

# The Masonry Society

## *Sustainability E-News*

*Carbon and Climate*

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### SPONSORED EDITION

#### **From The Editor**

I recently had a conversation with a client regarding trends in sustainability and resilience. It's no surprise to readers of this newsletter that I told them the number one issue to put on their radar is carbon impacts. This single issue dominates sustainability/climate news, and while one can liken it to the popularity of LEED® when it was introduced, I believe the trajectory of interest in carbon impacts is far outpacing that of LEED adoption. Interest in carbon impacts also extends beyond the building community to the public at large, which in my opinion, gives it wide traction. Bottom line, it is something building product manufacturers should be thinking about. The recent Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) proposed rule on climate risk reporting is something all public companies should be looking at. The reporting impacts of this rule, as written, will be significant. [Public comments are encouraged.](#)

Don't forget TMS has a webinar next month on [Achieving Resilience - How Masonry Supports Resilient Designs](#). The webinar discusses what building codes do, and do not provide, to encourage resilient design. I hope you can join me.

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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**

**Sustainable Facilities Tool releases new climate resources**

##### **GSA**

The Sustainable Facilities Tool (SFTool) from the General Services Administration (GSA) has new climate resources available. The [Climate Terms and Tools](#) serves as a primer for building personnel who are new to the topic or looking for additional resources. GSA has compiled definitions and essential information from federal experts in the field. The [Greenhouse Gas Accounting](#) resource consolidates information on reporting greenhouse gas emissions.

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## How buildings can endure the test of time, save carbon

### FAST COMPANY (tiered subscription)

A new book, "The Architecture of Persistence: Designing for Future Use," examines three ways that old buildings have endured the decades and stood to serve more than their original purpose. The factors of durable materials, design flexibility and an eye to the future also point to ways that new buildings can be designed with similar qualities that reduce the need for new structures, saving vast amounts of embodied carbon, coauthor David Fannon [explains](#).

## New report focuses on climate resilience through green certification

### USGBC

As climate-related weather events continue to ramp up in frequency and severity, adaptation is necessary to bolster our resilience. A new GBCI report, [From Risk to Resilience](#), provides an introduction to resilience in the built environment and guidance on using green certification programs to advance climate-resilient buildings, landscapes, power systems, and communities. The resource details select credits that promote resilience throughout various programs, including LEED, SITES, and PEER. [Read more](#).

## CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Maryland's new Greenhouse Gas Reduction law requires adoption of the 2018 International Green Construction Code (IGCC) and subsequent updates. As I noted in our last edition, most states are far behind in model code adoption. Maryland is ahead of the game in this regard by adopting a green code that goes beyond the IECC requirements. ~Tina

## Maryland resets its trajectory with Greenhouse Gas Reduction law

### GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

With legislation that became law without the Governor's signature, Maryland has enacted the most rigorous state law in the country reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and otherwise addressing ESG stewardship, including climate change. Businesses need to be aware of this far-reaching legislation. [Senate Bill 528](#) makes sweeping changes to the state's already tough climate change laws, including establishing new energy conservation requirements for buildings, requiring the State to achieve net zero statewide GHG emissions by 2045, and initiates more than two dozen other initiatives, much of which takes effect June 1, 2022. [Read more](#).

## Breaking down the 2024 IECC process

### NRDC

The development of the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) differs from past processes by placing final decisions in the hands of consensus committees and not governmental voting members. Lauren Urbanek breaks down changes to the code development process and how outside stakeholders can still exercise influence in [this article](#).

## What is the Envelope Backstop?

### BUILDING ENCLOSURE ONLINE

In the last energy code update, some jurisdictions introduced a new requirement colloquially referred to as the "envelope backstop." What exactly is the envelope backstop, and why did policymakers introduce it? What are the implications of the envelope backstop for designers, and is it working as intended? [This article](#) takes a look at the details.

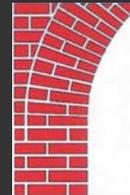
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## Tornado guidance for building code advances

### ENGINEERING NEWS-RECORD (tiered subscription)

The structural committee of the International Code Council has unanimously approved inclusion of the first US guidance on tornado-resistant design in the model 2024 International Building Code. The next step for the guidance, which applies to buildings deemed essential, is a public comment period. Read more [here](#).

## GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

The proposed SEC Climate Risk Rule will require *all public companies* to include climate disclosures in their reports. **This is no small thing.** If you own a public company, I urge you to review and comment on the proposal. ~Tina

## SEC Climate Risk Rule is Transformative

### GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission voted 3 to 1 to issue a long awaited proposed new rule to mandate climate risk disclosures by public companies and other businesses in their supply chains. The proposed rule will require public companies to include climate related disclosures in their registration statements and periodic reports such as 10-K annual reports, including information about climate related risks that are reasonably likely to have a material impact on their business, results of operations, or financial condition, and certain climate-related financial statement metrics in a note to their audited financial statements. Most significant in this rule is that for the first time SEC mandated information about climate-related risks will expressly include disclosure of a business' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Read more [here](#).

## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Sign up now for these upcoming educational opportunities! ~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 targets 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.

## Call for Abstracts for 14<sup>th</sup> North American Masonry Conference

### THE MASONRY SOCIETY

Papers are invited for the 14th North American Masonry Conference (NAMC), which will be held from June 11-14, 2023 in the heart of historic Old Market in Omaha, Nebraska. The conference is being jointly hosted by the Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and the Nebraska Masonry Alliance (NMA), and is offered by the Masonry

## Bronze Level



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Society (TMS) with the support of a number of Sponsors. The conference provides a forum for sharing the latest advances in masonry knowledge and applications from around the world. Papers are sought on a wide variety of masonry topics. For more information, visit [masonrysociety.org/14nanc](http://masonrysociety.org/14nanc).

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