

# The Masonry Society

## *Sustainability E-News*

*Designing for Resilience*

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### **From The Editor**

Is it practical to design more resilient structures? That's a question that more and more people are saying yes to. [Studies have shown](#) that every dollar spent on mitigation (i.e., resilience) provides a benefit that is from 4 to 11 times greater. But resilient design is not always embraced, especially for extreme events like tornadoes. Now several designers are making the case that should change. You can read about more in support of resilient design below. What about you? If you're a designer, are your clients interested in the benefits of more resilient structures? If you'd like to learn more about how masonry construction supports resilient designs, check out [this webinar](#) at The Masonry Society's on-demand learning hub.

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### **GREEN BUILDING NEWS**

The articles below make the case that resilient designs are achievable and practical. ~Tina

#### **The cheaper we build our buildings, the more they cost after an earthquake, wildfire, or tornado**

##### **CANADIAN UNDERWRITER**

A tornado cut a 270-kilometer path through Kentucky in mid-December 2021, killing 80 people, many in their homes or workplaces, and rendering thousands homeless. The incident prompted David Prevatt, a professor of structural engineering at the University of Florida, to write an opinion piece for the Washington Post, reminding Americans that new buildings could be tornado-proof, but are not. Keith Porter, Professor at the Western University in Canada, wrote an article for The Conversation expanding on the Canadian examples and describing the cost of inaction. Building-code writers, engineers, and others frequently tout the benefits of modern building codes, but new buildings only keep us relatively safe;

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they're not disaster-proof. Why don't we build better buildings? Because it would cost a little more. [Read more.](#)

## Should design standards adjust for tornado devastation?

### STRUCTURE MAGAZINE

Tornadoes that struck several states in December caused severe structural damage, but not necessarily disproportionate damage when compared to equally rare disasters, say three engineers. Samuel Amoroso, Ezra Jampole, and Troy Morgan examine design standards and engineers' risk calculations to see how they stack up against the evidence left by December's storms in [this STRUCTURE magazine article.](#)

## Canada targets \$36.3M for climate resilience planning

### THE CONSTRUCTION INDEX (UK)

According to [this article](#), the Canadian government plans to spend \$36.3 million to protect infrastructure from the effects of a changing climate. The funds will be distributed under two programs, with one focusing on learning how to adapt infrastructure as needed and the other producing standards and guidance to address such issues as heat, flooding, and permafrost degradation.

## Campaigners demand "real-zero" emissions targets

### ABC NEWS

Environmental activists are calling on businesses to eliminate carbon emissions and stop hiding behind promises to produce "net-zero" emissions with carbon-removal efforts like planting trees and sponsoring renewable energy projects that don't clean up their own emissions. Instead, they want businesses to commit to a real-zero pledge and eliminate their carbon footprint entirely. "Companies use the mantra net zero as a fig leaf for continuing whatever they're doing," says climate-science specialist David Klein from California State University Northridge. [Read more.](#)

## CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

Readers of this newsletter know that carbon accounting is in the news a lot. Now the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is responding to that shift in attention from green building to low-carbon construction. ~Tina

## USGBC shifting focus

### USGBC

Over the past year, the USGBC Board of Directors listened to staff, members, volunteers, and other stakeholders to learn how best to ensure continuity of service and focus on key areas needing attention and improvement. Using this feedback in combination with that collected through customer surveys and stakeholder sessions, they have recognized that the marketplace is exploding around decarbonization commitments by large portfolio owners, in many cases associated with ESG (environmental, social and governance) initiatives that include equity and well-being as key goals. [Read more](#) about their plans to engage with that market.

## GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

### AIA, mindful MATERIALS partner to promote product sustainability

#### CONSTRUCTION SPECIFIER

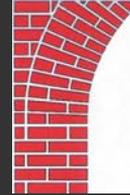
The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and non-government organization mindful MATERIALS have partnered to create a database of sustainable material specifications and encourage firms



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to sign AIA's Architecture & Design (A&D) Materials Pledge. The [Common Materials Framework](#) (CMF) is the outcome of the most detailed cross-stakeholder industry effort to-date to analyze and organize over 100 of the most common building product and material certifications and disclosures. The framework gives structure to over 650 factors identified within these programs as relevant to material sustainability within 5 buckets of health and sustainability, reflecting the broad categories first identified in the AIA A&D Materials Pledge. [Read more.](#)

## The role of circular materials and construction practices in reducing carbon emissions

**ARCHITECTURAL RECORD** (tiered subscription model)

Cornell University's Circular Construction Lab, an interdisciplinary research unit at the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning, proposes that environmental impacts of building materials can be substantially reduced through their reuse and recycling, a process known as circular sourcing. The Lab is investigating and applying technologies, methods, and strategies that support a transition from a linear model of material consumption to a circular economy. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, approximately 15 percent of building materials are wasted during the construction process, and just 20 to 30 percent of demolition waste is reused or recycled. A number of firms within the AEC industry are seeking to remedy that paradigm through new sourcing protocols and material-tracking software. Read more [here](#).

## Terra CO2 finds cheaper way to slash CO2 in concrete

Partly replacing portland cement with silicate rocks, such as granite from aggregate mines is the method used by startup Terra CO2 to greatly reduce the carbon footprint of concrete. The company is one of several working on ways to reduce concrete's carbon cost but says its method is more scalable due to the use of low-cost and easily accessed materials. [Read more.](#)

## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

### Coming Soon! TMS Annual Meeting

#### THE MASONRY SOCIETY

Join us October 12-15, 2022, at the Sonesta Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver, CO for The Masonry Society's Annual Meeting. The meeting will feature Educational Sessions and an Awards Luncheon, as well as Society business and committee meetings (including TMS 402/602 meetings). It's a great opportunity to network with, and learn from, other masonry professionals. For more information, and registration information (coming soon!) visit <https://masonrysociety.org/meetings/2022-annual-meeting/>.

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