

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

"Buy(ing) Clean"

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From The Editor

Have you heard of "Buy Clean" mandates? Buy Clean is a phrase typically used to refer to products and materials that have lower amounts of embodied carbon. Lower than what, you may ask. Well, that depends on the provisions of the policy, but oftentimes it means lower than the industry average for a given product. And as you may remember, embodied carbon ultimately reflects the energy used to manufacture and deliver building products to the jobsite. Buy Clean policies are cropping up in [Federal procurement](#), state government procurement, and even at local levels. You can read about several recent mandates in the articles below.

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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

Recycling concepts have crept into construction

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A new generation of builders is exploring how materials reclaimed from demolished buildings can be recycled "like Legos," on the words of one. "We should design man-made objects and products in such a way that we're not destroying the resources, but that we're basically borrowing them for a certain amount of time," says Dirk Hebel, a professor at Germany's Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, in [this article](#).

Amsterdam green-lights work on energy-positive tower

ARCHINECT

Officials in Amsterdam will allow construction to begin on a 28-story tower with a brick-and-concrete façade. The Brink Tower is designed to become an energy-positive residential tower which generates more energy than it consumes, thanks to photovoltaics on terraces and facades, wind and more solar energy harvesting on the top roof,

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and various energy-saving measures including an aquifer thermal energy storage (ATES) system, according to [this article](#).

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

The GSA is surveying manufacturers regarding construction materials with lower embodied carbon. For more information, check out the article below. You can see the survey itself [here](#). Scroll down below the definitions to see the questions. ~Tina

US pursues lower-carbon materials for construction

THE HILL

As part of the Biden administration's Federal Buy Clean Initiative, the General Services Administration is seeking information about domestically sourced and manufactured "low-embodied-carbon" construction materials. Materials may include concrete, steel, glass, and asphalt as part of the Biden administration's Federal Buy Clean Initiative. [Read more](#).

"Buy Clean" materials policy gets mixed reception

ENGINEERING NEWS-RECORD (tiered subscription model)

Some construction groups are raising warning flags over new federal initiatives designed to reduce the carbon footprint of construction materials and their installation. The "Buy Clean" policy sets up federal preferences for procuring steel, concrete, asphalt, and flat glass, but the Associated General Contractors of America has expressed concerns over costs, time, and risk. Read more [here](#).

NYC enacts Buy Clean directive

[Executive Order 23](#) in New York City requires low-carbon concrete, environmental product declarations (EPDs), and life cycle assessments (LCA) for city-funded capital projects.

FTC says updated Green Guides are coming

GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

Businesses will get some guidance and assistance from the federal government about what they can and cannot say as part of a regular 10-year review, when the FTC releases its updated Green Guides. The Green Guides were first designed to help marketers avoid making environmental claims that mislead consumers, but in the era of mandatory public disclosures about all things ESG and the like, the FTC guidance will have far greater application (i.e., the target audience of the Green Guides is no longer marketers, but now every business making ESG disclosures). [Read more](#).

GREEN PRODUCT NEWS

London students honored for carbon-neutral concrete **WALLPAPER.COM**

A pair of doctoral students at Imperial College London have received the 2022 Obel Award for their work to help scale a carbon-neutral concrete that can easily be integrated into existing processes and production lines. The carbon-neutral composite utilizes the common mineral olivine and waste CO₂ from flue gases to create magnesium carbonate, which sequesters about twice as much CO₂ as portland cement and can replace up to 40% of cement mix, resulting in a material that offsets emissions. Learn more [here](#).

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

It's not too late! Register now to get your CEUs before the year is out. ~Tina

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2022 Fall Night School - The New TMS 402/602-22:
Review of the New Standards and Changes Made

THE MASONRY SOCIETY

During this five-part [Night School webinar series](#), masonry experts will review the new standards, *TMS 402/602-22 Building Code Requirements and Specification for Masonry Structures*, and significant changes made since the 2016 edition. The series begins on **October 19** and will run through November 16 and each session will be held at 7PM ET. Those attending all 5 sessions will receive a 10% discount on the [new Standards](#).

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