

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Focus on Carbon Continues

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SPONSORED EDITION

From The Editor

I was recently asked to speak to a regional construction group about what I see as the issues facing the industry, and the first thing that came to mind was 'carbon'. Carbon is in the news nationally, and depending on where you live, locally as well. 'Reducing carbon' as it is used today often refers to selecting building products that have a lower amount of energy associated with their manufacture; in other words, less carbon dioxide (and equivalent) emissions, or lower embodied carbon. Of course, carbon (as an indicator of global warming potential) is only one of a number of environmental impacts that should be considered in selection of building products and materials. And it is only one-half of the picture. The other half is the energy consumed during the operation of the building, some of which is controlled by the building design and equipment used, and much of which can be uncontrolled plug loads. Even the 'greenest' buildings can be plagued by high operational energy use, as evidenced by [One Bryant Park](#). So, while we need to be aware of the energy use associated with our buildings and the materials used to make them, it is also important to be mindful of the other factors that create sustainable, resilient buildings.

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GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Ever wonder what biomimicry is? and how that relates to architecture? Read the article below for insight on this trend. ~Tina

How biomimetic architecture links built and natural environments

BUILDING ENCLOSURE ONLINE

Biomimetic architecture is emerging as the industry's future, drawing inspiration from nature itself. With modern technologies like computational design and 3D printing, biomimicry is enabling architects to create efficient, sustainable, and aesthetically stunning buildings. [Here's an overview](#) of the trend and its impact on building design and performance.

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Platinum Level



New tech gauges operational carbon cost of buildings

FAST COMPANY

The time of day that a building uses energy can make an enormous difference in the environmental impact, as does the energy source used. nZero offers a solution that tracks buildings' energy usage each hour, instead of on average, to more accurately gauge how much carbon is emitted. [Read more.](#)

CIRRUS™ Low Carbon offers financing for commercial buildings to reduce carbon footprint

NEW BUILDINGS INSTITUTE

PACE Equity and New Buildings Institute (NBI) [recently announced](#) the first financing option for owners and developers to benefit from a differentiated cost of capital when they build a lower carbon building. This groundbreaking approach, called CIRRUS™ Low Carbon, encourages owners/developers to use C-PACE financing with lower rates when they build more efficient buildings. The program is available for new construction and renovations based on the CIRRUS Low Carbon Design Specification for Low Carbon Financing which was developed by NBI in partnership with PACE Equity. CIRRUS Low Carbon is a standard based on ASHRAE 90.1 requirements and delivers 8% higher efficiency than the 2016 standard.

Burkina Faso native makes architecture history

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

Diebedo Francis Kere, a native of Burkina Faso who combined local clay and cement to [form bricks to cool a school](#) in the village he grew up in, has become the first African and the first Black man awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize. Committee chair Tom Pritzker said Kere is "pioneering architecture - sustainable to the earth and its inhabitants - in lands of extreme scarcity," and noted his work is "improving upon the lives and experiences of countless citizens in a region of the world that is at times forgotten." Read more [here](#).

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

So called 'Buy Clean' laws are being promoted throughout the U.S. The laws aim to reduce the embodied energy (or embodied carbon) associated with our built environment. Concrete is a common target, but other materials are included as well, as you can read about in the links below. ~Tina

Colorado law requires lower footprint for construction

KMGH-TV (Denver)

Colorado lawmakers recently passed [a bill](#) that requires state construction products to reduce their carbon footprint. In [this report](#), Will Srubar, an associate professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, said reducing carbon emissions of concrete is a key driver to achieve sustainable construction.

California "Buy Clean" puts limits on carbon

CARBON LEADERSHIP FORUM

The Buy Clean California Act (BCCA), the first "Buy Clean" policy introduced in the United States, requires the California Department of General Services (DGS), in consultation with the California Air Resources Board, to establish maximum acceptable global warming potential (GWP) limits at industry-average for structural steel (hot-rolled sections, hollow structural sections, and plate), concrete reinforcing steel, flat glass, and mineral wool board insulation. Beginning July 1, 2022, for eligible buildings and infrastructure built by California state agencies, the law will require those agencies to

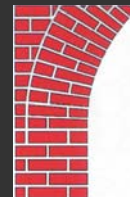
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Spec Mix

purchase materials that meet these GWP limits, as verified by environmental product declarations (EPDs). [Read more.](#)

What 'Buy Clean' means for the concrete industry

CONCRETE PRODUCTS

In December 2021, the White House issued an executive order focused on reducing emissions across federal government properties. The order introduces a "Buy Clean" meant to reduce carbon emissions arising from the production or manufacturing and use of building materials. For the first time, suppliers of concrete to federal projects will be required to report the carbon content of their bids. Considering this growing attention from policymakers, it will be increasingly important for concrete producers to be able to accurately track and report on emissions associated with their products to continue to be able to access these markets. [Read more.](#)

GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

Carbon disclosure requirements are affecting businesses too. ~Tina

SEC introduces climate disclosure proposal

AXIOS.COM

The Securities and Exchange Commission has voted in favor of a proposal that would require public companies to disclose information about climate change risk, greenhouse-gas emissions, and use of carbon offsets. The proposal would require companies to report information about Scope 3 emissions, which are associated with the supply chain and consumers, if the emissions are material or if firms have laid out targets for them. Read more [here](#).

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

It's not too late! Register now for these upcoming events. ~Tina

Register Now for The Masonry Society Spring Meetings

MASONRYSOCIETY.ORG

Registration is now open for the TMS Spring Meetings to be held at the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel in Dallas, TX, **April 7-9**. Join us for TMS business and committee meetings (including TMS 402/602 meetings) and networking with other masonry professionals at TMS social events. For more information, [click here](#).

Achieving Resilience - How Masonry Supports Resilient Designs

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

Learn from Christine "Tina" A. Subasic, P.E., LEED A.P. about resilient design and how masonry can be used to enhance the resilience of buildings. During this **May 12 webinar**, Subasic will review the use of 'above-code' standards to strengthen buildings, and the role of masonry construction in meeting resilient design goals. For more information [visit the TMS website](#).

Masonry Educators' Workshop to be Held Virtually

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

Mark your calendars! The Masonry Society is planning a Virtual [Masonry Educators' Workshop](#) (MEW) for June 21-23. The workshop is targeted towards professors and educators teaching undergraduate and graduate design and construction management classes on masonry and seeks to assist them on teaching future designers and construction professionals.

Bronze Level



ACME Brick ***



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