MIT Researchers Provide Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) for Buildings

A life-cycle assessment study was conducted to evaluate and improve the environmental impact and study how the “dual use” aspect of concrete – its ability to offer a durable structure while providing thermal mass benefits for energy loads – affects the environmental footprint of the structure. Study examines all phases of a building – from acquisition of materials to demolition. [More on the LCA for buildings.](#)

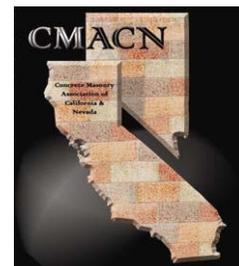
LCA for WA Update

The state of Washington is researching information on the Life Cycle Assessment and Buildings Research. First steps include creation of a database of LCA and related tools. To learn more visit their website at <http://courses.washington.edu/lcaforwa/wordpress>.

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[Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada](#)



In addition, Tacoma, Washington and King County (Seattle), Washington is working with the Institute for Environmental Research and Education (IERE) to investigate LCI data mining opportunities in the public domain. The goal of this project is to attempt to gather life cycle inventory modules from several local jurisdictions as a method of developing life cycle inventory unit process modules for the U.S. Life Cycle Inventory Database.

Software Lets Users See Environmental Effects of Design Decisions

Technology from SolidWorks Sustainability, currently in beta, offers real-time feedback -- similar to BIM -- on four environmental factors as engineers and designers make changes to a project's design. The technology helps designers to "graphically identify which parts of a design work and which need to be improved or eliminated," writes Sun Joo Kim in this [SmartPlanet.com/Innovation blog](http://SmartPlanet.com/Innovation_blog).

White Paper on Fly Ash Use in Concrete

New York Design firm Perkins Will has launched a free database aimed at creating greater transparency into building materials containing substances that are publically known or suspected to be associated with an adverse finding in relation to human and environmental health. The database is the result of over two years of review of governmentally published scientific papers, which identify "precautionary" substances that are known or suspected to cause harm to humans and the environment and can be found at www.transparency.perkinswill.com. The site also includes a new white paper entitled Fly Ash in Concrete, available for download [here](#). The paper addresses, from a specifier perspective, issues associated with the use of fly ash in concrete based on their internal review of many diverse opinions and published information.

Which of These 426 Eco-labels is Right For Your Business?

The eco-labeling business is booming, with at least 426 labeling systems in operation, according to Ecolabel Index. Using a label can draw attention to a brand's eco-credentials, write Dinah A. Koehler and Chris Park in this [Greenbiz.com article](#), but companies need to first consider factors such as brand alignment.

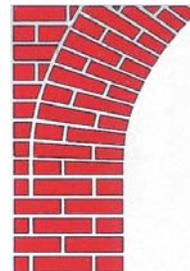
PRODUCT NEWS

This edition features a company that is utilizing BIM to

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provide technical data on their products to designers as well as a link to the concrete industry's sustainability trends reports. ~Tina

Acme Brick Company Introduces BIM Compliant Software

Acme Brick Company has introduced a software tool for architects that delivers BIM (Building Information Modeling) data directly to an Autodesk® Revit® project. Acme BIM Online allows users to select brick from a visual catalog, by name or by color family. After making a selection, users can preview brick as a simulated panel or building elevation – with the option of changing mortar colors. BIM-compliant technical data is available for every brick in the AcmeBIM Online database. Compiled in 36 different categories, BIM data can be imported directly into a Revit project using the plug-in version.

Users of the AcmeBIM Online's Web version can download BIM data as a standard text file in .CSV format.

Links to three-part specifications are also included in both versions of AcmeBIM Online. To launch the Web version of AcmeBIM Online, visit: <http://brick.com/acmebimonline>.

Concrete Joint Sustainability Institute Industry Trends Reports Available

The most recent editions of the Concrete JSI Industry Trends Report includes information on Congress battling over infrastructure funding, California introducing cap-and-trade rules, researchers developing 3-D printer for concrete, Senate blocking infrastructure bill, green building code approved, eco-friendly construction materials, and more green building news. You can obtain the current Reports plus past archives under "Green Resources" at <http://www.concretejsi.com>.

