

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

LEED Addenda Update

November 30, 2021

Volume 13, Number 22

SPONSORED EDITION

From The Editor

It's hard to believe that, as I write this, Thanksgiving is just a day away and December will be here before we know it. It's a good time of year to reflect on things we are thankful for. What are you grateful for? I am thankful for YOU, our readers. I am also especially thankful for all of the *Sustainability E-News* Sponsors! Without them, we couldn't publish. As you look toward 2022, will you consider becoming a [Sponsor](#)? It's an easy, cost-effective way to support a valuable resource in our industry. For more information, [contact the TMS office](#).

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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

As the push for reliance on electricity over fossil fuels grows, one thing that needs to be addressed and acknowledged, especially in the near term, is the fact that renewables still represent a small percentage of electricity generated in the U.S. Until that changes, it is hard for even an electric-only building to be truly carbon neutral.
~Tina

How green is your grid?

BUILDING ENCLOSURE ONLINE

As the building design and construction industry continues to advance low-carbon solutions that tackle both operational and embodied carbon, a looming challenge remains: our national electrical grid still emits a lot of carbon into the atmosphere. [Read more.](#)

Habitat for Humanity Tuscaloosa dedicates first concrete masonry home

TUSCALOOSA NEWS

Last week, the Tuscaloosa chapter of Habitat for Humanity dedicated a new home constructed using concrete masonry. The house

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showcases the use of resilient concrete masonry construction for residential housing and was supported by a broad coalition of concrete and concrete masonry industry trade groups. The house includes a tornado safe room constructed using concrete masonry to ensure occupants are safe in extreme conditions. [Read more.](#)

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Years ago, LEED was criticized for awarding points for simply installing bike racks on projects. Their latest Pilot Credit awards points for planting trees. It remains to be seen how effective this is in making meaningful improvements in our environment. ~Tina

New LEED Addenda published

USGBC

The October 2021 quarterly LEED rating system and reference guide [addenda](#) is now available. Of note is a new [Pilot Credit](#) on carbon sequestration through planting trees and shrubs on the project site. A number of changes were also made to specific requirements in the LEED for Homes rating system.

GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

Innovations with traditional materials and masonry materials made from new ingredients are featured in the links below. ~Tina

Bricklaying robot proves it can handle big blocks

THE CONSTRUCTION INDEX

Clay blocks the size of 12 standard bricks were no problem for Australia's Hadrian X bricklaying robot. The FBR-developed robot succeeded in completing a pilot house using two types of European blocks to create a type of monolithic wall system commonly used in Europe. [Read more.](#)

Startup tackles cement emissions using new chemistry

FAST COMPANY

Brimstone Energy, a startup backed financially by Bill Gates's Breakthrough Energy Ventures, says it has developed a process capable of producing carbon-neutral ordinary portland cement and supplementary cementitious materials. The company is in the design stage of a test plant for its process, which relies on renewable energy and processing calcium silicate instead of limestone. Learn more [here.](#)

Transformative carbon-storing materials

CARBON LEADERSHIP FORUM

[This report](#) from the Carbon Leadership Forum identifies six materials for use in building foundations, structures, and/or enclosure systems that offer novel material technologies or novel material uses with high carbon-storing potential. According to the report, these materials are worthy of investment to accelerate their scaling, manufacturing, and marketable use. Among them are earthen slabs, non-portland cement concrete slabs, and algae-grown bricks/panels.

New flooring design based on masonry arches slashes quantity of materials used

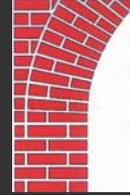
FAST COMPANY

A new type of concrete flooring for high-rises requires just under 1 1/4 inches of concrete atop a skeletal framework of thin steel bars, reducing the amount of concrete used by 70% and steel by 90%. According to [this article](#), the development by ETH Zurich is seen as

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a way to greatly reduce the environmental burden of conventional construction.

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

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THE MASONRY SOCIETY

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