

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

LEED v5 is coming

November 30, 2022

Volume 14, Number 22

SPONSORED EDITION

From The Editor

As I write this, we are heading into the Thanksgiving holiday here in the United States. I love that this time of year when we are invited in a deeper way to reflect on the many things for which we can be thankful. While I am thankful for many things in my personal life (including a new grandchild!), I am also grateful to be working in such an amazing industry. [The Masonry Society](#) has been for me a source of professional success and many wonderful colleagues. I'm thankful for our [Sponsors](#), without whom this newsletter would not exist. I'm also grateful for you, our readers, who care to stay abreast of things in the realm of sustainability and resilience. Together we will build a better future, one brick, stone, or block at a time!

Best wishes for a blessed holiday season!

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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

One area of green building design that I've always found to be oversimplified is that of heat island effect. Much of the guidance promotes the use of reflective (generally light-colored) materials for roofs, walls, and hardscape, including roads. While the reflectance of these materials is not disputed, what is less convincing is claims that these materials can mitigate the heat island effect in urban areas. Yes, they reflect heat, but where does it go? How do these materials interact with those on the buildings surrounding them and the climate itself? Are these approaches always beneficial? These are just a few of the questions that come to my mind. The interactions are exceedingly complex, and a recent study says it's time to take a closer look at real-world, rather than just modeled, effects. ~Tina

Roofing association recommends pausing cool roof mandates, saying more research is needed

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BUILDING ENCLOSURE ONLINE

The EPDM Roofing Association is recommending that Federal, state, and local governments, as well as regulatory bodies, pause the development and implementation of reflective roofing and cool roofing mandates. This recommendation is based on the findings of two studies which attempted to measure the efficacy of reflective or "cool" roofing as a mitigation strategy against the Urban Heat Island effect, or UHI. These studies showed that complex and inconsistent temperature assessment protocols are being utilized in virtually all UHI evaluations, making comparisons of efficacy problematic. [Read more.](#)

How construction is driving toward sustainability

NATURE

Achieving an environmentally friendly circular economy will depend on construction and its materials. In [this article](#), Katharine Sanderson looks at different projects to make concrete less carbon-intensive, as well as initiatives to bring about greater standardization and tracing of reusable materials and structural elements.

CODES and STANDARDS NEWS

The Greenbuild conference is always the place where the USGBC announces plans for the future of LEED. This year was no exception. BuildingGreen summarizes the [6 things to know for LEED v5](#). You can reach more about the announcements in the links below. ~Tina

Greenbuild announcements

USGBC

During the opening address at the recent Greenbuild Conference, USGBC president and CEO Peter Templeton shared a [state of the industry assessment](#), providing a snapshot of USGBC's recent milestones and the future of LEED and green buildings. USGBC also made significant announcements during the Greenbuild event, including updates to LEED v4 energy requirements and a partnership with the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI) that will focus on streamlining the process for achieving dual WELL and LEED certifications through a two-way crosswalk and a coordinated third-party review overseen by GBCI.

The next version of the LEED rating system, LEED v5, will enter the development phase in January 2023. It will be guided by the [Future of LEED Principles](#), which were developed after months of conversations that engaged the global LEED community. A call for volunteers for new working groups in [existing buildings](#), [social equity](#), and [resilience](#) will open in December 2022. Actual development will start in January with a goal of releasing a public comment draft in September 2023.

LEED v5 – What's next for existing buildings

BUILDING GREEN

The U.S. Green Building Council first launched LEED for Existing Buildings (abbreviated EBOM or O+M) in 2004. This rating system has always required that certified buildings meet a minimum Energy Star score or other performance benchmark to even participate. In v4, that minimum ratcheted up, controversially, to 75—meaning that, by definition, only a quarter of buildings could get a plaque. (Energy Star gives percentile scores, so a 75 means you perform better than 75% of other buildings of the same type in the underlying database.) LEED O+M v5 will target poor performers, not just overachievers. Furthermore, the shift in existing building decarbonization under LEED v5 could be a complete 180 from what happened in v4. [Read more.](#)



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GREEN BUSINESS NEWS

If you've ever been confused by the alphabet soup of terms related to greenhouse gases, etc., check out the glossary below for a brief explanation. ~Tina

Net Zero risks as a source of opportunity

GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

Calculating net zero is ill-defined, unregulated, and complex. Businesses making a net zero pledge like, "we will be net zero by 2030" risk a charge that they are greenwashing and misleading consumers. Federal courts have held it is deceptive to misrepresent, directly or by implication, that a product, package, or service offers a general environmental benefit and ESG claims including net zero can fall within that purview. Read more [here](#).

Glossary of greenhouse gas terms

GREEN BUILDING LAW UPDATE

This short [glossary](#) is an alphabetical list of terms relating to GHG with explanations of each.

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Need CEUs before the year ends? Check out the TMS education hub!
~Tina

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