

# The Masonry Society

## Sustainability E-News

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### From the Editor

It comes as no surprise that the latest draft of LEED 2012 includes several credits relating to manufacturer disclosures; there are two on chemicals of concern, one on responsible extraction of resources, and another on environmental product declarations, in addition to the credit on life cycle assessment (LCA). The trend is clearly toward encouraging building product manufacturers to provide information on how their products impact the environment. What steps are you taking to identify this information? Read more on this topic in **PRODUCT NEWS** below.

Just a reminder, the Public Comment Period for the latest draft of LEED 2012 closes March 20. [Review the draft yourself](#). Anyone can submit comments.

Christine "Tina" Subasic, PE, LEED AP  
CSubasicPE@aol.com

*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

#### **LEED 2012 Comment Period Closes March 20**

The U.S. Green Building Council has announced the third draft of LEED 2012 is now available. Members of the public can comment on any substantive changes made since the second public comment period, which ran from August 1 through September 14, 2011. Once the comment period process concludes, LEED 2012 will be balloted in June and launch in November. The public comment period is open March 1 to 20, 2012. Get the draft and submit your comments [here](#). A brief summary of changes provided by LEEDUser.com can be found [here](#).

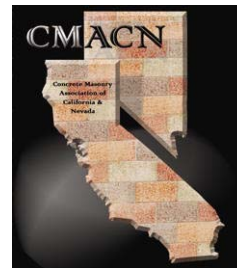
#### **Summary of Proposed Changes to the LEED-EBOM Rating System**

A third draft of LEED-EBOM (existing buildings operations and maintenance) 2012 available for public comment has been enhanced to address technical rigidity, measurement and performance tools, and an improved user experience, writes Jenny Carney. [In this article](#), Carney summarizes the major and minor changes in each of the various categories.

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## Report: Green Buildings More Resilient, Durable

Green buildings could weather storms with more resilience than traditional ones, according to a [report](#) from the U.S. Green Building Council and the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan. The report provides strategies that could make green buildings more durable and "explore[s] how climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts at all scales interact synergistically, with a focus on how green building professionals can approach adaptation in the built environment." Read more in this GreenBiz.com [article](#).

## How to Deliver a Sustainable Building that is Cost-effective

A building doesn't have to be LEED certified to be sustainable, writes Frank Deluca, CEO of DCL Equity Partners, in [this article](#). Sustainability can be achieved by improving energy, heating and cooling systems, which can generate returns on investment over years to come.

## Zero-energy Buildings Spread as Method Becomes Attainable

The construction of net-zero energy commercial buildings is spreading as it becomes affordable and attainable, according to a report from the New Buildings Institute and the Zero Energy Commercial Building Consortium. The study found that construction of net-zero energy facilities do not require the use of highly sophisticated technology, and add 3% to 18% to the total construction cost. Read more in this [Environmental Leader article](#).

## PRODUCT NEWS

BuildingGreen.com, the producers of GreenSpec, features various aspects of green building products in their editorial each month. This month the focus is on Environmental Product Declarations and MSDS. Both are hot topics in ASTM E60 Committee and in the latest draft of LEED 2012. Check out the links below for these and related stories, including a few on what other industries are doing. ~Tina

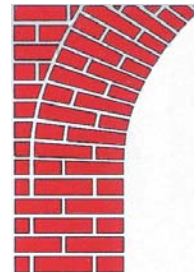
## Where EPDs Come From

There's more to environmental product declarations (EPDs) than meets the eye. And in many cases, there's less than meets the eye too. While many manufacturers are working hard to show leadership on true transparency, there is also a risk of insidious greenwashing like we've never seen before. Read [the five myths about environmental product](#)

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[declarations](#) from BuildingGreen.com.

### A Tale of Two Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

MSDS disclosures....If you're looking for useful information to distinguish the health and safety of different products, the lack of data can be so frustrating as to be almost comical. [Read more](#) about two very different examples.

### Input on Concrete Product Category Rule Wanted

University of Washington's College of Built Environment's Carbon Leadership Forum has developed a Product Category Rule for concrete... the first step in life cycle assessment for products. To learn more and provide input, [click here](#).

### Insulation Association Completes ISO14044-compliant

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote environmental awareness and reporting transparency, the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA) has recently completed a comprehensive Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of polyiso building insulation conducted in accordance with the framework and principles established in ISO 14040 and fully compliant with the requirements established by ISO 14044, including independent peer review. [Read more](#).

### Essroc Receives NRMCA's Green-Star Certification

Essroc's environmental management programs for 13 of its ready-mixed concrete facilities have received Green-Star certification from the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. The certification takes into account an "environmental policy with measurable goals and benchmarking, a program for continual improvement, demonstration of adequate management commitment, an outreach program to the local community and a third-party auditing system," according to [this article](#).

### Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative Report Available

The [March edition](#) of the Concrete JSI Industry Trends Report includes information on Congress working on a transportation bill, court of appeals hearing challenges to EPA regulation, researchers experimenting with environmentally friendly cement, and more.

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## **EDUCATION**

### **The Role of Masonry in Sustainable Design and LEED™**

Arizona Masonry Guild will host this popular seminar from The Masonry Society on April 19, 2012 from **10:15am – 11:45am** (note the corrected time). [Contact the Arizona Masonry Guild](#) for more information.

### **ACI Convention Seminars: Thermal Mass, Service Life**

The upcoming American Concrete Institute Spring Convention in Dallas Texas next week offers numerous educational sessions including one on the latest trends in [building energy performance analysis and modeling](#), jointly sponsored by ACI/TMS Committee 122 Energy Efficiency of Concrete and Masonry Systems and ACI Committees 130 Sustainability of Concrete and 236 Material Science of Concrete, and another on the role of [service life prediction](#) and its contribution to understanding what it means to be "sustainable". For more information visit: [www.concrete.org](http://www.concrete.org).

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