

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Decarbonization

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SPONSORED EDITION

From The Editor

There are times throughout the year when I think about a past article featured in this newsletter, and then when I try to find it, I spend longer than I expect searching for it. Perhaps you have experienced that as well. And while I don't have a solution for that exactly, I am including a feature this month that I hope will help you down the road. For the first time, *Sustainability E-News* includes a compilation of most-clicked articles from throughout the year. So, in addition to our regular news, this edition features the top seven articles from 2021. Over the next couple of editions, we'll share more of our most-clicked articles.

Also, don't forget that you too can be a [Sponsor](#) of *Sustainability E-News*. With nearly 5,000 subscribers and an even broader distribution through our partner associations, it is a helpful resource for many, and a great way to support the work of The Masonry Society!

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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

"Decarbonization" is the hot topic in the building industry right now. The term can mean different things to different people, but it often refers to designing and constructing buildings without any fuel-burning devices so that when (and if) the electric grid becomes carbon-free, those buildings that rely only on electricity will be able to say they don't use carbon for their operation. Sometimes decarbonization can also refer to eliminating the embodied energy, or carbon, that it takes to manufacture building products and to construct a building. Both areas are ones that the standards and guides discussed below try to address. In addition, a new [Federal Sustainability Plan](#) and related [Executive Order](#) signed by President Biden are likely to accelerate these efforts. ~Tina

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New standard aims to discern projects' embodied carbon

GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

The third edition of the International Cost Management Standard is said to be the first universal standard for reporting embodied and operational carbon used in the construction and lifecycle of structures. Learn more [here](#).

Building decarbonization practice guide

BUILDING GREEN

Embodied carbon, electrification, and renewable energy are being addressed in a new practice guide being compiled by the William J. Worthen Foundation. By piecing together decarbonization best practices, the guide aims to be a comprehensive resource for eliminating the carbon impact of buildings. The first three chapters have now been released. [Read more](#).

Reflections from COP26: How we can transform the built environment to net zero

WBCSD

WBCSD's Director, Sustainable Buildings & Cities, Roland Hunziker, [shares his insights](#) about reaching a net zero built environment by 2050. The built environment is a sector "that underpins all human life, provides us with shelter, helps us move around and forms a critical foundation for most economies" - but is responsible for 40% of global energy-related GHG emissions.

Everything you ever wanted to know about transforming the building industry

BUILDING GREEN

A comprehensive new guide could help radically reshape the building industry to be more environmentally responsible and equitable. The BuildUp 2030 Framework from the Institute for Market Transformation sets out to "more clearly define what transformation of real estate might look like by 2030 to better protect, support, and nourish the people in buildings and the world around them." [Read more](#).

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Updated ASCE 7 standard published

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has updated its ASCE 7 Standard, *Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures*, to include criteria for tornado-resistant design, new models to obtain accurate snow loads, and a multipoint seismic spectrum for certain soft-soil sites. Read more [here](#).

GREEN NEWS in REVIEW

The **most-clicked articles** for 2021. ~Tina

New resource from USGBC promotes healthy buildings

USGBC

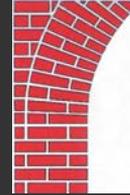
USGBC has published a new resource, the [Research Anthology of Health-Promoting Building Strategies](#), in support of healthy buildings and healthy people. The new anthology is intended to support project teams in designing and building projects that reflect proven health strategies. Incorporating the best and latest research, the anthology is broken down into eight key strategies, ranging from indoor air quality to acoustic comfort to active design. For each strategy area,



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the links among specific strategies, design metrics, and health outcomes are explained. Readers will find representative research studies summarized, with links and citations.

The dirty secret of so-called 'fossil-fuel free' buildings

THE GUARDIAN

According to [this article](#), the "embodied carbon" of glass and steel in buildings makes them anything but green. "It's also crucial to understand the relationship between improving operational emissions and the carbon costs of doing so. Triple-glazed windows might reduce heating requirements, but their embodied carbon is vast." The environmental engineer Clara Bagenal George recently produced a guidance document for assessing the embodied carbon of building services equipment (including heating, lighting, plumbing, etc), a crucial part of the jigsaw that has largely been ignored until now. "When you do a retrofit project, the services equipment can represent 80% of the embodied carbon," she says. "It's the hidden element, which often needs upgrading over time."

The Masonry Society launches new Masonry Education Hub

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

TMS has been hard at work rolling out a new [Masonry Education Hub](#). This new resource provides on-demand learning opportunities for a wide variety of masonry topics from sustainability to strength design and more. I encourage you to check it out and share the link with your colleagues and friends. It's a great way to obtain continuing education credits and expand your knowledge of masonry from the experts!

Concrete block stairwells all that is left after fire

BRADFORD TODAY

A fire has resulted in the total loss of a hotel under construction in Bradford West Gwillimbury in Ontario, Canada. When the fire service responded, the fire was well involved on the ground floor and spreading upward. Besides the concrete block stairwells, the entire construction was wood framing, all of which was lost in the blaze. The structure is considered a total loss. As is common in these fires, the only part of the structure standing after the fire was those concrete block stairwells. Incidents such as these could be avoided with concrete masonry construction. [Read more.](#)

Retrofitting heritage masonry buildings

CANADIAN ARCHITECT

Heritage masonry buildings make up a large portion of Canada's urban structures—from the historic warehouses in the downtowns of thriving cities to the shops that line small-town main streets and squares. Not only are these structures significant assets to our physical environment and culture, but their robust assembly and appealing character make them adaptable to new uses. [This article](#) shares some do's and don'ts relative to retrofitting masonry buildings from Canadian Architect Magazine.

Masonry façade upgrade strategies for K-12 facilities

BUILDING ENCLOSURE

Masonry strengthening, façade overcladding and targeted expansions represent cost-effective approaches to making the most of existing K-12 facilities, benefiting a wide and diverse group of users. They can also contribute to improved neighborhood cohesion, helping to celebrate and build upon the legacy of each historic school building. Read [the article](#).

Bronze Level



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Northwest Concrete Masonry Association *



Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association ***



Using masonry for wet flood-proofing

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFIER

There are two types of flood-proofing—dry and wet. Dry flood-proofing implies a new design for a structure or retrofit additions to an existing facility that prevents the entry of flood waters. Wet flood-proofing, on the other hand, involves an intentional design process to allow water to enter a structure built with flood-resistant materials like masonry. The design intent is to permit flood waters to enter and exit the structure freely and enable the flood waters to rise and fall evenly inside the building in the same rate and manner as on the outside. This also implies the flood-resistant materials are a permanent part of the structure. They can be maintained to provide an attractive look before a flood event and can also be easily restored to their original condition at minimal cost. Learn more [here](#).

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