

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

*Withstanding Mother Nature*

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### SPONSORED EDITION

#### From The Editor

As I noted in our last edition, resilience will be a focus of 2022, along with the move toward decarbonization of our built environment. When we consider resilience, the evidence is clear. Natural and manmade disasters cause tremendous loss of life and damage. In many cases, we already know how to do things better and building with resilient masonry construction can be part of the solution. One thing that has not always been clear is how cost-effective building with masonry can be. A multi-year study that considered the costs of multifamily construction in markets around the U.S. found that masonry construction is a smart choice.

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#### GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Our first two articles highlight the importance of constructing buildings that can withstand natural disasters. In other words, building resiliently. ~Tina

#### **NOAA: 2021 climate disasters cause \$145B in damage**

**ENGINEERING NEWS-RECORD** (tiered subscription model)

Damages from 20 weather- and climate-related disasters in the US totaled approximately \$145 billion, a \$43 billion increase from the damage caused by 22 events in the country in 2020, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. [Read more.](#)

#### **Studies show CMU has both initial cost and insurance cost benefits**

**NCMA**

A hardening up of the property and casualty insurance market and new data showing the true economy of concrete masonry construction are boosting block's advantage against competitive building systems. That was the takeaway from a webinar – "Resilient

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Community Risk Reduction, an Economic Approach to Multi-Residential Structures” sponsored Sept. 16, 2021, by the Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association (PCMA). This webinar detailed information contained in [building cost studies](#) from 2017 to the present, documenting the initial construction costs of concrete masonry. New information provided includes general insurance cost information, showing added benefits to developers and owners on those costs compared to competing systems. [Read more.](#)

## Walls of buildings could be used for power generation

**E&T** (Institution of Engineering and Technology) (UK)

Scientists see promise in the potential to use solar bricks, supercapacitor bricks, and microbial fuel cells to make walls of buildings conduits of renewable power generation and storage. Stephen Cousins explores four examples of various energy solutions, some of which rely heavily on nonmetallic materials, in [this article](#).

## Arup’s McCahey Talks Decarbonization and Sustainability

**ENGINEERING NEWS-RECORD (ENR)**

ENR California and Northwest Editor Erica Berardi speaks with Arup Principal Erin McCahey about building decarbonization and what construction can do in the fight against climate change. [Watch now.](#)

## CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Another article on why USGBC is abandoning the RELi resilience rating program and what's next for them. ~Tina

## USGBC leaves RELi behind

**BUILDING GREEN** (free registration required)

The USGBC is leaving RELi behind. But what is their plan to integrate resilience into future versions of LEED? *Building Green* asked them about the future and their view of resilience as “a critical priority.” Read more [here](#).

## Coalition to develop building performance standards

**SMART CITIES DIVE**

Colorado, Washington and more than 30 city and county governments will form a Building Performance Standards Coalition to develop “cleaner, healthier and more affordable buildings.” The federal initiative, which brings together areas accounting for almost 20% of the nation’s building footprint, will aim at standards allowing cities to address existing buildings as well as new structures. [Read more.](#)

## GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

If you're interested in 'greening' your business, these articles can give you a start. ~Tina

## What’s the return on investment for going green?

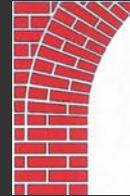
**TRIM TAB**

The business case for going green has never been clearer, and “going green” now means doing something that is good for the environment and for your wallet. This didn’t use to be the case, so what has changed? According to [this article](#), it’s a combination of forces coming together, including pressure from investors and shareholders, pressure from consumers, and a larger shift in ideology by younger generations who are wielding more power in the marketplace. There has never been a better time for a company to

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transform their practices to embrace sustainability than now, and companies who do will see the biggest benefits.

## Experts: How sustainability can permeate a business SPEND MATTERS

Sustainability should resonate throughout a business, from procurement teams to stakeholders and suppliers, and it needs to start at the top with core values and progress evaluated at every level, according to experts. Procurement's efforts can be "efficient by nature and sustainable by design," say Andy Davies and Kimberley Lewis of the Natural History Museum in London in [this piece](#).

## Two more LafargeHolcim plants convert operations to PLC

### GLOBAL CEMENT

LafargeHolcim's plants in Ste. Genevieve, Mo., and Alpena, Mich., have transitioned to OneCem portland limestone cement production. Last year, the company's plant in Midlothian, Texas, made the same transition. [Read more](#).

## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

The Masonry Society's Night School resumes next month with a short course on Allowable Stress Design (ASD). This is a great opportunity to prep for the PE exam or to polish your basic masonry design skills. ~Tina

## Allowable Stress Design Night School

### TMS

TMS is pleased to offer an intensive [Night School course on Allowable Stress Design](#) using the 2016 TMS 402/602 and the International Building Code. This 6 night series, which **begins on February 9th**, is an excellent way to learn from two experts knowledgeable in both practical design of masonry as well as the basis for the code required design provisions.

## Historic Buildings Case Study: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

### URBAN GREEN COUNCIL

As the largest art museum in the United States, the Metropolitan Museum of Art faces unique challenges as it looks to reduce energy use while preserving its collection of timeless art. On **February 2**, join the NYC Urban Green Council for the second event in their Energy Upgrades in Historic Buildings series, featuring a case study of this iconic museum. Representatives from the Met will be joined by architects and engineers working on various projects at the museum. Together, they'll share the creative ways they reduce energy use in a historic building. [Register here](#).

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