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From the Editor

I'm sure you've heard the news by now...LEED 2012 will now be LEED v4, a reflection of the decision by USGBC to wait to release the next version of LEED. An unusual move, but not totally unexpected. As I've written before, opposition and controversy surrounded the proposed changes found in what was LEED 2012. Read more about it in the links 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.

USGBC and LEED NEWS

After first postponing the ballot until August 15, on June 4 the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced that they are now postponing the next ballot of LEED until as late as June 2013. The changes proposed in LEED 2012 were opposed not only by many building product manufacturers, but designers as well. Read USGBC's President Rick Fedrezzi's blog post, as well as other commentary on the news in the links below. ~Tina

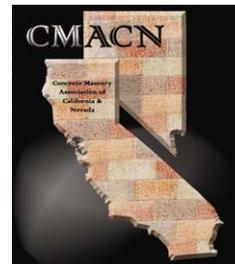
LEED 2012 Postponed to 2013, Renamed LEED v4

"In response to overwhelming feedback from our members, core LEED users and engaged stakeholders, USGBC announced today that it will delay ballot on LEED 2012 until June 1, 2013. Because of this date change LEED 2012 is being renamed LEED v4," according to [Rick Fedrizzi's blog post](#). "[Members and stakeholders]...want more visibility into the infrastructural improvements we've promised with the LEED 2012 program — forms, documentation, education and LEED Online — to inform their internal adoption strategies. Therefore we've decided to delay ballot on LEED 2012 until June 1, 2013, (or potentially sooner in 2013 if our members and the market tell us they are ready).....[we (will)]...begin to refer to this next version of LEED as [LEED v4](#)....Also, USGBC will

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ensure that LEED 2009 will remain available for registration for three years....We're also committing to a fifth public comment, and it will open on October 2, 2012, and run thru December 10, 2012. This has been done to take advantage of [Greenbuild](#) in November, where we will hold public forums and educational sessions on site in San Francisco to help stakeholders better understand the requirements as well as any final changes that may appear in the new draft."

3 Concerns Prompt USGBC to Postpone LEED 2012

(From BuildingGreen.com) LEED 2012 has been renamed LEED v4 and has been postponed until as late as June 2013. The U.S. Green Building Council made the announcement and said the move was in response to public comments and concerns around three key areas, including the Materials and Resources requirement. [Click here](#) to read more.

PRODUCT NEWS

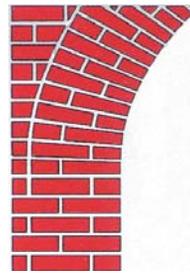
While most of the articles featured in this newsletter focus on activities in the U.S. and Canada, it is important to recognize that much of the opportunity for global environmental improvement lies in other countries. Read more about opportunities for improvement in India in the article below. ~Tina

New Environmental Product Declaration Program Launched

ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) Environmental Programs [announces the launch of a new program](#), the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) Program. Manufacturers who apply for ICC-ES EPDs will be eligible to receive the ICC-ES Certified EPD mark following successful completion of the certification, showing that their declarations have been certified by ICC-ES. For application information, please visit www.icc-es.org.

Sustainable Cement Alternatives: What's New?

The quest to create greener cement alternatives has been ongoing for over a decade, [writes Korky Koroluk](#), and it's likely a few more years until we see any commercially marketed product. Among the more impressive work being done now, writes Koroluk, are Michigan State University's project that combines recycled glass with traditional cement in



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\$500 to \$999



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Silver Level
\$250 to \$499



PumpMaster
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concrete and California-based Calera's system designed to capture carbon dioxide from a power plant and combine it with brine or seawater to generate carbonates to create cement.

ASTM Forms New Subcommittee on Sustainability Assessment of Cement

Current members of ASTM International Committees C01 on Cement and C09 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates, and other interested parties, are invited to join a new C01 subcommittee, C01.98 on Sustainability Assessment. The scope of C01.98 is to support the development and maintenance of standards related to methodologies and metrics for assessing sustainability in the manufacture and use of hydraulic cement. The new subcommittee will coordinate its activities with C09, in addition to providing liaison with ASTM Committee E60 on Sustainability. [Read more.](#)

Quick Brick Tricks Could Cut Kilns' Impact in India

India's kilns produce 200 billion bricks a year -- along with huge amounts of carbon, soot and other noxious pollutants. Few kiln operators have the resources for expensive efficiency upgrades, so experts have come up with low-cost, low-tech solutions such as mixing coal dust into the bricks, which traps pollutants inside the bricks themselves. If all the easy fixes were implemented, the kilns could reduce their coal usage by 20% and curb India's carbon emissions by 9 million metric tons, according to [this article](#) in The Economist.

Tower Fire Prompts Building Materials Warning

Dubai Municipality has issued a new circular warning contractors and building material suppliers over the use of non-fire resistant building materials. Construction experts and residents are blaming the plastic facade tiles used in the building. "It's surprising that no one managed to recognise the need for the exterior panels to be fire-retardant," said Thomas F. Bell-Wright, CEO of Thomas F. Bell-Wright International Consultants, specialists on fire testing, façade consulting and curtain wall testing in [this article](#).

Green is the New Normal, Consumers Say

More than four-fifths of U.S. shoppers say they're aware of which companies are environmentally responsible and which aren't, according to survey commissioned by tissue-paper giant SCA. Seven out of 10 respondents said they buy green products,



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and a third said they expected products to be eco-friendly by default. "Doing what is environmentally correct is what customers want," says SCA Tork brand green-marketing manager Mike Kapalko, in this [SustainableBusiness.com article](#).

BUSINESS NEWS

This section includes a couple of articles on writing CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) reports. These reports can be a good tool for businesses that are serious about improving and communicating their sustainable practices. The blog post is a long one, but provides some good tips for businesses considering creating one of their own. ~Tina

5 Tips for CSR-report Newbies

You never forget your first CSR report, writes Elaine Cohen. First-timers should take the process seriously, keep things short and simple, and not worry if they make a few mistakes along the way. "What's special about the first report is the breakthrough it represents," Cohen writes in [this blog](#).

How to Write a CSR Report Without Taking Shortcuts

It's getting hard to write an original sustainability report, but it's vital that firms avoid shortcuts, according to Christian Hicks in this [TriplePundit.com article](#). Good CSR reports identify a company's unique challenges and strengths in order to keep readers and stakeholders interested. "Many companies have had, and overcome, similar challenges. But don't let your report become clichéd," Hicks advises.

EDUCATION

There are several opportunities over the next few months to expand your knowledge of sustainability, masonry and more. Check out the links below. ~Tina

TMS Annual Meeting Provides Numerous Educational Opportunities

Mark your calendar for [TMS's 2012 Annual Meeting](#), which will be held on September 13-18 in

Greenville, SC. A full slate of presentations and activities is planned. We hope you'll be able to join us as we celebrate TMS's 35th "birthday" as a professional society.

Resilient Buildings Workshop: Integrating Materials, Systems, Resilience and Sustainability

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative invite you to attend the Resilient Buildings Workshop: Integrating Materials, Systems, Resilience and Sustainability. The workshop is free of charge and will take place at the National Building Museum on Oct. 18. The Resilient Buildings Workshop is a collaborative effort between federal government and private sector. To learn more, [click here](#).

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