

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

Codes and Resilience

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### From The Editor

I hope you can join me next month for a webinar on [Achieving Resilience - How Masonry Supports Resilient Designs](#). The webinar discusses what building codes do, and do not provide, to encourage resilient design. The importance in understanding this cannot be overstated, especially in light of the articles in **CODES and STANDARDS NEWS**. Both articles note how much of the U.S. relies on codes that are outdated or have no required building code at all. Such an approach certainly does not result in resilient buildings. I would encourage you to get involved in the code adoption process in your local area. Barring that, designing and building to more resilient codes is always a good idea.

Christine "Tina" Subasic, PE, LEED AP  
CSubasicPE@gmail.com

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### GREEN BUILDING NEWS

Federal agencies and others are implementing new requirements for efficiency, product disclosures, and carbon limits. These types of requirements are likely to continue to spread. ~Tina

### **DOE unveils new efficiency standards for federal buildings**

**ENERGY.GOV**

Beginning April 2023, all new buildings and major retrofits constructed by the federal government must comply with more stringent energy code requirements, a move that the Department of Energy estimates will save \$4.2 million in operating costs in the first year. Federal projects will be constructed to meet the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code and the 2019 ASHRAE Standard 90.1 codes, [DOE announced](#).

### **Industry feedback informs new GSA rules for concrete CONCRETE PRODUCTS**

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Design and construction contractors on General Services Administration projects that involve at least 10 cubic yards of concrete or asphalt must provide environmental product declarations when possible and use concrete with production emission levels 20% below national averages for compressive strength classes according to [this article](#). The rules are based on the results of a survey of more than 130 industry representatives, and more than 60% of concrete manufacturers who participated in the survey said they have developed a product-specific EPD.

## Implementing 'Buy Clean'

### CARBON LEADERSHIP FORUM

A growing number of government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels are integrating greenhouse gas reduction requirements into their procurement policies for construction materials. While many of these policies are referred to as 'Buy Clean' policies, each policy varies widely in scope and structure and may be a result of legislation, executive orders, agency purchasing standards, or building code. A report, [available here](#), summarizes guidance for government agencies who are responsible for implementing procurement policies, focusing on how agencies can increase success once a policy has been established.

## Opinion: Clearer building decarbonization rules needed

### SMART CITIES DIVE

The Biden administration's two-tiered approach to mitigating building emissions linked to climate change combines "federal leadership and fiscal resources with lower governments' capacities for experimentation and execution" to inspire the needed private-sector investment, writes Mahesh Ramanujam, former head of the US Green Building Council, in [this article](#). But this also runs the risk of a piecemeal approach unless the White House steps forward to provide clear leadership working through the National Building Performance Standards Coalition to develop standards that go beyond legacy buildings, Ramanujam writes.

## CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

The FEMA report provides an interesting assessment of the adoption of model building codes by states. The reality is many states and jurisdictions in the U.S. have no, or very outdated, building codes. The U.S. policy report has similar findings. ~Tina

## FEMA gives 19 states a 0 out of 100 for building codes

### SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

The Federal Emergency Management Agency gave 39 states a [failing grade](#), their lowest possible score for building code strictness, and 19 states were rated a 0 on a 100-point scale. "It's really a dirty little secret that many communities that are highly prone to disasters don't put the codes in place to prepare and protect the communities," said Leslie Chapman-Henderson, president and CEO of the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes. [Read more](#) about the assessment.

## Mapping U.S. policy on energy efficiency in buildings

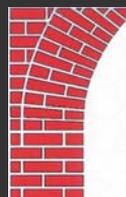
### INSTITUTE FOR MARKET TRANSFORMATION

The EU and the U.S. are each taking important steps to achieve their respective climate goals and commitments, but progress can be accelerated through the mutual exchange of best practices, policies, business models, and technology development. The purpose of [this paper](#) is to inform EU audiences on the status of recovery measures in the U.S. – existing and planned – that can move the country towards meeting its climate commitments.

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## PRODUCT NEWS

The concrete masonry industry is pursuing an industry-average EPD. This is good news as the demand for EPDs continues to rise. ~Tina

### **NCMA Foundation grant: Industry-average EPD**

#### **NCMA**

At their recent meeting, the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) Foundation approved a grant to develop the first industry-average Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for concrete masonry products. As sustainability and environmental reporting continue to be market drivers, this EPD will position the industry to respond to and support decision-makers related to the impact of concrete masonry products. Surveys of members throughout the industry to obtain the necessary information will be conducted throughout 2022. [Read more.](#)

### **Design for Freedom holds summit on supply chain**

#### **ARCHITECTURAL RECORD** (tiered subscription)

Recently over 275 industry leaders and professionals gathered at Grace Farms in New Canaan, Connecticut for the inaugural "Design for Freedom Summit," part of a multi-pronged effort to address the crisis of forced labor within the architectural, engineering, and construction industries in the building materials supply chain. Read more [here.](#)

### **New ACI center to focus on carbon-neutral concrete**

#### **FOR CONSTRUCTION PROS**

The American Concrete Institute's headquarters in Farmington Hills, Mich., will be home to the newly established NEU: An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete. [Read more](#) about their efforts.

## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Join me next month for a webinar on resilient design and masonry!  
~Tina

### **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.

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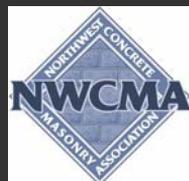
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