

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Defining Resilience

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SPONSORED EDITION

From The Editor

By the time you read this, the 2021 Annual Meeting of The Masonry Society will have just concluded. It is our first in-person meeting since the pandemic. I'm excited that we were able to get together again and maintain several traditions associated with this annual event including recognizing many deserving individuals with awards, providing excellent educational sessions, and having some time for social gatherings after getting the business of the Society done. But we all recognize that there are benefits to the virtual environment that was thrust upon us in 2020, especially in the way of new opportunities to interact with people all over the country and world. So, with that in mind, I'd like to point you to some upcoming live webinar opportunities. I'm pleased to be able to offer a webinar on [Resilience and Masonry](#) on November 9th, and as I noted last time, TMS' latest Night School series covers [Repair and Maintenance of Masonry](#) built between 1880 and 1945. I hope you'll join us! To learn more about other TMS educational offerings visit our [webinar page](#) or our [Education Hub](#) for recorded programs.

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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

6 ways civil engineers can act on climate change

NEW CIVIL ENGINEER

Britain's Institution of Civil Engineers encourages its members to make a number of professional changes to help create a more sustainable world. Learn more [here](#).

Podcast: About "mitigation" and other climate jargon

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

Those of us familiar with the clean energy world think nothing of using words like "mitigation" and "carbon-neutral," but a new study has found the rest of the world isn't sure what we're talking about -- and that's a problem. In [this episode](#) of NPR's Short Wave, Rebecca

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Hersher and Lauren Sommer discuss why climate jargon is so confusing and what can be done about it.

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

The number of states requiring consideration of the environmental impacts of materials during product procurement is growing, with California leading the way. The latest efforts there include legislation to help achieve reduction in carbon emissions from cement production. It is interesting to note that the new law also includes provision for financial incentives and assistance to achieve the state's goals. ~Tina

A matter of law: Environmental product declaration submittals

CONCRETE PRODUCTS

A growing number of local, state, and federal procurement policies require environmental product declarations (EPDs) for reporting the embodied carbon of eligible products. Embodied carbon refers to the greenhouse gas emissions arising from the manufacturing or production, installation, maintenance, and disposal of materials used in the construction of buildings, roads, and other infrastructure. Procurement policies such as "Buy Clean" aim to leverage the purchasing power of government agencies to incentivize transparency and a shift toward lower-carbon options in the broader construction materials market. [Read more.](#)

California acts to reduce carbon footprint of cement

LEGISLATIVE INFO (CA)

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires the State Air Resources Board to ensure that statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 40% below the 1990 level by 2030. The act requires the state board to prepare and approve, and update at least once every 5 years, a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Newly signed California [Senate Bill 596](#), endorsed by the California Nevada Cement Association (CNCA), requires the state to develop a comprehensive strategy for the state's cement sector to achieve net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases associated with cement used within the state as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2045.

LEED milestones

USGBC

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) [announced](#) that it has surpassed one billion square feet of LEED commercial green building space recertified under LEED. LEED recertification is an important effort to measure energy, water, waste and transportation performance, as well as the human experience of LEED projects. Recertification enables owners to protect their sustainability investments over time. Other LEED milestones in 2021 include nearly 24 billion square feet LEED registered and certified projects, and 110,000 projects participating in LEED.

PRODUCT TRANSPARENCY

If you're a regular reader of this newsletter, you've heard a lot about EPDs and LCAs to measure environmental impacts. What are those really? Read the article below to find out. ~Tina

Defining the EPD impact assessment categories

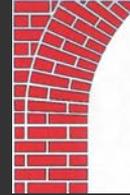
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A life-cycle impact assessment (LCIA) essentially serves as the "what does it mean" step in the broader process of conducting a life-cycle assessment (LCA) for a product or material. Read [this primer](#) on life cycle impact categories to learn more.

Transparency report - leaders and laggards

HEALTHY BUILDING NETWORK

Materials transparency is foundational to improving the safety of building materials and reducing negative health effects. Last year, the Healthy Building Network wrote about the growth they've seen in the past decade in the amount and quality of data that's available. This year [they report](#) that some product categories are ahead of others. When it comes to transparency, who's leading and who's lagging?

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Resilience is the topic of several upcoming webinars, including our own by TMS. Hope you can join me! ~Tina

Webinar: Achieving Resilience - How Masonry Supports Resilient Designs

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

[Register now](#) for this webinar on November 9th at 1 pm ET. Learn about resilient design and how masonry can be used to enhance the resilience of buildings. During this webinar, Christine "Tina" A. Subasic, P.E., LEED A.P. will review the use of 'above-code' standards to strengthen buildings and the role of masonry construction in meeting resilient design goals.

Webinar: Building Resilience through BIM

NIBS

To become resilient, we must respond and adopt new ways of thinking and working. Building information modeling (BIM) can help address the climate, urbanization, performance and skills shortage challenges, alongside the implementation of many best practice approaches. Organizations that seize this opportunity will be able to compete successfully in global markets. Attend this [free webinar](#) on October 19, 2021, from 1:00 - 2:00pm ET.

Webinar: Designing for climate resilience - NYC

URBAN GREEN COUNCIL

After being hit hard by storms such as Hurricanes Sandy and Ida, New York City is already feeling the extreme weather effects of climate change. On November 4, join [this webinar](#) to learn the latest science on climate change in NYC and how it's being used to inform resiliency planning. Speakers will highlight how the city is leading by example by enacting the New York City Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines for city-funded capital projects. They will also show how some private building designers are already putting them to use.

Sustainable Resilient Masonry - The Route towards Zero Carbon

INTERNATIONAL MASONRY SOCIETY (UK)

A recording and slides from the recent International Masonry Society webinar, Sustainable Resilient Masonry - The Route towards Zero Carbon are now available [here](#).

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