GREEN BUILDING

NCMA's November 10th e-news Brief contained a short summary of some of the highlights of the recently approved International Green Construction Code. A copy of that summary, as well as a link to another article on the new code can be found below. ~Tina

NCMA Reports on the 2012 IGCC

The final decisions were recently debated and concluded that will define the requirements to be included in the first edition of the International Green Construction Code to be published in early 2012.

This entirely new code is intended to work in conjunction with the International Building Code to



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govern sustainable design attributes of commercial construction in states and jurisdictions that adopt these provisions. Several masonry industry representatives were in attendance to advocate on behalf of the masonry industry. A few of the key provisions that will be reflected in the first IGCC include:

- ... Options or alternatives to consider the use of recycled content in building materials. Unique to the IGCC is the weighting parity for both pre-consumer and post-consumer recycled materials (as opposed to giving only half credit to pre-consumer recycled content).
- ... Increased energy efficiency targeting 10 percent better energy performance compared to the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code.
- ... Provisions to encourage or require that building materials be capable of being recycled into the same material or another material at the end of its useful life.
- ... Minimum requirements for solar reflectance of pavements to mitigate heat island effects and encourage the use of lighter colored paving materials.

U.S. to Get National Green Building Code

The International Green Construction Code -- green building standards for the U.S. -- has been approved, and when published in 2012 will create a uniform set of sustainability requirements for new and renovated buildings of three or more stories. The mandate varies from LEED standards, which are voluntary, and will require buildings to meet eco-friendly targets in terms of land use, materials, water and energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and daily operations. Read more at SustainableBusiness.com.

Sustainable Federal Buildings Save Green, Too, Study Says

Sustainably designed federal buildings are markedly cheaper to operate than conventional premises, according to a [study](#) by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Researchers found that eco-friendly government buildings had, on average, lower maintenance and energy impacts, with occupants that were more content than dwellers in regular commercial buildings according to this [Green Building Elements article](#).

Australia Passes Carbon Tax

The landmark law makes Australia the first major economy to put a tax on carbon. [Read more](#).

Free eLearning Webinar: Engineering for a Sustainable World

Get an overview of the leadership technique that will help prepare engineers to incorporate sustainability into their projects in ASCE's latest free eLearning webinar, [Engineering for a Sustainable World](#). You'll gain insights into how the principles of sustainability and the "Triple Bottom Line" approach can be integrated into the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of future projects for any sector from federal and state to private. [Register today](#) for the eLearning Webinar, Thursday, Dec. 15, at 3 p.m. ET, hosted by Craig Farkos, P.E., M.ASCE and Michael Sanio, ASCE director, Sustainability and International Activities, free to ASCE members.

USGBC/LEED NEWS

LEED Interpretations Database Updated

USGBC's [LEED Interpretations process and database](#) was recently updated. LEED Interpretations are like project-specific CIRs, but unlike those Credit Interpretation Rulings, they can be applied to multiple projects. They are published in a searchable, online database, and unlike CIRs which are made by GBCI review teams, LEED Interpretations receive scrutiny from USGBC staff and technical committees. Read more about the LEED Interpretations process and database at [LEEDuser.com](#).

Greenbuild 2012 Seeks Presenters and Reviewers

USGBC is currently accepting proposals from industry experts eager to share their knowledge and expertise with audiences at Greenbuild and the associated Greenbuild summits. To submit a proposal or to learn more about the process, visit the [Call for Proposals website](#). The deadline for submittals is Friday, Jan. 13, 2012 at 4:59 p.m. ET.

USGBC is also seeking peer reviewers to evaluate session proposals. Reviewers are eligible to present at the events and receive \$100 discount off a Greenbuild full conference registration. If you are interested in volunteering as a reviewer, please apply on the [Call for Reviewers website](#).

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