

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

Increasing Your Knowledge

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From The Editor

May is a time for college graduations, and an opportunity for all of us to reflect on "what's next?" It's a good idea to take time periodically to assess how we are doing with our career and personal goals. If your interests include masonry construction and design, I'd encourage you to get involved with [The Masonry Society](#). (TMS) Personally, it's one of the best professional organizations I've been involved in. TMS provides numerous opportunities throughout the year to further your education, and thankfully, we are back to holding in-person events as well. Check out some of the upcoming opportunities listed under Educational News or visit the [Masonry Education Hub](#) for on-demand learning.

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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

Back in [February I shared an article](#) from Civil Engineering magazine on climate resilience. The editorial below is a follow up to that article that provides a fantastic perspective on how sustainability and resilience relate to one another. ~Tina

Letter on sustainability and resilience

CIVIL ENGINEERING MAGAZINE

"I submit that sustainability is the state or condition of "enduring function." Resilience provides capability to enable and ensure "enduring function." As such, resilience serves sustainability, and the two attributes are inexorably and essentially intertwined. Sustainability cannot be achieved without resilience. The question remains that while resilience is necessary for sustainability, is it sufficient? Resilience has several synonyms — such as power, strength, potency, and adaptability — but for sustainability, we also need to include economy, the judicious management of limited resources; stewardship, the responsibility and care for nature and the

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built environment; and justice, which should include equity for all," writes Russell G. Derickson, Ph.D., P.E. in [this editorial](#).

NIST to fund research projects for resilience program **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

The National Institute of Standards and Technology has selected 20 projects to receive funding under the Disaster Resilience Research Grant program. The projects run the gamut from innovative materials to new methods for modeling and simulation. Learn more [here](#).

One potentially easy way to curb embodied carbon **ENGINEERING NEWS-RECORD** (tiered subscription)

Amid the active and sometimes complex drive to reduce carbon emissions, the construction industry should also avail itself of simpler solutions, writes Ron Klemencic, CEO of engineering firm Magnusson Klemencic. A significant reduction in the use of materials could be achieved with a re-evaluation of the basic loading requirements prescribed in ASCE-7, a commonly used standard for minimum design loads, [Klemencic writes](#).

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Read about LEED pilot credits related to resilience and embodied carbon in these articles. ~Tina

LEED aims to lower embodied carbon **USGBC**

Embodied carbon is a topic of concern in today's green building industry. In LEED, the Materials and Resources (MR) credits are designed to address this critical area. They focus on minimizing the environmental penalties associated with the extraction, processing, transportation, maintenance, and disposal of building materials—in other words, the MR category considers a structure's entire life cycle. A new LEED pilot credit and a carbon calculator encourage designers to go a step further. Read more [here](#).

LEED includes resilience credits **ES MAGAZINE** (tiered subscription)

LEED is among the most widely used green building ratings systems in the world. It works through an accumulation of credits for various design, operational, and construction decisions and implementations. Although the system is mainly concerned with issues such as energy use and the materials that go into a building, with version 4.0, LEED incorporated pilot credits for resilience. Therefore, as part of achieving a desired rating, designers can receive points for developing more resilient buildings. [This article](#) explores the various resilience credits and how they can be achieved.

GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

The May issue of STRUCTURE magazine focuses on masonry. We've included one article here, but to read them all visit https://www.structuremag.org/?page_id=20474. ~Tina

The benefits of 6-inch-wide masonry units **STRUCTURE MAGAZINE**

Rising material costs have made 6-inch-wide concrete masonry units an attractive option for interior and exterior wall construction for schools or mixed-use and residential properties, Philippe Ledent writes in [this article](#). Ledent covers many of the benefits of 6-inch CMUs, including optimal fire resistance and sound transmission.

Cost savings with masonry construction



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The recent price volatility and availability of construction materials have people considering the advantages of concrete masonry in their designs as a cost-effective alternative. In addition to the structural benefits, recent independent studies conducted in Dallas and Atlanta found that load bearing masonry wall systems were less expensive than other alternatives like conventional wood framing, light gauge steel framing, and ICF walls and precast planks. They reported that the costs in these markets for conventional light weight wood framing systems were 5.9% higher than load bearing masonry wall systems with precast concrete plank floors. Read more [here](#).

American Concrete Institute launches new Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete INFORMED INFRASTRUCTURE

The American Concrete Institute (ACI) announced the launch of NEU: An ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete, at its Spring convention in Orlando, Florida, USA. NEU aims to collaborate globally to drive research, education, awareness, and adoption of carbon neutral materials and technologies in the industry. Located at ACI Headquarters in Farmington Hills, Michigan, USA, NEU will focus on transforming the concrete industry into a proactive, unified group actively engaged in developing and employing both existing and new technologies to reduce the carbon footprint of the concrete industry. [Read more](#).

Report: UK concrete industry on path to net-sink status BUSINESS GREEN (UK)

The UK's concrete industry could halve its carbon emissions by 2035 and absorb more carbon emissions than it produces by the 2040s, according to a report from the Green Construction Board and the Institution of Civil Engineers. The report says stakeholders can support the adoption of low-carbon concrete by increasing collaborative efforts, updating standards, using an industry-wide carbon rating system and prioritizing low-carbon designs in projects. Read more [here](#).

Tequila waste refashioned into adobe bricks FAST COMPANY

About 11 pounds of agave pulp are produced for each liter of tequila, and now some of that pulp that would otherwise go to waste is being made into bricks that also contain excavated soil and locally sourced clay, according to [this article](#). Kendall Jenner's 818 Tequila company is teaming up with a bioclimatic architecture firm and a Mexican nonprofit to produce the bricks, the first of which will be used on a school library and a distillery tasting room.

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Register now for VIRTUAL Masonry Educators' Workshop

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

[Register now](#) for the virtual Masonry Educators' Workshop (MEW) to be held June 21-23, 2022. The (MEW) provides educators with the resources and background needed to effectively teach masonry, especially at the college and university level. As a workshop participant, you will learn from leading educators, practitioners, and industry leaders about the newest ideas in masonry education, design, and research. The workshop will include virtual tours of both clay masonry and concrete masonry manufacturing plants and, hopefully, a virtual construction site visit. Attendees will have the opportunity through numerous round table sessions to get to know



ACME Brick ***



Cast Stone Institute ***



Nelson Testing Laboratories **



North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association ***



Northwest Concrete Masonry Association *



Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association ***



Masonry Institute of Washington*

one another better, learn from each other, and virtually meet a number of helpful contacts.

Workshop: Fostering a Circular Economy and Carbon Sequestration for Construction Materials

NIST

Join your industry colleagues for an informative workshop to identify measurement science needs that lead to standards development related to the circular economy of, and lower embodied carbon in, building materials with a focus on concrete. One of the concerns addressed is maintaining material durability while still achieving lower embodied carbon and greater product reuse. This viewpoint will guide the thinking of the workshop. The workshop will produce a report that identifies the needed measurement science to advance these changes. You can register for the workshop [here](#).

Call for Abstracts for 14th 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 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/14namc.

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