

# The Masonry Society

## *Sustainability E-News*

*Resilience Defined*

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#### **From The Editor**

How would you define resilience? There are many definitions out there, but most contain some version of adapting, preparing, withstanding, and recovering from a hazard event of some type. Join me for a webinar on **November 9th** as we look at resilience and the building codes, and how masonry construction supports resilient designs. You can find more information [here](#). If you'd like to know more about how building codes around the world are incorporating the information on changing climate, check out the report under CODES AND STANDARDS NEWS.

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#### **GREEN BUILDING NEWS**

While the first article below is not specific to masonry, it's a good overview of weather-resistant barriers and considerations for their use. ~Tina

#### **Weather-resistant barriers**

##### **BUILDING ENCLOSURE ONLINE**

Weather-resistant barriers (WRBs) are essential in the construction of new residential and light commercial, multifamily, and mixed-use buildings. They help achieve occupant well-being, safety, and comfort. New WRB technology can meet and exceed standards for healthier buildings and homes. Technology can be fine tuned to meet building requirements, a variety of climates, and the effects of climate change. Improved indoor air quality (IAQ) should increase comfort and even foster well-being for building occupants. [Read more.](#)

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## Top research on residential green building

### USGBC

In [this third quarterly review](#) of residential green building research for 2021, USGBC highlights several reports on the topics of green bonds, human health and buildings, green neighborhoods, enhancements for utilities, sustainability in the real estate market, and the intersection of energy efficiency and occupant health.

## CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Recent efforts by a consortium of codes and standards developers around the world have produced a report ([download here](#)) on how model building codes reflect changing climate data. You can read more about it in the article below. ~Tina

## Adapting building codes to changing weather risks

### BUILDING ENCLOSURE ONLINE

As a first line of defense, building codes and standards are fundamental in assuring that buildings support the health, safety, and welfare of communities, including protecting life during hazardous events. While many at-risk communities have adopted building codes to provide protection from the majority of anticipated hazards, most codes utilize historical data to assess the risk of weather-related hazards to buildings that may not account for new climate patterns. Therefore, as hazards change, building codes and standards developers need to be considering how to incorporate the latest research and data. [Read more.](#)

## CASE STUDIES

### Case studies: A blueprint for a sustainable built environment

#### WBCSD

New case studies show how business can tackle multiple sustainability challenges in the construction sector in a way that creates economic, environmental, and social value. Visit the [Blueprint for a Sustainable Built Environment](#).

## Preservation and adaptive reuse

### CONSTRUCTION SPECIFIER

Adaptive reuse is the process of retrofitting old buildings to new uses in a way that allows structures to retain their historic integrity while providing for occupants' modern needs. [These projects](#) preserve what is best about historic properties but develop them in a way that is modern and usable.

## CMU delivers for Vision and Wellness Center

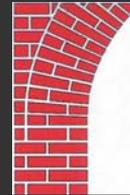
### NCMA

A high-tech, insulated concrete masonry wall system -- along with a synergistic effort by the block producer, architect, engineer, contractors, industry experts, and the building's owner -- have created a state-of-the-art Vision Health and Wellness Center for The Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) in Syracuse, NY. The building is a true testament to the power of simple, well-designed concrete masonry construction. It features a single-wythe, structural integrally-insulated concrete masonry wall system, with exposed surfaces on both interior and exterior faces. [Read more.](#)

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## Research study: Passive house/Net zero housing and concrete block

### NCMA

The NCMA Foundation has funded a project through the Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association (CCMPA) to study the ways that concrete block construction can contribute to sustainable design strategies such as Passive House and Net Zero. The project is engaging an intern studying architecture for the investigation and will include developing digital prototypes of buildings using concrete masonry. [Read more.](#)

## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

### 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.

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#### THE MASONRY SOCIETY

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### Webinar: Decarbonization of existing buildings

#### USGBC

Join USGBC and the Institute for Sustainable Energy, Boston University, for a [two-part webinar](#) on the decarbonization of existing commercial buildings. This two-part webinar will address the technical, financial and policy challenges in achieving substantial decarbonization of existing commercial buildings in particular—the harder-to-transition bulk of this sector that requires large-scale retrofits.

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