

# The Masonry Society

## *Sustainability E-News*

*Improving Building Performance*

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### SPONSORED EDITION

#### From The Editor

The latest edition of *Civil Engineering* magazine included a [feature article on resilience](#), infrastructure, and the role of civil engineers can play in providing a more resilient built environment. While the article is focused on infrastructure and civil engineering specifically, it provides an excellent discussion on the broader issues of resilience, hazards, the role of building codes, and the AEC community's response. You can read more about it below.

As the AEC industry strives toward more resilient construction, the masonry industry has a role to play. Already a durable material, it's important to explore how to further improve masonry construction, whether through lower-carbon materials, more energy-efficient designs, or fully utilizing all the benefits of masonry construction to reduce the total amount of materials used on a project. In some cases, the information is already available. In others, research continues. You can learn more about resilience and the work the masonry industry is involved in by joining The Masonry Society's [Building Performance Committee](#).

And since yesterday was Valentine's Day, I leave you with an [article on resilient relationships](#) (free registration), courtesy of one of our *Sustainability E-News* reviewers. Enjoy!

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#### **BUILDING NEWS**

Though the first article is reports on what is happening in the UK, it is consistent with at least some findings here in the U.S. as well. Building energy use is determined not only by the predictable energy consumption of mechanical equipment, but especially in our electronic age, by unpredictable plug loads. ~Tina

**Study: Building energy usage out of whack with ratings**  
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Emissions goals and environmental building design standards are often at odds in the UK, with some of the most highly rated buildings proving to be energy hogs by comparison with lower-rated counterparts, according to an analysis by the Better Buildings Partnership. The conclusion meshes with other studies questioning such certifications in the US, although the US Green Building Council says its research confirms its ratings' validity. Read the full story [here](#).

## How to make infrastructure more resilient against climate change

### CIVIL ENGINEERING MAGAZINE

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres describes the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on global warming as “a code red for humanity.” Civil engineers are working to limit the emission of greenhouse gases, preserve resources, and promote resiliency to ensure that the infrastructure they design and build today will withstand the impacts of a changing environment tomorrow. [This](#) is the first in a series of articles on infrastructure resilience that *Civil Engineering* plans to publish this year.

## CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

A recent Dodge Data & Analytics Report indicated that green building certifications are declining. One reason given is cost. That's consistent with my experience. What about you? ~Tina

## How to prepare for, minimize wildfire damage

### THE CONVERSATION

Communities in zones prone to wildfires can minimize the potential cost by assessing the risk and designing developments according to state guidance or by tailoring wildland-urban interface fire codes from the International Code Council and National Fire Protection Association to local conditions, writes Jeanne Homer, associate professor of architecture at Oklahoma State University. Homer explores this and other prudent measures, including creation of defensible spaces and building with fire-resistant materials in [this article](#).

## Building carbon caps likely to increase with new coalition

### BUILDING GREEN

Building performance standards like NYC's carbon limits could spread across the U.S. as the Biden administration assists 33 jurisdictions that have joined a new coalition. The Buildings Performance Standards Coalition will receive both technical and financial support and engage with frontline communities to help ensure equitable implementation. Building performance standards are designed to encourage energy efficiency and retrofits. [Read more](#).

## Green building is up, but certifications decline

### BUILDING GREEN (free registration required)

Green building is becoming more prevalent around the world, but the importance of certifications has slightly declined. What's driving that, and what are the new approaches for improving sustainability? [This article](#) looks at reasons why.

## Top 10 states for LEED in 2021

### USGBC

USGBC has released the list of the 2021 Top 10 States for LEED Green Building. You can read it [here](#).

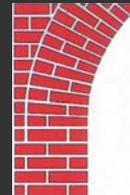
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Silver Level

## GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

**Concrete carbon emissions: Real challenges, real opportunities**

### **CONSTRUCTION SPECIFIER**

Concrete is a tremendously useful and flexible material: building foundations, roads, walkways, bridges, and other infrastructure utilize concrete for its strength, durability, and plasticity in formation. Concrete also has relatively low-embodied carbon per unit volume when compared to other building materials, but, because of its utility, modern construction uses a lot of it. When it comes to carbon impact, concrete is responsible for an estimated eight percent of global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. [Read more.](#)

## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

The Masonry Society's Night School resumes this 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 week series**, which begins on February 9th, is an excellent way to learn from two experts knowledgeable in practical design of masonry as well as the basis for the code required design provisions.

**Lecture: Resilience of the built environment and cultural heritage at risk: Earthquakes, blast, and other extreme events**

#### **CARLETON UNIVERSITY (Canada)**

Over the years European countries have gained valuable experience and knowledge in the field of conservation and restoration, leading to impressive developments in the areas of inspection, non-destructive testing, monitoring, and structural analysis of historical constructions. The guidelines developed on the basis of such knowledge and experience for future reuse and conservation projects allow for safer, economical, and more adequate remedial measures. [This February 23rd virtual lecture](#) will present such knowledge and guidelines addressing aspects related to the risk posed by natural disasters, such as floods, storms, landslides, earthquake, and blast. Also covered will be recent research and applications related to the design and evaluation of structures to deal with the threat posed by explosions. Please register by Feb 16.

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