

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

The Case for Reuse

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SPONSORED EDITION

From The Editor

Several of the articles in this edition point to the benefits of reusing existing buildings. Whether that is through repurposing or renovations or both, reusing existing buildings avoids the environmental impacts of building new. Fortunately, masonry buildings can be reused. Past editions of *Sustainability E-News* have included examples of energy retrofits of masonry structures. This edition includes the second part of a story from STRUCTURE magazine about the reconstruction of a historic chalet after a fire. You can read the first part of that story in the [May edition](#), which focuses on masonry.

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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

The case for never demolishing another building

THE GUARDIAN

The construction industry can be wasteful and creates huge CO₂ emissions. But what if new buildings had to be adapted and reused or built only with materials already available? What if we stopped knocking things down? What if every existing building had to be preserved, adapted, and reused, and new buildings could only use materials that were already available? Could we continue to make and remake our cities out of what is already there? Read more [here](#).

Up from the ashes – Rebuilding Sperry Chalet

STRUCTURE MAGAZINE

The backcountry Sperry Chalet was constructed over several summers in the 1910s using timbers harvested within Glacier National Park. The stone was quarried from the talus slope just uphill of the chalet. Over two feet wide at the base and tapering to sixteen inches wide at the roof level, the masonry walls consist of two interwoven leaves of argillite, a fine-grained sedimentary stone

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consisting primarily of lithified muds. The masonry is purposefully laid in random ashlar coursing, and the massive exterior leaf stones project by varying degrees conveying a natural aesthetic and textural ruggedness. [Read](#) how this historic structure was restored after a devastating fire.

Structural engineers and the climate crisis – Reducing embodied carbon through the SE2050 Commitment

STRUCTURE MAGAZINE

In response to the scientific consensus that man-made emissions are driving warming global temperatures and other climate changes already causing havoc worldwide, the structural engineering community has created a voluntary program called the SE 2050 Commitment. The SE 2050 Commitment is designed to reduce the emissions associated with building structures. [This article](#) shares details about the program, what's driving it, its overall goals, and how structural engineers can participate.

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

While the articles below aren't codes per se, they address government initiatives for greener buildings. ~Tina

Major companies, cities make low-carbon materials pledge

CANARY MEDIA

A globe-spanning coalition of major companies including Airbus, Amazon, Boeing and Cemex joined a partnership of West Coast municipalities in the US and Canada pledging to pursue the use of more low- and zero-carbon building materials and industrial products. The two initiatives announced at the COP26 climate conference aim "to pull emerging technologies into the marketplace," such as those producing less-carbon-intensive steel, concrete and fuels. [Read more.](#)

Infrastructure bill includes money to upgrade buildings

FAST COMPANY

The recently passed federal infrastructure bill includes, among many things, investment in energy-efficient retrofits, weatherization assistance and guidance for municipalities to update building codes. "Accelerating innovation in low-carbon buildings through deep energy retrofits and building electrification are critical steps toward creating the clean energy economy of the future," says Narada Golden from WSP USA in [this article](#).

GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

Research and innovation in the cement industry continues as the industry works to lower the carbon footprint of cement. You can read about some of the latest news below. ~Tina

PCA Releases Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality

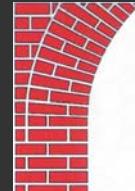
PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) announced its [Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality](#), an ambitious journey to carbon neutrality across the cement and concrete value chain by 2050. Given the significant role of cement in society and anticipated infrastructure development, it is a critical step that the industry act now to further reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) and create sustainable building solutions in the decades to come. The Roadmap demonstrates how the U.S. cement and concrete industry, along with its entire value chain, can address climate change, decrease GHGs and eliminate barriers that

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are restricting environmental progress. You can also hear Rick Bohan, vice president of sustainability at the PCA, discuss the roadmap on the [Digging Deeper podcast](#).

Making cement more sustainable using waste materials

ASCE

Researchers in the EU recently conducted a series of experiments to evaluate using charcoal and limestone dust (a waste material) in cement-based composites for building applications to improve their sustainability. Results show that the limestone-charcoal-cement composites have low thermal conductivity while retaining good mechanical strength, high water vapor permeability, and low flammability. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Bioplastic-reinforced concrete block under development

TIME OF MALTA

Researchers at the University of Malta are developing [concrete blocks embedded with degradable insulation](#) to help architects and engineers comply with requirements for zero-energy buildings. The blocks, which contain bioplastics in lieu of petrochemical-based materials, could be ready for mass production by 2024.

Concrete, cement companies make sustainability pledge

GLOBAL CEMENT

The Global Cement and Concrete Association, which represents 40 of the biggest companies in the industry, has pledged to cut CO₂ emissions by an additional 25% by 2030. The association has a seven-point plan to fully decarbonize by 2050. [Read more](#).

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

It's not too late to join the latest Night School on *Transitional Masonry*. All sessions are being recorded, and the series runs into December.
~Tina

Assessment, Maintenance, and Repair of Transitional Masonry Structures Night School

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

TMS's Existing Masonry Committee has been presenting seven (7) one-hour sessions weekly which began October 27 and continue through December 15. The sessions discuss the most common issues in assessing, repairing, and maintaining masonry cladding systems constructed in North America between 1880 and 1945. For more information, visit the Existing Masonry Series [Night School webpage](#).

USGBC is co-hosting a free online event on material health

USGBC

Join USGBC on Tuesday, Nov. 16, during the second Material Health Open Innovation Symposium from 12 to 5 p.m. ET. Hosted by the Health Product Declaration Collaborative (HPDC) and co-sponsored by USGBC and mindful Materials, this virtual event is free for everyone. Find out about the latest innovations taking place in the field of material health from researchers, educators, manufacturers, architects, designers, and ecosystem partners. Learn how to tap into growth and opportunities in green building through transparency, openness, and innovation in the practice areas of reporting,

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Workshop on Fostering a Circular Economy of Discarded Manufacturing Materials

ASTM INTERNATIONAL

Abstracts for presentations are invited for the Workshop on Fostering a Circular Economy of Discarded Manufacturing Materials to be held Wednesday and Thursday, April 20-21, 2022. This workshop is sponsored by ASTM Committee E60 on Sustainability and will be held virtually. This workshop will provide a forum to identify standards opportunities to foster a circular economy in discarded materials from manufacturing operations (as opposed to consumer waste generation or decommissioning of facilities. For more information about the workshop, visit [the symposium website](#).

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